



HENDRICKS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH



The Worship of God
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ordination Service
September 21, 2025
11:00 a.m.

*Listening devices are available in the narthex.
Please see an usher for assistance.*

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*The liturgical color for ordination services is red.
In Christian tradition red is associated with the power of the
Holy Spirit because Acts tells us that at Pentecost the Spirit
descended like tongues of flame. When we ordain someone,
this red reminds us that the fire and power of the Spirit still
enliven and encircle the Church and its leaders today.*

THE CHURCH PREPARES AND GATHERS . . .

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Welcome to this morning's worship service. Please know how glad we are that you're here. Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church is a family of faith where—no matter who you are—you will always be welcome!

The Passing of the Friendship Register

All worshippers are asked to sign the register. If you are a guest, please fill out all the information.

The Chiming of the Hour

WELCOME

Dr. B.J. Hutto

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

. . . TO WORSHIP AND PRAISE GOD . . .

PRELUDE

by Sydney Nicholson

“Lift High the Cross”

Andrew Clarke, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Joel 2 and Acts 2)*

Dr. Joe Stepp, Diaconate Chair

And on that day the Lord will pour out his Spirit on all flesh.

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.

Your old men shall dream dreams,

and your young men shall see visions.

And it shall come to pass

that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

For you shall know that the Lord is in the midst of his people,

that he is the Lord and there is none else.

Therefore let us worship the Lord who is always with us.

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN 226**

ABERYSTWYTH

“Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow”

The Lighting of the Candle

Presley Drake, acolyte

*** INVOCATION**

Rev. Rachel Gunter Shapard

... TO REMEMBER, PRAY, AND CONFESS ...

HEBREW LESSON

Rev. Tammy Snyder, lector

Exodus 2:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND INTERCESSION

Rev. Britt Hester

DISCIPLINE OF SILENCE

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are loved and forgiven. Thanks be to God!

... TO PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD ...

*** HYMN**

“10,000 Reasons”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Rev. Tammy Snyder, lector

Romans 8:31b-39

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

by Keith Hampton

“True Light”

Sanctuary Choir

Laraine Humbert, piano Gavin Knight, drums

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Almighty God is light; He lives in us as True Light.

In the beginning out of the darkness, God created True Light.

He lives in us as True Light.

Almighty God is light; He lives in us as True Light.

*Don't let the light that You've given me die,
And don't desert my mind. But let the one who serves You
Praise You again and again; He lives in us as True Light.*

*You are the One who judges right from wrong.
Your glory excites no envy, But let the one who serves You
Praise You again and again; He lives in us as True Light.*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I want the world to know.

God gave the world True Light!

SERMON

Rev. Nikki Carroll Hardeman

“God Is for Us”

... TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ...

***DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

THE MORNING OFFERING

*Litany of Generosity

Dr. Tommy Shapard

Heaven and earth are yours, O Lord,

And of your own gifts we now give back to you. Amen.

The Offertory

by George Frideric Handel

“Aria in F”

Andrew Clarke, organ

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

The Congregation

... TO ANSWER GOD'S CALL ...

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR ORDINATION

Dr. B.J. Hutto

Scripture tells us that “Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”

My friends, ordination is a public act of the Church which indicates acceptance by an individual of God's call to the upbuilding of the Church through the ministries of Word, Service, and Table; and it is also an acknowledgement and authentication of this call by the Church through prayers and the laying on of hands. It is a rite of the Christian community, passed down through generations, following the patterns of the New Testament. Ordination is that act by which the Church symbolizes a shared relationship between those who are ordained for leadership and the one, universal Church community from which—and to which—the person being ordained comes. This community is initiated by God, given meaning and direction by Christ, and sustained by the Holy Spirit. The relationship between the Church and her ministers is a gift from God and is embedded in the grace of Jesus Christ. Its purpose is to share that grace, both in and beyond the Church's walls.

CHARGE TO THE CANDIDATES

Chelsea, Heather, Janie, and Mary Nell,

In order that we might know your commitment, I ask each of you to make the following affirmations:

Recalling your baptism, do you reaffirm your faith in the one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and your commitment to follow Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

The ordinands answer together:

I do, with God as my helper.

Recognizing your call to ministry, do you affirm your trust in God's promises:

That through preaching and teaching, God's Word will accomplish its saving work among us;

That in the worship life of the Church, God will be present to nourish us as disciples of Jesus Christ;

That, through acts of love and service, our Lord's Gospel will be proclaimed to the nations and his kingdom made manifest;

And that, bound one to another in Christ's body, our love for one another—and for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ—will sustain us in this life, and that God will preserve us all for the life to come?

Each ordinand is asked for a response in turn:

[Name], do you affirm these things?

I do, and I will further them in my ministry.

As an ordained minister, will you live your life so as to be a sign of the Good News of Jesus Christ, serving all of God's children and not lording over them, leading them in humility, compassion, patience, and peace?

Will you faithfully proclaim, in all times and places, the living Word of God: the faith received from the apostles, handed down to us in the Scriptures, and inspired in each generation by God's Holy Spirit?

Will you faithfully lead God's people in celebrating the presence of their Risen Lord as they gather in worship, are born again in baptism, and are nourished by the Lord's Supper?

Will you faithfully care for God's people, welcoming the stranger and binding up the broken-hearted, loving them, as does the Good Shepherd to whom they belong?

Will you honor the integrity of the body of Christ, taking your place in all humility alongside your co-workers from every church that proclaims that Jesus is Lord?

In your ministry in the Church and in the world, will you always seek to further peace, justice, hope, and love, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor, neighbor and stranger?

Each ordinand is asked for a response in turn:

[Name], will you commit yourself to these things?

