



**A Service Celebrating the Assignment of
Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth
to the
Greater Northwest Episcopal Area
of The United Methodist Church**

**Saturday, May 20, 2023
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Juneau, Alaska**

**Please stand in body or spirit*

GATHERING

Juneau Strings

PROCESSIONAL HYMN*

Blessed Assurance

The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) 369

Hannah Kuhnert, Aldersgate UMC Choir

GREETING AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Rev. Kristi McGuire

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Lisa Talbott and Rev. Christina DowlingSoka

Today, on this historic occasion, we stand on Holy and Sacred Ground.
Please join with me in the words the Psalmist wrote:

Everything in this world was formed by the breath of Creator, and all is holy and sacred.

We confess that in the name of God, Christians have hidden behind scripture to claim lands that were not theirs to claim, dispossessing and diminishing indigenous peoples and cultures, and stripping sovereignty from many generations. Our forebears in the faith worshiped the idol of power, using weapons and words to expand their empires of greed, which we still benefit from today. Help us to go by a different way, to resist complacency, and to speak against the voice of white Christian nationalism, and remember:

Everything in this world was formed by the breath of Creator, and it is all holy and sacred.

We confess that fellow Christians placed faulty values on assimilation, justifying the implementation of “boarding schools for native children” where children were separated from their families, stripped of their cultures, and even killed in the name of Jesus. Our forebears in the faith were not curious but controlling of difference. Help us to recognize when we step into these harmful footsteps today, and to remember:

Everything in this world was formed by the breath of Creator, and it is all holy and sacred.

We confess that even today, we still find ourselves exploiting the Creation we were called to love and cultivate. We have not loved our Mother Earth or tended the connection to neighbor and to creation. Help us to always remember:

Everything in this world was formed by the breath of Creator, and it is all holy and sacred.

We confess that we often turn from the pain that has been caused in the name of Christianity. We are afraid that the guilt of our shared history will hold us back. And yet, we know that without confession, no reconciliation is possible. Help us to understand our history so that our modern legacy may be one of acting justly and in accord with how Jesus lived in community. Help us to always remember:

Everything in this world was made by Creator, and it is all holy and sacred.

Forgive us Holy One, Creator of all. Enable us to be a people of faith that seek reparations before reconciliation. Open our eyes to our own implicit and explicit participation in death-dealing

systems and help us to be enablers of just systems that benefit all. Empower us to decolonize ourselves, our churches, and our communities. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus, Creator Sets Free. Amen.

INVITATION AND CHARGE

Rev. Lisa Talbott

OPENING PRAYER

David Means

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, by your grace you have set us together in your Church,
whose foundation is your child Jesus Christ.**

**Grant your continuing grace, we pray,
to all who exercise leadership in your Church,
that they may with diligence and faithfulness
fulfill their various ministries;
and grant that we your people may follow them where you lead
and minister faithfully in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ANTHEM*

El Shaddai, UMH 123

Hannah Kuhnert

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Young People of the Greater Northwest Area

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:30-37

Refrain

Canticle of Love, UMH 646, Response 1

Susan Johnson, Hannah Kuhnert

Reading in Spanish

Pastor Keren Rodriguez

Refrain

Reading in Samoan

Pastor Asomalo Titiali'i

Refrain

Reading in Korean

Rev. Mia Park

Refrain

ANTHEM

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Aldersgate UMC Choir

INTRODUCTION OF THE BISHOP

Kristina Gonzalez

RESPONSE

Megan Kilpatrick and Jo Anne Hayden

THE COVENANT SERVICE

Laurie Day

The Church is the community of those called by God,
justified by grace, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
We who are baptized into Christ's death
and raised with Christ in the resurrection
are living members of the body of Christ
who return thanksgiving to God
in ministries of worship, nurture, witness, and service.

A bishop has been ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament;
and to represent Christ's servanthood
in a special ministry of oversight.

A bishop is called to guard the faith, to seek the unity,
and to exercise the discipline of the whole Church;
and to supervise and support the Church's life, work,
and mission throughout the world.

As a servant of the whole Church,
the bishop is called to preach and teach
the truth of the gospel to all God's people;
to lead the people in worship,
in the celebration of the Sacraments,
and in their mission of witness and service in the world,
and so participate in the gospel command
to make disciples of all nations.

The bishop is to lead and guide
all persons entrusted to their supervision;
join in the consecration of bishops,
commission provisional members,
ordain deacons and elders,
commission deaconesses, home missionaries, and missionaries
for service to the Church and to the world,
and provide for the ministry of Word and Sacrament
in the congregations committed to their care.

Let the shepherd who has been called
now affirm these ministries in our midst.

Bishop Bridgeforth:

With God's help,
I promise faithfully to hear and to proclaim God's Word,
and rightly administer the Sacraments, as your pastor and servant.

