



# The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



*"We are One in Jesus Our Lord" by Soichi Watanabe*

Rocking chairs are available at the back of the Sanctuary.  
Prayer books are available at the back of the Sanctuary or in the Marion Street Lobby.  
Please share any prayers you have to be read aloud during the Prayers of the People.  
Sanitized hearing devices are available from the ushers.

*For those participating at home, we invite you to bring bread or crackers and water, juice, or wine to your worship space, so that you may participate in Holy Communion.*

October 24, 2021

## Ordination of Alexandra Boudreaux to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

### Gathering Music

*We transition into our sacred time together as music invokes the spirit of God.*

Hymns from the *Southern Harmony*  
arranged by Catherine McMichael

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*  
*Wondrous Love*, and *The Christian's Farewell*

Helen Hassinger, *violin*  
Beverly Bowman, *cello*

**\*Chiming the Trinity** \* means we invite you to rise in body and spirit  
We call forth God the Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit in musical tones.

**\*Opening Hymn** *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*  
We lift our voices, bodies, minds, All Verses  
and spirits as a community in a  
song of praise. We invite you to  
sing, speak, or silently read the words together.

All Sing  
New Century Hymnal #459  
TUNE: NETTLETON

**\*Call to Worship**  
We set our intention for worship with this call and response.

Julie Anderson  
Member, United Parish  
Chancel Choir

One: Beloved, today we gather together as one body,  
**All: Belonging to one another and to God.**  
One: In this sacred place, we come humbly to the table,  
**All: Called to Jesus' way of mercy, justice, and peace.**  
One: In all times and places,  
**All: We give thanks for the Spirit,**  
**Leading us, ever still becoming, towards love.**  
One: This is the day the Lord has made!  
**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**  
One: Come, let us worship God.

**Greeting**  
We warmly welcome all into our midst.

Amy Norton and Kent French  
Associate and Senior Pastors

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**All: And also with you.**

**Anthem**  
Our musicians lead us  
in a song of praise.

*Total Praise*  
by Richard Smallwood

Joint Adult Choirs  
First Church in Cambridge  
United Parish in Brookline  
Micah DeSelms, bass  
Evan Schafer, drums  
Surya Gopal, piano

*Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills  
Knowing my help is coming from You*

*Your peace You give me  
in time of the storm*

*You are the source of my strength  
You are the strength of my life  
I lift my hands in total praise to You*

*Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen  
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen  
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen*

## **Centering Prayer of Confession**

*Together, we center ourselves in the presence of God:  
beginning by confessing the ways we have gotten out of step with God  
and re-centering ourselves in the Love of God.*

Kent French  
Senior Pastor

Loving and compassionate God,  
to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid.  
We confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in one another, in ourselves,  
and in the world you have created.  
We turn away from  
the harm we have done  
and the harm done on our behalf.  
Forgive us, restore and strengthen us, we pray.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit  
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name...

## **Silent Confession**

*We continue praying in silence for up to one minute for our personal confessions and spiritual centering.*

One: O God, in your compassion;  
All: Hear our prayer.

## **\*Assurance of Grace**

*We receive the Good News that we are loved, forgiven and renewed in God's presence.*

## **\*The Peace of Christ**

*We share the Good News among ourselves with words of Peace and Love, leaving space for the Holy Spirit  
(and social distancing).*

One: The Peace of Christ and the Love of God be with you always;  
All: And also with you.

**Sung Response**

*We celebrate the peace  
Christ offers us with a song.*

*Psalm 23*

verse 1: Choir

words by Denise Karuth

music from the *New England Psalter*, 1698

Joint Choirs and Congregation

1. My God, my shep-herd and my guide, you sat - is -  
2. You bring my soul to peace a - gain and set my  
3. You lay a ban - quet out for me in sight of  
4. I know your good - ness and your love will al - ways

fy my need, you of - fer rest in pleas - ant fields,  
path a - right. Your rod and staff sub - due my fears,  
all my foes. You hon - or me and fill my cup  
fol - low me, and in your house I'll make my home

to wat - ers calm you lead.  
in dark - ness you give light.  
un - til it ov - er - flows.  
for all e - ter - ni - ty.

**Reading from the Epistles**

*We reflect together  
on the correspondence of the early Church.*

Romans 12:1-18

[New Revised Standard Version](#)

Suzanne Woolston Bossert

Associate Pastor, 2002-2010

United Parish in Brookline

Interim Chaplain at Boston Healthcare for the Homeless

**Reading from the Gospel**

*We reflect together  
on the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.*

Mark 12:28-31

[New Revised Standard Version](#)

Michelle McGraw

Member, United Parish

One: For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God in Spirit,  
For the Word of God among us;

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**Message**

*We reflect together on how the Word of God plays out in our lives.*

Patricia Coughlin  
Pastor Emerita  
United Parish in Brookline

**Sung Response**

*We reflect on the message through poetry and song.*

*In The Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*  
by Jacques Berthier

All Sing  
Beverly Bowman, cello  
Helen Hassinger, violin

*The congregation will join the choir in singing the refrain printed below 3 times without pause.*

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of staves. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: 'In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-fraid. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near, lift up your voices, the Lord is near.' There are triplets in the piano accompaniment on the second and third systems.

