



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LA JOLLA

JULY 25, 2021

UCC THEMED WORSHIP IN
CELEBRATION OF GENERAL SYNOD 33



**CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**
of *La Jolla*



WELCOME TO THIS WEEK'S AT HOME WORSHIP EXPERIENCE. PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS GUIDE AND UTILIZE THE AUDIO LINKS SENT TO YOU IN THE ACCOMPANYING EMAIL TO ASSIST IN YOUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE. PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH FEEDBACK IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS. YOU CAN REACH US AT PASTOR@LAJOLLAUCC.ORG.

PLEASE FIND A COMFORTABLE AND COMFORTING PLACE IN YOUR HOME OR SOMEWHERE ELSE YOU FEEL SAFE. GET COMFORTABLE, POUR YOURSELF A GLASS OF SOMETHING SOOTHING AND ENJOY.....

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

ENJOY NINA'S SOLO BY CLICKING ON AUDIO FILE TITLED "O MY SOUL..." IN THE EMAIL. DURING THIS TIME LEAVE YOUR FEARS, DOUBTS, AND UNCERTAINTIES OUTSIDE THE ROOM AND BE COMPLETELY PRESENT WITH YOURSELF. BREATHE



Rev. John Robinson giving his farewell sermon to his flock before they set sail on the Mayflower.

INTERNET FIELD TRIP!

1. This year General Synod was online due to COVID. However, the last Synod was in 2019 in Milwaukee. Here is a video that shows highlights from the 2019 Synod so you can get a flavor for what the wider church is like: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Frfc5yGf9Y>
2. Starting at the 6 minute and 40 second mark in this video, watch then Senator Barack Obama address General Synod as a member of the United Church of Christ: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ChF2Chjpd0>

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE LESSON

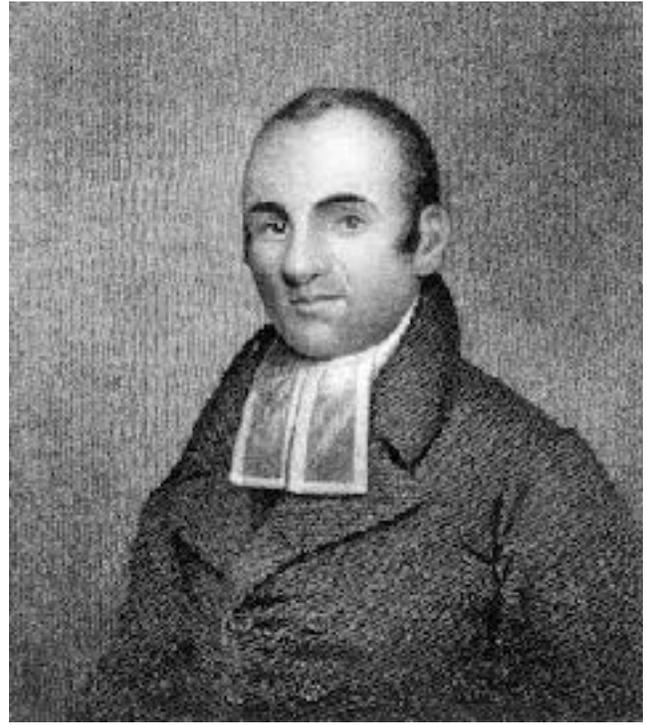
You can listen to Rev. Tim read this passage by clicking on the file marked "Scripture Reading" in the email.

John 10:11-18

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world."



Antoinette Brown Blackwell
(1825-1921)



Lemuel Haynes
(1753-1833)

The first woman and first person of color ordained in a Christian church since New Testament times.

CENTERING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS WITH MUSIC

ENJOY BRONWYN'S VOCAL SOLO BY CLICKING ON THE AUDIO FILE
TITLED "CROOKED SHANKS" IN THE ACCOMPANYING EMAIL

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE TO LIVE BY

To listen to Rev. Tim's message my clicking on the audio file marked "Message" in the email.



The UCC's new logo and mission statement.

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH CONTINUES....

