

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



## INSTALLATION BULLETIN

**MARCH 23, 2025**

Service of Installation for the Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry  
as Settled Pastor of First Congregational Church of Natick, United Church of Christ

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In a world of competition and division –

**All: God calls us into community.**

One: Even though it is hard and messy –

**All: God calls us into community.**

One: As a pastor and a congregation –

**All: God calls us into community.**

One: For our sake, and the world's –

**All: God calls us into community.**

One: Right here, right now –

**All: God calls us into community. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

Bring Forth

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!

**refrain:**

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;  
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God!

**(refrain)**

You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God!

**(refrain)**

We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God!

**(refrain)****PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND PRAYER OF JESUS**

Our God, 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.  
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.

**SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 41:8-10

Luke 22:24-27

**\*HYMN 374**

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

Servant Song

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are all pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;  
we are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen the journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

**REFLECTION**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**SERVICE OF INSTALLATION**

**Association Rep.:** The Central MA Association of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

**People:** Let us look to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Moderator:** First Congregational Church of Natick, United Church of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry as its settled pastor and teacher and respectfully requests that the Central MA Association install her in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

**Association Rep.:** The Central MA Association has reviewed the request of First Congregational Church of Natick, United Church of Christ. We have prayerfully examined Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry and we are pleased to install her as your settled pastor and teacher.

Cindy, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, its pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ. Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

## **EXHORTATION**

**Area Conference Minister:** Hear these words from the apostle Paul: We beg you, our brothers and sisters, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves.

We urge you, our sister, warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.

See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you, in your life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Association Rep.:** Dear friends, First Congregational Church of Natick, United Church of Christ has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry to minister in this place as settled pastor and teacher and that it now receives her as appointed by God for this ministry. The Central MA Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that she has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that First Congregational Church of Natick, United Church of Christ has been led to call you as interim pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Central MA Association?

**Pastor:** I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

**Association Rep.:** Members of First Congregational Church of Natick, United Church of Christ, will those who are able please rise and affirm your covenant with your pastor and teacher?

**People:** We, the members of First Congregational Church of Natick, United Church of Christ, receive Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give him due honor and support. We gather with her and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

**Association Rep.:** Members of Central MA Association, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with First Congregational Church of Natick, United Church of Christ, and its pastor and teacher?

**Association Members:** We, the members of the Central MA Association of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the pastor and teacher of First Congregational Church of Natick, United Church of Christ, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

## **PRAYER OF INSTALLATION AND DECLARATION**

**Area Conference Minister:** . . . In the name of Jesus Christ, on behalf of the Central MA Association of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you, Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry, duly installed as settled pastor and teacher of First Congregational Church of Natick, United Church of Christ.

This certificate affirms and celebrates this covenantal milestone in our mutual ministries and service in the United Church of Christ, for the glory of God!

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **CHARGE TO THE PASTOR**

### **CHARGE TO THE CHURCH**

### **PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

### **OFFERTORY**

*Today's offering will benefit the scholarship fund of the Central MA Association. If you wish to write a check, please make it out to FCC Natick, and note in the memo that it is for the Central MA Scholarship fund.*

### **ANTHEM**

Draw the Circle Wide

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

Old Hundreth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done.  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN 427**      My Life Flows On      How Can I Keep from Singing

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,  
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior's living.  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he's giving.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*\*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit*

*Please join us for a reception downstairs in the Vestry  
following the Service of Installation.*

Overflowing thanks to our participants:

**Rev. Greg Morissee, Pastor,**  
Plymouth Church in Framingham

**Rev. Carol Steinbrecher, Area Conference Minister, North Central Region,**  
Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ

**Rev. Sarah Hubbell, Association Rep., Vice Moderator,**  
**North Central Region,**  
Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ

**Rev. Becky Binns, Rector,**  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**Representatives of First Congregational Church of Natick:**

**Janice Gilkes, Chair, Search Committee**

**Lane McDonough, Former Moderator**

**Sarallyn Keller, Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care**

**Myriam Hernandez Jennings, Search Committee**

**Sara Hanna, Moderator**

**Dr. John Weagraff, Outreach Minister**

**Rev. Elaine Gaetani**