**Prayers of the People**

*We pray together for our congregation, our surrounding community, the nation and the world.*

Daniel Smith  
Senior Minister, First Church in Cambridge  
Amy Norton  
Associate Pastor, United Parish in Brookline

Prayers for our United Parish community  
Prayers for our friends, families and the people just beyond our walls  
Prayers for our nation and the world

One: O God, hear our prayer;  
All: And guide us in your love.

**Lord's Prayer** *We pray together as Jesus taught us.  
We invite you to use your chosen words for God: Father, Mother, Abba, Allah or...*

**Our Creator, 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 and ever. Amen.**

**Offering Invitation**

*We receive an invitation to offer our gifts for God's service.  
No gift is too small or too large. All are precious.*

Alex Shea Will  
Northeast Area Minister  
Southern New England Conference  
of the United Church of Christ

*Please place your offerings and guest cards in the baskets at either end of the main aisle.  
This offering is being received as a gift to the scholarship fund of the Metropolitan Boston Association for the  
benefit of those who are attending seminaries in preparation for ordained ministry.*

**Musical Offering**      *They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love*  
*Our musicians offer a song of*      *by Peter Scholtes*  
*praise and thanksgiving.*      *Arranged by Susan E. Geschke*

Handbell Choir

**\*Doxology**      *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
*We rejoin our voices in thanksgiving.*

All Sing  
Mary McConnell, *timpani*  
United Parish Handbell Choir  
TUNE: 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!***

**Rite of Ordination**

Alex Shea Will  
Northeast Area Minister, Southern New England Conference  
of the United Church of Christ  
Jennifer Rodine  
Moderator, United Parish  
Kate Baker-Carr  
Convenor of Lexi's Discernment Group, United Parish

*In the United Church of Christ, we celebrate that God calls the whole church, each and every one, to  
participate in the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the Gospel in all aspects of life.*

*Ordination is the rite whereby the church recognizes and authorizes persons whom God has called to  
ordained ministry. Through ordination, a person is set apart by prayer and the laying on of hands.*

## Greeting

One: Grace to you and peace from God, who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness and the sovereign of the rulers on earth.

The Metropolitan Boston Association/Northeast 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.

**All: To God, who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or imagine, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Presentation

### Exhortation

One: Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah:  
I heard the voice of the Holy One saying,  
“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

**All: Then I said, “Here I am! Send me!”**

One: How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains, bringing good news, the news of peace!

**All: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Holy One has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to those who are bound.**

## Examination

### Acclamation

One: People of God, you have heard the promises Alexandra has made. What is your will?

**Association Members: By the grace of God, we affirm she is called and ready! Let us ordain her. Come, Holy Spirit.**

### Laying on of Hands

### Declaration

### Presentations

*Metropolitan Boston Association of the SNEUCC*

*United Parish in Brookline*

*Alex Shea Will  
Northeast Area Minister,  
Southern New England Conference  
of the United Church of Christ*

*Susan DeSelms  
Minister of Music, United Parish*

David Rockwell  
on behalf of the members of Lexi's Discernment Group  
Member of United Parish  
Chancel Choir

First Church in Cambridge

Nora Willcutts and Dean Eaton  
Deacons of First Church in Cambridge

Family

Michelle McGraw  
Mother  
Member of United Parish

**Musical Response**

*Draw us in the Spirit's Tether*  
by Harold Friedell

Joint Choirs

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether; For when humbly, in thy name,  
Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them:  
Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem.*

*As disciples used to gather In the name of Christ to sup,  
Then with thanks to our Creator, Break the bread and bless the cup,  
Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up.*

## Communion

*For those participating at home, we invite you to bring bread or crackers and water, juice, or wine to your worship space, so that you may participate in Holy Communion. All are welcome at the Table! For those participating in the sanctuary, as you approach the stations, please be mindful of social distancing and lower your mask only once you arrive at the table to the side of the station.*

**Prayer of Preparation**

Karin Case  
Minister, First Church in Cambridge, 2014-2019

**Words of Institution**

Alexandra Boudreaux  
Transitional Minister, First Church in Cambridge

**Communion Song**

*We join our voices together,  
as we receive the sacrament  
of communion.*

*Repeating Alleluia*  
by Calvin Hampton

All hum together

*We will hum this together as we take communion.*

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - - - ia.



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*We re-join our voices in thanksgiving.*

One: Please rise in body or in Spirit.  
Let us give thanks!