YES, EVEN THOUGH WE AREN'T TOGETHER THE WORK OF THE CHURCH CONTINUES. WE MIGHT NOT BE PASSING A LITERAL OFFERING PLATE BUT WE ARE PASSING A VIRTUAL ONE. YOUR GIFTS AND TITHES ARE WHAT HAVE ALLOWED THIS CHURCH TO SEE THREE DIFFERENT CENTURIES. PLEASE CONSIDER PROVIDING YOUR OFFERING THROUGH THE FOLLOWING LINK: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=MHKJLYNRGPDUS&source=url

IT'S REV. JOHNSON NOW

United Church of Christ ordains a homosexual

BY RICHARD GAYER

SAN CARLOS, Calif.—The first openly homosexual to be ordained into the Christian ministry took his formal vows here on June 27, the 150th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, and the 15th anniversary of the United Church of Christ.

William Johnson, 36, was ordained by the Golden Gate Association of UCC in a traditional service of ordination that included a few contemporary innovations before a standing-room-only congregation at the Community United Church of Christ here, where the Rev. Johnson was born a youth worker.

The service opened when two young women, both members of the Community UCC, danced to "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" in movements suggesting welcome and invitation.

The Rev. James Clark Brown of the First Congregational Church of San Francisco, a liberal pastor with a reputation for discussing the differences between morality and religious belief.

"God is not primarily concerned with whether you and I are good, but whether or not we are His. God is a father, not a quality control engineer." He wondered aloud when the White House will become more concerned with truth than power.

Then, under a striking overhead mobile of long, silver strips Johnson became a minister in the traditional laying of the hands. The formal vows were given by Rev. Richard Froyer, moderator of the Golden Gate Association.

Among the capacity congregation that included 17 clergy, the



Photo by Ann Briggs

PROUD DAY. The newly ordained Rev. William Johnson talks to congregation after the ceremony.

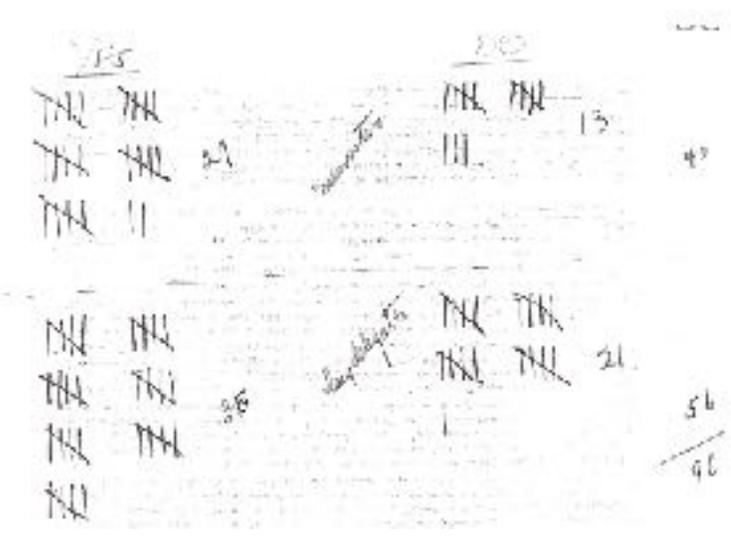
from 12 Bay Area UCC churches, and a New York Times reporter, there was also Rev. Johnson's mother, Mrs. Minnie Johnson of Houston, Tex., a seamstress who belongs to the conservative First Evangelical Church.

She said she loved her son. "It took a lot of courage for him to continue despite all the opposition," she said. "It's complete dedication to the service of God."

Rev. Johnson, dressed in a dark blue jacket, bright yellow shirt, and light white slacks, received the "charge" from Rev. Bill Edholm of Mill Valley. Noing the anniversary of Gay Liberation, Johnson was charged to "remain loyal to his gay brethren and sisters."

As a symbol of his ordination, the new minister was vested in a purple gown and an impressive stole decorated with butterflies, the symbols of resurrection, which was presented by the Rev. Edholm, whom Johnson promptly and vigorously embraced.

