

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church Of Christ



Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.

**Service of Installation of Rev. Leah McCullough,
Minister of Pastoral Care and Faith Formation
May 17, 2026 4:00 p.m.**



“Sacrament” by Anna Strickland

**Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
An LGBTQ+ Open and Affirming Congregation**

176 Cooper Avenue, Montclair, NJ

973-744-7424

www.unioncong.org

*Please rise in body or spirit.
You are invited to join in the liturgy **in bold type.**

Prelude – Heart of My Own Heart

arr. J. B. Taylor

Jeremy Carlisle

Gathering

***Processional NCH #73 – Enter, Rejoice and Come In**

Words: Psalm 100

Music: Louise Ruspini

Call to Worship

Lisa Blankenship and Shawn Goberdhan

Leader: Come, you who are celebrating,
you who are grieving,
you who are laughing through your tears.

All: You belong here.

Leader: Come, you who are weighed down by all that life has thrown at you,
you who are finding freedom in communities of healing and love,
you who are bent over and rising up.

All: You belong here.

Leader: Come, you who have been excluded,
you who have been loved into life,
you who have claimed belovedness on the margins.

All: You belong here.

*The Leader will continue to call you into our worship together. At each pause, you will respond: **You Belong Here.***

***Opening Hymn (insert) – Let Us Build a House (vs. 1, 2, 4, 5)**

Words: Marty Haugen

Two Oaks

Music: arr. Lloyd Larson

(turn page)



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) ((A7))
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F Bb F (C7)

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Welcome

Rev. Katrina Forman

Proclaiming

Prayer for Illumination – Lord, Prepare Me (vs. 1)

SANCTUARY

Words: John Thompson & Randy Scruggs

Catherine Black:

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;
 With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

Congregation:

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
 With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 12:12-27

Will Black, Walter Gillespie,
 Rob Iracane, Jade Holmgren, Karen Whitehaus

Prayer for Illumination – Lord, Prepare Me (vs. 2)

SANCTUARY

Words: John Thompson & Randy Scruggs

(turn page)

Catherine Black:

*God, empow'r me to be a witness for you, acting boldly, in your name;
Seeking justice, where there is hurting, off'ring hope where there is pain.*

Congregation:

*God, empow'r me to be a witness for you, acting boldly, in your name;
Seeking justice, where there is hurting, off'ring hope where there is pain.*

Scripture Reading

Luke 13:10-17

Rev. Denise Griebler

Prayer for Illumination – Lord, Prepare Me (vs 1 & 2)

SANCTUARY

Words: John Thompson & Randy Scruggs

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
God, empow'r me to be a witness for you, acting boldly, in your name;
Seeking justice, where there is hurting, off'ring hope where there is pain.*

Sermon

Rev. Craig Peterson

Responding

***Song of Preparation – I Need You to Survive**

Words & Music: Mark A. Miller

*I need you, you need me, we're all a part of God's body,
Stand with me, come be with me, we're all a part of God's body.
It is God's will that every need be supplied,
You are important to me, I need you to survive.*

*I'll pray for you, you pray for me,
I love you, I need you to survive,
I won't harm you with words from my mouth,
I love you, I need you to survive.*

(next page)

*It is God's will that every need be supplied,
You are important to me, I need you to survive.*

Prayers of the People

Revs. Leah McCullough and Katrina Forman

Order for Installation of a Pastor

Association Representative: Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks
Local Church Representative: Christine Brown, Moderator

Greeting

Presentation

Exhortation

Covenant

Members of the church who are able please stand for the remainder of the covenant.

LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERS:

We, the members of Union Congregational United Church of Christ, receive Rev. Leah McCullough as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her 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 REPRESENTATIVE *addressing association members:*

Members of the New Jersey Association, will those who are able, rise and affirm your covenant with Union Congregational United Church of Christ and its pastor and teacher?

Other members of the Association who are able, please stand for the remainder of the covenant.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:

We, the members of the New Jersey Association of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the pastor and teacher of Union

Congregational 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 Laying on of Hands**

Rev. Julie Yarborough

***Declaration**

***Passing the Peace**

***Hymn NCH #495 – Called as Partners in Christ's Service**

Words: Jane Parker Huber

BEECHER

Music: John Zunder

Sending

Charge to the Pastor and Congregation

Dr. Sharon Fennema

Confetti Anointing

Benediction

Rev. Leah McCullough

***Closing Song and Recessional – Lead with Love**

Words & Music: Melanie DeMore

We will collect an offering today which will be used to support the work of the Pre-Ordination Commission of the New Jersey Association of the United Church of Christ to support Members in Discernment on their journeys towards ministry. Offering plates are available at the rear of the sanctuary.

Deep gratitude to Dr. Sharon Fennema for writing the liturgy and designing an embodied and participatory worship service. Sharon listened carefully to who I am and who I hope to be and become as a minister here; asked good questions to connect my specific call with the shape of this worship; and received my reflections, questions and edits with love and grace - even when I showed up before her first cup of coffee.

Many thanks to the participants in today's service.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks, Moderator of the New Jersey Association Council

Dr. Sharon Fennema, Worship Artist

Rev. Katrina Forman, Lead Minister, Union Congregational Church

Rev. Denise Griebler, Retired Clergy, Detroit Metro Association of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Craig Peterson, Associate Conference Minister of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Julie Yarborough, Associate Minister, Christ Church Summit

John David and Jeremy Whitener, Co-Music Directors of Union Congregational Church.

Jeremy Carlisle, Accompanist at Union Congregational Church.

Catherine Black, Will Black, Lisa Blankenship, Walter Gillespie, Shawn Goberdhan, Jade Holmgren, Rob Iracane, Karen Whitehaus, members of Union Congregational Church.

Ushers

Wyatt Foster, Isabelle Genest, Amy Hohn, Rob Middleton

Hospitality Team

Thank you to my Pastoral Relations Committee – Suzanne Tuck, Lisa Blankenship, Vicki Paulson, and Mike Spinella - for their ongoing support, including helping hands for today's meal and hospitality.

Thank you to Sister MT Summers, Prioress at Benet Hill Monastery in Colorado Springs, CO, for the gift of the new alb I am wearing today. Heartfelt gratitude to all the sisters and staff at Benet Hill for providing a healing landing place in your community and for accompanying me on the journey to this day.