All: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus –  
for gladness in this bread and cup,  
for love that cannot die,  
for peace the world cannot give,  
for joy in the company of friends,  
for the splendors of creation,  
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.  
Give us the gifts of this holy communion –  
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,  
forgiveness of enemies,  
the will to serve you every day,  
and risen life that never ends.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### \*Closing Hymn

*Together in song, we set our  
intentions for going out in the world.*

*Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'  
We Are Marching in the Light of God*

New Century Hymnal #526

TUNE: SIYAHAMBA

### \*Benediction

*We receive a blessing and invitation as we go into the week.*

Alexandra Boudreaux  
Transitional Minister  
First Church in Cambridge

### \*Benediction Response

*Together in song, we set our  
intention in leaving  
this sacred place.*

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You  
by Peter Lutkin*

Joint Choirs

*The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord lift their countenance upon you and give you peace  
The Lord make their face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.*

### \*Postlude on the Lawn

*As our sacred time together ends,  
we invite you to join us outdoors on the front lawn  
for a reception.*

Micah DeSelms, Surya Gopal, Evan Schafer  
Jazz Trio

**Thank you to those serving in worship today:**

Acolyte: Penelope DeSelms

*Our new acolyte robes have been given in memory  
of longtime Acolyte Coordinator, Betty Gray (1934-2020).*

Coffee Hour Hosts: Gathering Team, Church Council, Jaz and Jackie Buchanan

Liturgists: Suzanne Woolsten Bossert, Michelle McGraw, Alex Shea Will, Jennifer Rodine,  
Julie Anderson, Kate Baker-Carr

Communion Servers: Cathy Quackenbush, David Rockwell, Carrie Merz, Joanne Paul, Beth Spaulding,  
Sarah Higginbotham, Karin Case, Lexi Boudreaux, Kent French, Dan Smith

Ushers: Cathy Quackenbush, Paul Quackenbush, Tyler Smith, Madeline Cortes,  
Prabhakar Devavaram, Alan Forbes, Mark Molloy

Handbell Choir: Jim DeSelms, Andrew White, Mike McConnell, Beverly Bowman, Suzy Kirch,  
Amanda Craine, Jackson Barnett, Kate Hendrix, Susannah Davis, Julie Anderson

Joint Chancel Choir and First Church Choir Members:

Beth Spaulding	Kate Judd	Jim DeSelms	Paul Sawyer
Carol Wilson Braun	Marianne Jensen	Kent French	David Rockwell
*Helen Hassinger	Ariel Ackermann	Arthur Anger	John Sugrue
Jen Bose	Joanne Paul	Philip LaFollett	Eli Segev
Louise Bowler	Beverly Bowman		*Yunus Akbas
Debra Hall	Amanda Craine		*Nick Duffin
Mary McConnell	*Margot Wegman		
Elke Platz	Barbara Lynch		
Patty Sullivan	Pat Howkinson		
Merle Perkins	Lexi Boudreaux		
	Meagan McKinstry		

\*section leaders

***A Word about Today's Worship Leaders and Gratitudes***

In life, we do not do anything alone and that has not been more clear to me than it is today. I am so grateful to the people who have been with me during this journey and for those who helped make our worship today possible. God is so good. *All the time.*

To Rev. Pat Coughlin and to Rev. Suzanne Woolsten Bossert: You were my first pastors. Pat thank you for baptizing me, confirming me, and leading a church community that was and is my spiritual home. Suzanne, your presence during the formative years of my youth and your care and attention towards my Christian education were a blessing. Thank you. To Susan DeSelms and United Parish Chancel Choir: Susan, you have taught me so much about how to be a good and thoughtful musician and person. It is a privilege to consider you a close friend and colleague in ministry today. Thank you. The chancel choir was a special community for me within United Parish. I cherish our Thursday night rehearsals, and what I learned about myself and about God through creating music with you all. Our leader for the call to worship today is Julie Anderson, a soprano, one of my earliest Sunday School teachers, and the mother of one of my earliest friends. Thank you all for being you.

To Rev. Kent French and Rev. Amy Norton: Kent, thank you for being my ministerial advisor and pastor. I am so grateful for your support and guidance, through the past 6-7 years, and for you as a person. Amy, thank you for your ministry at United Parish. I feel blessed to call you a trusted colleague and friend. To the Members of my Discernment Group: Carrie Merz, Kate Baker-Carr, David Rockwell, Lisa Wiseman Weil, and Cathy Quakenbush. You have met with me so often throughout this process. You have asked me questions, listened to my reflections, prayed with me when the path ahead seemed unclear, and have given me the feedback I most needed to hear. I love you all dearly and am so grateful for your presence in my life and in the world.