Two banners were suspended from the ceiling beams: "Where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope."



Minister bolts over Johnson

SAN FRANCISCO—The retired minister-president of the First Congregational Church at Post and Mason Streets here is pulling out. The Rev. Dr. Gail Cleland moved his Bible class out of the church and into the nearby YMCA and refused to participate in church services. It's to protest the ordination June 27 of an openly homosexual by Rev. William Johnson.

Quoting St. Paul, Dr. Cleland deplores homosexuality. Replying, Pastor Ed Brown said, "If we followed all of St. Paul's admoni-

Newspaper article from 1972 announcing that the United Church of Christ was the first church to ordain an openly LGBTQ person. Next to that, the tally of the delegates at the church meeting to determine if then candidate, Bill Johnson, should be ordained. The result was 96 yes and 56 no.

WE PREPARE TO GO OUT INTO AN *UNCERTAIN* WORLD

PLEASE CLICK ON THE FILE MARKED "ZURIEL POLKA" IN
THE EMAIL.



United Church of Christ leaders in front of our national office in Cleveland.

MAY THE GRACE OF
GOD WHICH IS BEYOND
OUR UNDERSTANDING,
THE LOVE OF JESUS
CHRIST WHICH IS
BEYOND OUR
DESERVING, AND THE
POWER
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE
WITH EACH OF YOU
BOTH NOW
AND FOREVERMORE.



AMEN

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU
ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME
HERE.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Nina Gilbert, music director and pianist
Bronwyn Allen-Kaesler, office manager and soprano

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer (Psalm 103)

Words from *The Book of Psalms*, 1871

Music from Christian Friedrich Witt, *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847

Our piano solos this week are by early American composers who worked for the Congregationalist Church—though these are not their church works!

Crooked Shanks, 1803

Fiddle tune (jig), attr. Newport Gardner (born Occramar Marycoo)

While we are not sure that this piece is actually by Gardner, it is his only extant attributed work. Similarly, we have many legends about his life, some not necessarily true.

When Occramar Marycoo (1746-1826) was 14, a ship's captain tricked his mother into sending him from West Africa (possibly Ghana) to America, promising that he would receive an education. The captain then sold Marycoo into slavery—to the family of another sea-captain and slave trader, Caleb Gardner. Caleb renamed him Newport Gardner. Caleb's wife noticed the boy's intelligence, and was able to have him educated

alongside the family's children, learning French, English, music, and Christianity.

In 1791, he shared a lottery pool with several friends, and won enough money to buy freedom for himself and his family.

He started a singing school, teaching Black and White students.

He served as a Deacon for Newport's First Congregational Church, where he befriended Rev. Samuel Hopkins.

He helped found Newport's first Black church.

He served as headmaster for a school for Black children.

In 1825 he was ordained a Deacon of the Congregational Church in Boston.

An early supporter of the back-to-Africa movement, he sailed to Liberia in 1826 at the age of 80. Gardner and half of his shipmates succumbed to fever in Liberia, where he died a few months after arriving.

Zuriel Polka, 1850

Benjamin Dwight Allen

Allen (1831-1914) was active as an organist, choir director, and teacher from 1845 to 1905, mostly at Congregational churches. He served as organist for the Union Congregational Church in Worcester, Massachusetts from 1857 to 1894, taught at New England Conservatory (Boston) and Beloit College (Wisconsin), and served as organist for Manhattan Congregational Church (New York) from 1902 to 1905, retiring to Wellesley. He was a founder of the Worcester Festivals (1858) and a founding member of the American Guild of Organists (1896).

He seems to have composed a few short songs and piano pieces, often dedicated to young women. His *Zuriel Polka*, for example, is dedicated to "Miss Ellen B. Blood, of Worcester." Ellen B. Blood appears in documents as a high school teacher. Based on the music, I wonder if she was Allen's

piano student. It doesn't seem to be a serious piece or a token of courtship—my guess is that it could have been written for a student who needed to practice grace notes, because there are many grace notes strewn through the piece.