People:

**With God's help,
we promise to join with you in the life of praise and thanksgiving,
and in the faithful use of the means of grace that God has given us.**

Bishop Bridgeforth:

By the grace of Christ,
I promise to be among you as a teacher of the faith,
a pastor of souls, and a means to the unity of the body of Christ.

People:

**By the grace of Christ,
we promise to join with you in the life of learning,
in the nurturing of God's people,
and in the seeking of that oneness in Christ
which is Christ's gift to us.**

Bishop Bridgeforth:

In the power of the Holy Spirit,
I promise to be for you a means of reconciliation and healing,
that all those who are burdened or oppressed may be made whole
and able to rejoice in the new life in Jesus Christ.

People:

**In the power of the Holy Spirit,
we promise to be, with you, faithful witnesses,
serving justice, showing mercy,
and in all things proclaiming the acceptable year of the Lord.**

Laurie Day:

Let the people say, "Amen."

People:

Amen and amen!

PRESENTATION OF SIGNS OF EPISCOPAL MINISTRY

Pastoral Staff	Bishop Carlo Rapanut and Rhondalei Gabuat
Bible	Raven K. and Rev. Kristi McGuire
Water and Pitcher	Georgia M. and Rev. Dr. Allen Buck
Bread and Cup	Frisco M., Charles C., and David Means
Towel and Basin	Cagney D., Bella R., and Rev. Sonya Davis
Stole	Rev. Justin W. White and Paul Nickell
Book of Discipline	Rev. Wendy Woodworth and Rev. Kathleen Weber
Gavel	Crystal Feaster and Brant Henshaw

Rev. Derek Nakano:

Bishop Cedrick, these are the signs of your ministry
among the people of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church.
Faithfully administer discipline, but do not forget mercy,
that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear,
you may receive the never-fading crown of glory.

Bishop Bridgeforth:

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church,
I gladly assume, with you and among you,
this ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Order,
of pastoral supervision, government, and service.
Strengthened by the love of God
and the remembrance of my consecration to the episcopacy,
I am resolved to serve faithfully and well
the congregations and people of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area
as bishop, pastor, and friend.

People:

**On behalf of the congregations and people,
we receive you, Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth,
with joy and thanksgiving, as our bishop and pastor.
We pledge to you our prayers, our loyalty, and our support
as you lead us in the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us all.**

WELCOME AND ACCLAMATION

Rev. Derek Nakano

MUSIC

I Will Serve Thee

Tlingit Gospel Singers

SCRIPTURE READING*

Luke 10:30-37 (CEB)

Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth

SERMON

Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth

HYMN

My Tribute, UMH 99

Susan Johnson and Hannah Kuhnert

PRAYER

Rev. Katie Ladd, Rev. Dr. Patty Meyers, Rev. Deena Wolfe, John Townsend

**O God, Shepherd and Ruler of the faithful,
look with favor on your servant Cedrick Bridgeforth,
whom your Church has appointed bishop
and chief pastor of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area.
Grant that, by word and example,
he may assist those among whom he is placed,
so that he and the people entrusted to his care
may fulfill the promises that they have made this day;
grow together in unity, love, and service;
and at last attain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OFFERING

GNW Circle of Indigenous Ministries

Rev. Dr. Allen Buck

HYMN

Give Thanks

The Faith We Sing (TFWS) 2036
Susan Johnson and Hannah Kuhnert

HOLY COMMUNION

Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, Bishop Carlo Rapanut, Rev. Sonya Davis

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you Almighty God...

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus...

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again

Pour out your spirit...

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion Hymn *One Bread, One Body*, UMH 620 Hannah Kuhnert, Sharon Seim

PRAAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Allen Buck

**We thank you, gracious Lord, for giving yourself to us,
and for uniting us in the communion of your Holy Spirit.
We bless you for raising up among us your faithful servant Cedrick
for the ministry of a bishop in your Church.
We pray that he may be to us an effective example
in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life.
Grant that we, with him, may glorify you by giving ourselves to others;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Rev. Lisa Talbott

HYMN * *The Summons*, TFWS 2130 Susan Johnson and Hannah Kuhnert

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING*

Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth

RECESSIONAL*

POSTLUDE * *The Thankful Song* Hannah Kuhnert

Special thanks to Aldersgate United Methodist Church: Rev. Kristi McGuire, Kimberly Vaughan, David Means, Alex Brint, Barb and Charlie Mitchell, Melanie and Bri Venables, Denali McGuire, friends, family and members of the congregation, and the Aldersgate Children's Ministry.

We also give thanks to our special music and musicians: Hannah Kuhnert, Susan Johnson, Tlingit Gospel Singers, and the Aldersgate Church Choir.

This service is adapted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, "A Service Celebrating the Assignment of a Bishop to an Area," pages 724-730.

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