To First Church in Cambridge: Rev. Dr. Karin Case, thank you for being my supervisor while I was an intern. Your guidance, presence, and mentorship were invaluable in helping me find my way into who I am as a minister and as a person. I am so grateful for you. Rev. Dan Smith, I have learned so much from you whether it was in your preaching class, from our many conversations, or trying to figure out how to do ministry in a pandemic. Thank you for your advice, support, honesty and humor. It is an honor to call you a colleague. Rev. Kate Layzer, thank you for teaching me that a meal and a function hall or even a lawn, can bring together housed and unhoused neighbors into relationship alike, letting the love of Jesus break through, even as broken systems persist. Members of First Church, First Church has become a spiritual home for me these past three years. I have so much gratitude for the way we do ministry together. Special thanks to worship leaders Beth Spaulding, Joanne Paul, Nora Willcutts, Dean Eaton, Sarah Higginbotham and members of the First Church Choir.

To my parents: Michelle McGraw, James Boudreaux, and Ellen Slawsby. Mom, thank you for being the first to teach me to love God and love my neighbor and for taking me to a church where I experienced the power of God's love in community. Mom, Dad, and Ellen, thank you for your support, love, and for being my biggest cheerleaders and advocates. I love you. To all my extended family tuning in on YouTube and those present here, I love you, I miss you, thank you for your love and support. To Friends: Rachel Tillison, Mairead McNameeKing, Kim Sykes, Alexa Rice, Anissa Abdel-Jelil, Lexie Carr, Lindsay Chou, Jaz Buchanan, and Grace Killian, and to so many more wonderful people, thank you for your friendship, love, and humor. To the DUCCS (Disciples and UCC Students at Harvard Divinity School) and to Rev Reebee Girash, thank you for your advice, friendship, and support. To Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott and all those in the MBA who have supported me as a member in discernment, thank you for your questions, deep listening, and being in discernment with me.

To my MGH chaplaincy colleagues and friends: Rev. Tom Reid, Roxan DeValle, Steven Fisher, Alec Hartman, Rabbi Shulamit Izen and Rabbi Ben Lanckton. Thank you for being my teachers and mirrors, for helping me learn how to be a better provider of spiritual care and how to be more in tune with my authentic self.

To the current and former members of United Parish in Brookline: Thank you for loving me into who I have become and am still becoming, for your support and care during times of joy and of sorrow, for being my teachers, my family, and fellow travelers on the Way. Special thanks to those who served as ushers, all who have helped with putting together the cake reception, and to Mary McConnell and Andrew White, who not only picked up the flowers for today's service, but were also once upon a time my children's choir director and Sunday school teacher, respectively.

Love, Lexi

# WELCOME

We at the United Parish in Brookline believe that all people are made in the image of God and embrace and cherish every person and every kind of family. Jesus Christ welcomed everyone; we seek to follow his example in our own life and worship, by extending God's love and grace abundantly and equally to everyone. We affirm and welcome all people to share in worship, fellowship and leadership with us, to join us in a diversity of race, gender, sexual identity, physical and mental ability, ethnicity and economic means.

We have joined with other Open and Affirming (United Church of Christ) and Welcoming and Affirming (American Baptist Churches USA), as well as with the Reconciling Ministries Network (United Methodist Churches) to declare that we are and will remain open to all people.

We invite you to consider becoming a member of the United Parish family. You may become a member by transferring membership or by a statement of faith. If you desire to retain ties with a former church, we invite you to become an associate or affiliate member for the time you are with us.

*We ask that you silence all electronic devices.  
Please see an usher if you would like a hearing assistive device.  
Because our building is open to the public,  
an adult should accompany children if/when they leave the worship service.*

Ministers  
Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Minister of Music  
Soprano Choir Section Leader  
Alto Choir Section Leader  
Bass Choir Section Leader  
Seminarian  
Multimedia Producer  
Parish Administrator  
Facilities Manager  
Sexton  
Sexton  
Accounting Administrator  
Nursery Supervisor  
Nursery Staff  
Pastor Emerita

The People of the United Parish  
Kent French  
Amy Norton  
Susan DeSelms  
Helen Hassinger  
Margot Wegman  
Nick Duffin  
Thomas A. Mitchell  
Teaira Perry  
Sarah Fitzpatrick  
David Dunphy  
Tom Lou  
Ed Thompson  
Donald Firth  
Jenna Bergquist  
Katy Lum  
Patricia Coughlin



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

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## Check-in on Realm, our online church directory

If you already have a Realm account...

1. Open the app on your mobile device (if you do not have the app, scan this QR code to download it, or search "Realm Connect" in your phone's app store).
2. Click the three dots on the bottom right of your screen, where it says "more".
3. Click on "Mobile Check-In".
4. The event(s) available for check-in will appear, click the empty checkbox of the event you wish to check-in for, and confirm. Your screen will show that you have checked in.

