

THE ORDINATION of ROBERT GROW



SATURDAY AUGUST 3RD, 2024

BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
23 Public Square
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Saturday, August 3rd, 2024 – 3:00 pm

The Ordination of Robert Grow

Prelude

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Words of Welcome by Rev. John King

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

** Please Stand as you are able*

First Reading - Psalm 46 – Read by Lauren Elizabeth Hobe (Rob's niece)

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

Leader: Though its waters roar and foam. Though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

Leader: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

People: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; God speaks and the earth melts.

Leader: Adonai of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

People: Come behold the works of Adonai; see what desolations God has brought on the earth.

Leader: God makes wars cease to the end of the earth; God breaks the bows, and shatters the spear; and burns the shields with fire

People: “Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth!”

Leader: Adonai of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our Refuge.

Opening Hymn

Here I Am Lord

Dan Schutte



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Continuing Testament - By Mahatma Gandhi – Read by Alexander James Hobe
(Rob's nephew)

...Whenever you are in doubt or when the self becomes too much with you, try the following expedient: Recall the face of the poorest and most helpless [person] you have ever seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to [them]. Will [they] be able to gain anything by it? Will it restore to [them] control over [their] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to... self-rule for the hungry and spiritually starved millions? Then you will find your doubts and your self melting away.

Musical Offering *(What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace Love and Understanding*

Written by Nick Lowe

Craig Ramsey, percussion

*1. As I walk through this wicked world,
Searchin' for light in the darkness of insanity
I ask myself, "Is all hope lost? Is there only pain and hatred and misery?"
And each time I feel like this inside, There's one thing I wanna know:
Refrain: What's so funny 'bout peace, love, and understanding? (twice)*

*2. And as I walk on through troubled times
My spirit gets so downhearted sometimes
So where are the strong and who are the trusted?
And where is the harmony, sweet harmony?
'Cause each time I feel it slip away, just makes me wanna cry (Refrain)*

*3. So where are the strong and who are the trusted?
And where is the harmony, sweet harmony?
'Cause each time I feel it slip away, just makes me wanna cry (Refrain)*
(Words and Music by Nick Lowe, 1974; © 1974 Plangent Visions Music, Inc.)

Gospel - Mark 9: 33-37 – Read by Rev. John King

Hymn of Preparation

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Sermon – By Rev. Eric Williams

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Rev. Nayiri Karjian: We now rejoice in a moment of grace as we celebrate the ordination of Robert Powell Grow into Christian ministry. We recognize that the path to ordination includes study and discernment, work and discussion, prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We give thanks to God for Rob's spiritual journey that has brought him to this time and place, for all communities that have been his spiritual home, and for all who have nurtured his spirit, his gifts and his call.

Rev. John King: Brecksville United Church of Christ, after carefully considering the call to ordained ministry of Rob Grow, requests that the Living Waters Association ordain Rob to the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ, consistent with the scriptures, the traditions of the church universal, and according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Nayiri Karjian: The Living Water Association, of the Heartland Conference United Church of Christ, has reviewed the request of Brecksville UCC, and has prayerfully examined Rob concerning his fitness for ministry in the church, and is pleased, on behalf of the United Church of Christ, to authorize the ordination of Rob into Christian ministry.

Rob, if you are ready to make your covenant with God, receiving the gift of ordination into Christian ministry in the presence of this gathered community, please come forward.

And you, gathered community - members of Brecksville UCC and Grace UCC at Loyal Oak, the Living Water Association, and of the United Church of Christ, as well as friends and our interfaith and ecumenical neighbors - we welcome you as you participate in this celebration. Please follow the liturgy and respond as the gathered community when appropriate.

AFFIRMATION OF COVENANT

Rev. Nayiri Karjian: Rob, do you believe that you are truly called by God and the Church to the life and work of ministry in the name of Jesus Christ, empowered by the presence of the Holy Spirit?

Rob: I do.

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Rev. Nayiri Karjian: Paul the apostle testified, “It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.” Will you endeavor to be diligent in your practice of the Christian life: studying the Scripture, listening to the God who is still speaking, praying and growing in Spirit, deepening in spiritual disciplines, and walking in the footsteps of Jesus the Christ?

