

*The Presbytery of Mississippi  
Service of Ordination and Installation  
for  
Cassandra Phillips Alston  
as Pastor of  
J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church  
McComb, Mississippi*



*Sunday, February 25, 2024  
4:00 P.M.*

## Service of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

The Reverend Dr. Joan Gandy

### Entering into God's Presence

Prelude

“How Great Thou Art”  
Jeremy Threlfall, tenor

arr. Lloyd Larson

Call to Worship

The Reverend Dr. Joan Gandy

\*Hymn 20

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Hymn to Joy

Call to Confession

The Reverend. Dr. Christopher Crowell

Prayer of Confession

The Reverend. Dr. Christopher Crowell

Assurance of Forgiveness

The Reverend. Dr. Christopher Crowell

\*Gloria Patri

*Gloria Patri*

### Hearing God's Word

Anthem

“Lord, Here Am I”

arr. John Ness Beck

Scripture Lesson

Old Testament    Isaiah 43:1-7

Elder Sheldon Alston

Sermon

“Living From God’s Future”

The Reverend Charles Bowdler

Pastoral Prayer

The Reverend Charles Bowdler

\*Hymn 60

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Faithfulness

## Responding to God's Call

Invitation to Offering

Elder Suzi Drummond

The God who speaks and summons the earth into being now speaks to us, calling us to open up our lives as a sacrifice of praise.

Offertory: "Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated" arr. Mark Hayes  
Jeremy Threlfall, tenor

\*Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Elder Drummond

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we are humbled as we try to do what is right and to walk in your ways. Receive, we ask, these offerings, and use them for your own good purposes in the church and in all creation. We pray in Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## Service of Ordination and Installation

Ordination

Statement on the Ministry of the Church

The Reverend Dr. Joan Gandy

Book of Order F-1.0

Book of Order F-1.0304

Constitutional Questions to the Minister

The Reverend Dr. Joan Gandy

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, 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 expressions 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 fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our 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 pray for and work to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Will you be a faithful minister of the Word and Sacrament, 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 councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Constitutional Questions for the Congregation

Elder Sarah Ross

Leader: Do we, the members of the church, accept Cassie Alston as Minister of the Word and Sacrament, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**People: We do.**

Leader: Do we agree to pray for her, to encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is the head of the church?

**People: We do.**

Leader: 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?

**People: We do, and we will.**

Prayer of Ordination and Installation

The Reverend Dr. Joan Gandy

Installation Declaration

The Reverend Dr. Joan Gandy

Litany of Installation

Elder Beverly Ray

Leader: There are different gifts.

**People: But it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

Leader: There are different ways of serving God,

**People: But it is the same Lord who is served.**

Leader: God works through different people in different ways,

**People: But it is the same God who achieves His purpose through them all.**

Leader: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

**People: To use for the common good.**

Leader: Together we are the body of Christ,

**People: And individually members of Him.**

Leader: Though we have different gifts, together we are a ministry of reconciliation led by the risen Christ. We work and pray to make His church useful in the world, and we call men and women to faith, so that in the end, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Within our common ministry, some members are chosen for particular work as ministers of the word, ruling elders, or deacons. In ordination we recognize these special ministries, remembering that our Lord Jesus said, "Whoever among you wants to be great must become the servant of all, and if he wants to be first among you, he must be a servant of the people!"

**People: Just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life to set others free.**

Welcome of the Newly Installed Pastor

Charge to the Pastor

The Reverend Robert Madsen

Charge to the Congregation

Elder Susan Sumrall

\*Hymn 77 v.1,2,4 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" LOBE DEN HERREN

### **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Invitation to God's Table

The Reverend Cassie Alston

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Reverend Cassie Alston

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

**It is always right and our greatest joy to give God thanks and praise....**

...Therefore, we join our voices with all those who sing your praise

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest....**

... Great is the mystery of our faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again....**

...as our Savior, Jesus, taught us to pray when he said:

**Our Father, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of God's People

A Prayer After Communion

**God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

\*Hymn 229 v.1,3,5

"Lift High the Cross"

CRUCIFER

Charge and Benediction

The Reverend. Cassie Alston

Postlude

"To God Be the Glory"

arr. Larry Shackley



***Following the service please join us for a reception in the Fellowship Hall***



## **Commission of the Presbytery of Mississippi**

### **Ruling Elders**

Sheldon Alston, Fondren Presbyterian Church, Jackson

Suzi Drummond, J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church, McComb

Beverly Ray, Fondren Presbyterian Church, Jackson

Sarah Ross, J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church, McComb

Susan Sumrall, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Mississippi

### **Ministers of the Word and Sacrament**

The Reverend Charles Bowdler, Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Jackson

The Reverend Dr. Christopher Crotwell, Westminster Presbyterian Church,  
Hattiesburg

The Reverend Dr. Joan Gandy, Moderator of the Commission on Ministry, First  
Presbyterian Church, Natchez

Rev. Bob Madsen, Regional Presbyter for Presbyteries of Mississippi and South  
Alabama

### **Pianist**

Jennifer Sanders, J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church, McComb