



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Every child of God ~ belonging, engaging, being transformed

March 25, 2023

SERVICE OF ORDINATION
of Robert Andrew “Drew” Wilmesherr

11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude

Buryl Red

Matthew McMahan, *organist*

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

OPENING SENTENCES

Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish

CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Gilbert

Leader: We see light, hope and joy

People: We bring heart, soul, mind and body;

Leader: We share blessings and fears;

People: We bring faith and doubt.

Leader: With all that we are and all that we have

All: Let us worship God!

PRAISE and WORSHIP

This Is Amazing Grace

by Phil Wickham

Anthony Mobley and Jayden Burch

CCLI Song # 6333821; Jeremy Riddle | Josh Farro | Phil Wickham

Verse 1: **Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory the King above all kings**

Verse 2: **Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory the King above all kings**

Chorus: **This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me**

Verse 3: **Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory the King of Glory**

Verse 4: **Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory the King above all kings**

Bridge: **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy worthy worthy**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Michael Sanchez

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives:

The fear that stifles us,

The prejudice that blinds us,

The ignorance that hobbles us,

The doubt that plagues us.

Help us, we pray, that we will

Find courage in unlikely places,

See the world with new and gracious eyes,

Move to those places where love is needed,

Have faith that you are with us.

This we pray in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Teresa Merritt

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jonah 1

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“A Whale Would Have Been Faster”

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Belhar Confession)

Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish

We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;

- **in that we love one another;**
- **that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;**
- **that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another;**
- **that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind;**
- **have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope;**
- **together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ;**
- **together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity;**
- **together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;**
- **that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another;**
- **that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.**

Anthony Mobley and Jayden Burch

CCLI Song # 6517874; Brett Younker | Daniel Carson | Jesse Reeves | Matt Maher

Verse 1: **There is power power
Here in this hour this hour
We're all together together
Waiting here as one**

Chorus 1: **Whoa hear the sound from Heaven
Whoa a mighty rushing wind
Whoa we're calling for revival
God let Your fire fall again
It's burning in my soul
Burning in my soul**

Verse 2: **All Your sons and Your daughters
Dreaming the dreams of their Father
Seeing the signs and the wonders
The Kingdom of God**

Bridge: **I cannot contain it
This fire inside
I cannot contain it
So let it shine
I cannot contain it
This light of mine**

Chorus 2: **It's burning in my soul
Hear the sound from Heaven
Whoa a mighty rushing wind
Whoa we're calling for revival
God let Your fire fall again**

Interlude: **It's burning in my soul
Burning in my soul
It's burning in my soul,
Whoa**

Ending: **Waiting here as one**

SERVICE OF ORDINATION

*In ordination, the church sets apart with prayer and the laying on of hands those who have been called through election by the church to serve as deacons, ruling elders and teacher elders.
The laying of hands is an ancient practice that invokes the power of the Holy Spirit
and acknowledges the gifts of someone for the service of God.*

Sentences of Scripture

Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish

Statement of Ordination

Keenan Rodgers

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish

Constitutional Questions to Pastor Elect

Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish & Rev. Dr. Lindsay Armstrong

Prayer of Ordination

Rev. John Westlund

Declaration of Ordination

Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish

Charge to the Newly Ordained

Rev. John Westlund

Presentation of Symbols of Ministry

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr & Evie Wilmesherr
Rev. Sandi Wilmesherr
Rev. Alex Rodgers & UKirk Board

Charge to the Congregation

Rev. Michael Sanchez

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Susan Gilbert

(The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta voted to have a special offering collected at each ordination service. Ordination Service Offerings benefit the Seminary Scholarship Fund. If you would like to donate to this fund, visit www.atlpcusa.org and click 'Give.' Select 'General Fund' and put 'Ordination' in the notes field.)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Drew Wilmesherr

Responding with Thanksgiving

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: All honor and praise and glory be to God.

People: The Lord's name be praised forever.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Rev. Drew Wilmesherr

Communion Instructions

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

The Sharing of the Joyful Feast with the Community of Faith

Communion Music:

Not in a Hurry

by Will Reagan

Anthony Mobley and Jayden Burch

CCLI Song # 7047889; Michael Ketterer | Will Reagan

Lord I don't want to rush on ahead In my own strength When You're right here I'm not in a hurry When it comes to Your Spirit When it comes to Your presence When it comes to Your voice I'm learning to listen Just to rest in Your nearness I'm starting to notice You are speaking Lord I want to love like You I want to feel what You feel I want to see what You see Open my eyes I want to see You Open my ears I want to hear You speak Tell me Your thoughts what's on Your mind I'll be Your friend I want to see through Your eyes

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Drew Wilmesherr

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

PRAISE and WORSHIP

I Need a Ghost

by Brandon Lake

Anthony Mobley and Jayden Burch

CCLI Song # 7157098; Brandon Lake | Josh Silverberg

Verse 1: **I don't need the smoke or mirrors
'Cause I know there's a God who's real
I don't need the lights to fool me
'Cause I have seen the God who heals**

Pre-Chorus: **I know when I ask I'll receive it
You're not a God who withholds
I hear You say just believe me**

Chorus: **I need a Holy Ghost awaken in my soul
I need a love that glows rattling my bones
Till the evidence shows
I need a Holy Ghost awaken in my soul
I need a heart on fire that'll never grow tired
Wherever I go**

**(I need a) Holy Holy Ghost I need a Ghost
Holy Holy Ghost I need a Ghost**

Verse 2: **I don't need a counterfeit comfort
'Cause nothing in this world remains
I need something stronger than lightning
Flowing inside of these veins**

Bridge: **You're the fire I can't even explain it
It's like I'm bursting with a heavenly language
Every time I get a taste I know
I just want more I just want more
You're the kingdom that's been growing inside me
It's like a lion's roar that wants to revive me
Every time I get a taste I know I just want more**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Drew Wilmesherr

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Postlude

Buryl Red

Matthew McMahan, *organist*

† † †

*Thank you for sharing in this joyous occasion with us!
Please join us in the parlor as we continue the celebration with a reception.*

We are delighted to welcome those who helped make this special service possible:

Members of the Ordination Commission

**Teaching Elders
from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta**

Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish, *Moderator*
Professor of Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary,
Decatur, GA

Rev. John Westlund
Director of the Calvin Center, Hampton, GA

Rev. Michael Sanchez
Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church, Dunwoody, GA

**Ruling Elders
from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta**

Keenan Rodgers
Greater Atlanta Presbytery

Teresa Merritt
Roswell Presbyterian Church, Roswell, GA

Susan Gilbert
Fayette Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, GA

Guests of the Commission

Teaching Elders

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr
Decatur Presbyterian Church, Decatur, GA

Rev. Lindsay Armstrong
New Church Development

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed
Decatur Presbyterian Church, Decatur, GA

Rev. Sandi Wilmesherr
Honorably Retired

Rev. Alex Rodgers
Timberidge Presbyterian Church, McDonough, GA
UKirk Board Chair

Musicians

Matthew McMahan
Minister of Music, Organist & Choirmaster,
Decatur Presbyterian Church

Anthony Moble
Jayden Burch

Live Stream Team

Chet Allen and Dudley Larus
Decatur Presbyterian Church

Flowers

arranged by
Lynn Evans and Susan Rush
Flower Guild, Decatur Presbyterian Church



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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