With the Lord's help, I will.

CHARGE TO THE CHURCH

Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, will you—as the assembled people of God—receive these four as heralds of Jesus Christ, sent to serve God's people with the Gospel of hope and salvation?

Congregation: We will.

Will you pray for them, help and honor them in their lives and ministries, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ's body?

Congregation: We will.

Then let them now be ordained as full ministers in the Church of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

Congregation

PRAYER OF ORDINATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Creator of all that is, judge of all people, and giver of all good gifts: we bless you for your infinite love in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have forgiveness and redemption according to the riches of his grace. We thank you that by his death your Son has overcome death and—having been raised by your mighty power—that he has ascended to the heavens, sending his

Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Comforter, to fill all things. We praise you that Christ has poured out his gifts abundantly upon the Church, making some apostles, some prophets, some pastors and teachers, to equip your people for the work of ministry and for the building up of his body.

In every generation, by your Holy Spirit, you have appointed ministers to lead and serve your Church. Therefore, we ask, look mercifully on these daughters of yours whom you have called to your service. Replenish them with the truth of your Word, and adorn them with innocence of life so that, both by teaching and good example, they may faithfully serve you in this office. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, pour out your Holy Spirit upon these four—Heather Carlton, Janie Church, Mary Nell McCoy, and Chelsea Weise—and fill them with the gifts of your grace and the power of your Word.

May they exalt you, O Lord, in the midst of your people and in the sight of the world. May they offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you; boldly proclaim the Gospel of salvation; and rightly administer both baptism and the Lord's Supper, as you have commanded. Make them to be faithful pastors, patient teachers, wise counselors, and willing servants. Grant that in all things they may serve without reproach, so that your people may be strengthened and your name honored in all times, places, and circumstances. Do these things, we pray, to the glory of your name, the edification of your Church, and the furtherance of the Gospel. And all this we ask through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

Now let us pray together the prayer our Lord taught us:

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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

BLESSING AND RECOGNITION OF THE NEWLY ORDAINED

Fellow ministers, hear now these words from Scripture:

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God....Finally, beloveds, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen...and the God of peace will be with you.” (*Philippians 4:6-9*)

“Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you guardian, to shepherd the Church of the Lord which he obtained with his own blood.” (*Acts 20:28*)

“Strive for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith.” (*1 Timothy 6:11-12*)

Receive these stoles as signs of your work. Walk in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ, serving his people and remembering his promise: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

My sisters in Christ, care for God's people, bear their burdens, and do not betray their confidences. So discipline yourselves in life and teaching that you preserve the truth, giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope. Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people. Give and receive comfort as you serve within the Church. And be of good courage, for God has called you, and your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

And now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, through Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom glory and honor belong, now and forevermore. Amen.

*** PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

...TO LOVE AND SERVE THE WORLD WITH GOD. AMEN.

*** THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

by John Rutter

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”
Sanctuary Choir Laraine Humbert, piano

*** BENEDICTION**

Rev. Nikki Carroll Hardeman

POSTLUDE

by Andrew Clarke

Improvisation on “Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow”
Andrew Clarke, organ



OUR GUEST PREACHER

We are happy to welcome **Rev. Nikki Carroll Hardeman** as our preacher today. Rev. Hardeman is on staff at Baptist Women in Ministry as the Director of Advocating for Women in Ministry.

Rev. Hardeman received a Master of Divinity from McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University and a Bachelor of Arts from Mercer University. Following her education, Rev. Hardeman served local churches in Georgia in youth, young adult, and homebound ministry roles. She also ministered on the state denominational level as Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia.

As her family grew, Rev. Hardeman chose to stay home with her children and pursue her vocational ministry through retreat-leading, supply-preaching, adjunct teaching, and writing and producing a small-group Bible study curriculum called FaithElement, which she continues today.

For the past nine years, Rev. Hardeman has served her alma mater, McAfee School of Theology, by supporting alumni and creating important partnerships for the school. She has also recently completed a tenure as Interim Pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia, the home congregation of former President Jimmy Carter.

Nikki, thank you for being with us today in worship!

OUR GUEST LECTOR

Today we also welcome **Rev. Tammy Snyder** as our lector. Tammy became the coordinator of CBF of Florida & the Caribbean Islands in June 2022. She has 21 years of ministry experience in both church and parachurch organizations. Thirteen of these years were spent at Bayshore Baptist church in Tampa, Florida,

where she left as Associate Pastor. For 23 years, being a military family, she lived and traveled throughout the U.S. and the world. Tammy has learned that it is most important to focus on similarities rather than differences, while recognizing the gifts and learnings other cultures bring to our faith development. Originally from Pennsylvania, Tammy and her husband, Tanker, have two children, Quay (Margaux, 2020) and Claire (Hunter, 2022).

THANK YOU

We are grateful to both Nikki Hardeman and Tammy Snyder for their ministry and support and for being with us today for this special ordination service.

We are also grateful for Rev. Kristina LaGuardia, Local Baptist Women in Ministry Coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida & the Caribbean, for joining us in this celebration, and we appreciate her support of women in ministry here in Florida.

Many thanks to these mentors who have supported and encouraged our ordinands throughout this process:

Joyce Hanson
Carolyn Hinckley
Rev. Rachel Gunter Shapard
Rev. Dr. Dan Stallard

We express gratitude to the rest of the ordination council for praying for and supporting the candidates through this ordination process:

Marshall Hill
Sharon Maszy
Rev. Dawson McQuaig
Dr. Joe Stepp
Susan Stepp
Rev. Dr. Eric Wester
Rev. Dr. B.J. Hutto