

HUDSON RIVER PRESBYTERY



**Service of Installation
Rev. Carol Howard Merritt
as Pastor of
Bedford Presbyterian Church**

Gathering

Prelude

Introit

O God Beyond All Praising

Gustav Holst

Welcome and *Call to Worship

General Presbyter Deborah Milcarek

***Hymn 399**

Be Thou My Vision

1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

3 Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Ruling Elder Brian Hiller-Dupont

First Reading

Ruling Elder Brian Hiller-Dupont

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Psalm

Psalms 46:1-7, 10a Ruling Elder Lynn Brown

Gospel Reading

Luke 5:1-11

Ruling Elder Lynn Brown

***Hymn 429**

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

1 Lord, you give the great commission:

“Heal the sick and preach the word.”

Lest the church neglect its mission,

and the gospel go unheard,

help us witness to your purpose

with renewed integrity:

with the Spirit’s gifts empower us

for the work of ministry.

2 Lord, you call us to your service:

“In my name baptize and teach.”

That the world may trust your promise,

life abundant meant for each,

give us all new fervor, draw us

closer in community:

with the Spirit’s gifts empower us

for the work of ministry.

3 Lord, you bless with words assuring:

“I am with you to the end.”

Faith and hope and love restoring,

may we serve as you intend,

and, amid the cares that claim us,

hold in mind eternity:

with the Spirit’s gifts empower us

for the work of ministry.

Ordination

Sentences of Scripture

Ruling Elder Brian Hiller-Dupont

As in one body we have many members,
and not all the members have the same function,
so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we
are members one of another.

Statement on Ministry of the Church Ruling Elder Brian Hiller-Dupont

We are called out by God
to be the Church of Jesus Christ,
a sign in the world today
of the new life that God intends for all.

As the living body of Christ,
the church is called
to proclaim the good news of salvation
and to demonstrate Christ's love in service to the world.

In faith we embrace
a new openness to what God is doing in our time,
and a new joy in our common worship and work.
Today we reclaim our historic calling
and remember the great ends of the church:
The proclamation of the gospel Book of Order
for the salvation of humankind;
the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship
of the children of God;
the maintenance of divine worship;
the preservation of the truth;
the promotion of social righteousness;
and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven
to the world.

Statement on Installation

Moderator Constance Knapp

Constitutional Questions to the Pastor-elect

Moderator Constance Knapp

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you be a minister of the Word and Sacrament in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture and continually guided by the confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Will you be a faithful minister, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith, and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Constitutional Questions to the Congregation

Ruling Elder Brian Hiller-Dupont

Do we, the members of the church, accept Carol Howard Merritt as our pastor, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

We do.

Do we promise to pay her fairly, and provide for her welfare as she works among us; to stand by her in trouble, and share her joy? Will we listen to the word she preaches, welcome her pastoral care, and honor her authority as she seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?

We do and we will.

Prayer of Installation

Moderator Constance Knapp

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All praise be yours,
Lord God of our salvation. By your Word,
you called creation into being and made us in your image
to love and serve you.
By your saving love
you sent Jesus Christ to live among us,
to liberate your people
and establish your peace.
By your Holy Spirit,
you shower gifts on your children,
opening hearts and worlds to your grace, empowering us to live
holy and joyful lives.
We praise you,
for the church throughout the world,
born of your love,
saved by your grace,
and sustained by your Holy Spirit.
Make us the community you have called us to be,
your very own people,
gifted to proclaim your marvelous love.

Gracious God, we praise you
that you have chosen servants in every age
to speak your Word and lead your loyal people.
We give you thanks for Carol,
and for the ministry to which you have called her. Give Carol a full
measure of the gifts of your Holy Spirit both in the walk of faith
and for the work of ministry.
Anoint Carol with power to proclaim the gospel
in Word and Sacrament,
in witness and in service,
in truth and in love,
for the building up of the people of God
and for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Generous God,
pour out your Holy Spirit
upon this congregation,
that, united in Christ's love,
they may serve you with joy and faithfulness
until all things are made new.
Let the compassion they show to the world
be your love in Christ.

Let their common life
as pastor and people together,
be holy, peaceable, and glad.

Gracious God,
accept all that we are and have
in the service of Jesus Christ,
and strengthen us by the power of your Holy Spirit
now and forever.

Declaration of Installation

Carol Howard Merritt, as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in
the church of Jesus Christ, you are now installed as pastor of this
congregation.

Be faithful and true in your ministry
so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen
Christ.

Charge to the Newly Installed Pastor

Rev. Abbie Huff

Call to Offering

General Presbyter Deborah Milcarek

Please give generously to the Scholarship Fund of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and the
Clergy Support Fund of the Commission on Ministry.

Offertory

With A Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

***Doxology**

***Dedication of the Offering and The Lord's Prayer**

Charge to the Congregation

Rev. Ryan Larkin

Sending

***Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Choral Blessing

An Irish Blessing

Michael Nuss

***Postlude**

*Please stand, if you are able.

Thank you to our guest music director, Tyler Walker.

The Administrative Commission and Worship Leaders

Dr. Diana Butler Bass

Author and Independent Scholar

Ruling Elder Lynn Brown

Clerk of Session at First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown

Ruling Elder Brian Hiller-Dupont

Clerk of Session at Bedford Presbyterian Church

Minister of the Word and Sacrament Rev. Abbie Huff

Pastor of Germonds Presbyterian Church

Ruling Elder Constance Knapp

Moderator of Hudson River Presbytery

Minister of the Word and Sacrament Rev. Ryan Larkin

Pastor of Pine Plains Presbyterian Church

Ruling Elder Deborah Milcarek

General Presbyter of Hudson River Presbytery

The cover art is “Black Mesa” by Georgia O’Keeffe



Welcome DIANA BUTLER BASS

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Join us Sunday, Sept. 26th at 10am and 3pm to hear Dr. Diana Butler Bass speak at Rev. Carol's Installment. Dr. Bass is an award winning author, historian of Christianity and advocate of progressive Christianity. She will be speaking about her book Grounded.



This week's flowers are dedicated by
Brian, Don and Brandon Hiller-Dupont



ON THIS YOUR
INSTALLATION
DAY. WITH
LOVE AND
GRATITUDE
FROM YOUR
BPC FAMILY!

Bedford Presbyterian Church Staff

The Reverend Carol Howard Merritt, Pastor
John Lettieri, Director of Music
Elyssa Michaels, Director of Congregational Life & Digital Ministries
Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager
Edwin & Ellida Acevedo, Building & Grounds Maintenance

Sunday Worship Service in person and virtual at 10:00 am

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