Rob: I will, with the power of the Spirit.

Rev. Nayiri Karjian: Will you endeavor faithfully to fulfill your calling among the people committed to your care, by preaching the Word, administering the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper?

Rob: I will, with the power of the Spirit.

Rev. Nayiri Karjian: Will you endeavor to care for the people of God: nourishing, teaching, and encouraging them; giving direction to the life of those you serve; counseling the troubled; offering pastoral care; declaring God's love and grace; and proclaiming the gift of healing and new life?

Rob: I will, with the power of the Spirit.

Rev. Nayiri Karjian: Will you endeavor to lead the people of God in their commitment to the global mission of the Church: guiding their concern for justice, freedom, and peace for all people; and taking a place of responsible leadership and service in the Church and in the world?

Rob: I will, with the power of the Spirit.

Rev. Nayiri Karjian: Will you endeavor to live and work in unity with all Christians: cooperating with colleagues in ministry, with the wider ecumenical church and interfaith communities, as well as people of no faith - treating all without prejudice, fulfilling the Church's ministry of reconciliation?

Rob: I will, with the power of the Spirit.

Rev. Nayiri Karjian: With Jesus as your example, will you be zealous in maintaining both the truth of the gospel and the peace of the church, speaking the truth in love, and conducting yourself so that your life is shaped by Jesus Christ, and molded by the Holy Spirit?

Rob: I will, with the power of the Spirit.

Rev. Nayiri Karjian: May God who has given you the will to do these things, give you grace to perform them. God who called you is faithful and can be trusted.

PROMISES OF THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Rev. Nayiri Karjian: You have heard the promises of Robert Powell Grow. Do you, who also are called to service and love, affirm Rob's call and accept him to the life and work of ordained ministry?

Gathered Community: Rob, we accept you as one called to leadership in the Church and celebrate that today you are ordained. We pledge our love, support and prayers that together we may embody Christ, and be instruments of healing, peace and justice in the world.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Rev. Nayiri Karjian: The laying on of hands with prayer is witnessed in scripture as a sign of empowering and sending forth. The church uses this prayerful act as a visible sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit, affirming Robert Powell Grow's calling and entrusting him with the power and authority to do the work of God in our midst.

Will clergy of all traditions, who would like to participate in the laying on of hands, please come forward? And will you, gathered community, stand and raise your hands, or place them on the shoulder of one who is standing before you, creating a chain that extends to Rob?

Let us pray: Holy One, Giver of Life, you have called us by name and pledged to each of us your faithful love. In wisdom you guide our lives, with generosity you bless us with gifts unimaginable. You call us to serve you in ministry, each according to the grace given to us. You call some to be prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, some chaplains and healers, some community organizers and justice workers, all to equip your people for the work of the ministry of the body of Christ, for the healing and wholeness of all creation.

Today, we thank you for your child, Robert Powell Grow, for his call to serve, to teach, to preach and to heal. Bless and make sacred the covenant promises made today by Robert Powell Grow, and by the community gathered here. Give him courage to remain true to his promises. Strengthen him to exercise his responsibilities with wisdom and care. Enable him to nourish your people in faith and spirit. Fill his speech with truth and his life with love and compassion.

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Rev. Nayiri Karjian: Nurture his faith and trust in you. Fill him with joy and hope. Strengthen him in the day of trouble. And let him thrive in ministry in your name, strengthening the body of Christ, bringing health and healing, justice and peace to all. We pray in the name of Christ, our hope, our joy and our peace always. Amen.

ALL: Amen. Thanks be to God!

Rev. Nayiri Karjian: As Association Minister, in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church and the ground of our being, and by the authority of the Living Water Association of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you to be ordained into Christian ministry. By the promises made, words spoken and the laying on of hands, through the work of the Holy Spirit, you are granted ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ! On behalf of its people, I welcome you, and celebrate with you!

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

- Putting vestments on the Ordained by his family
- Rob's words of thanks

Benediction - Traditional Prayer for Peace

**ALL: God, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled,
as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.**

Closing Hymn

The Canticle of the Turning (see insert)

Postlude

***All you Need is Love* Lennon and McCartney
*(Please remain seated for the postlude.)***