

The Ordination of Keisha Marie Stokes to the Sacred Order of Priests



Saturday, November 21, 2020 3:00pm The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Webster, NY

Join us on the live-stream: https://vimeo.com/478213627

The Ordination of a Priest

Prelude

Carillon for a Joyous Day Wagner

Opening Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

- God of grace and God of glory,
 On your people pour your pow'r;
 Crown your ancient church's story,
 Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
 For the facing of this hour,
 For the facing of this hour.
- 2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us
 Scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
 From our fears that long have bound us
 Free our hearts to faith and praise.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
 For the living of these days,
 For the living of these days.
- 3. Cure your children's warring madness; Bend our pride to your control; Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, Lest we miss your kingdom's goal, Lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
- 4. Save us from weak resignation
 To the evils we deplore;
 Let the gift of your salvation
 Be our glory evermore.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 Serving you whom we adore,
 Serving you whom we adore.

Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Bishop says

Bishop Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Bishop

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Presentation

Presenters

Prince, Bishop in the Church of God, on behalf of the clergy and people of the Diocese of Rochester, we present to you Keisha Marie Stokes to be ordained a priest in Christ's holy catholic Church.

Bishop

Has she been selected in accordance with the canons of this Church? And do you believe her manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

Presenters

We certify to you that she has satisfied the requirements of the canons, and we believe her to be qualified for this order.

The Bishop says to the ordinand

Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this Church, obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?

Answer

I am willing and ready to do so; and I solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.

The Ordinand then signs the above Declaration in the sight of all present.

All stand. The Bishop says to the people

Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of this ministry, and the weight of your responsibility in presenting Keisha Stokes for ordination to the sacred priesthood. Therefore if any of you know any impediment or crime because of which we should not proceed, come forward now, and make it known.

Bishop Is it your will that Keisha be ordained a priest?

People It is.

Bishop Will you uphold her in this ministry?

People We will.

Bishop In peace let us pray to the Lord.

The Litany for Ordinations

Cantor

God the Father, Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, Have mercy on us.

We pray to you, Lord Christ. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the Day of your Coming.

We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all members of your Church in their vocation and ministry, that they may serve you in a true and godly life.

We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Prince, Bishop of Rochester, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, that they may be filled with your love, may hunger for truth, and may thirst after righteousness. We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For Keisha, chosen priest in your Church.

We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

That she may faithfully fulfill the duties of this ministry, build up your Church, and glorify your Name. We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

That by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit they may be sustained and encouraged to persevere to the end. We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For this community gathered here, that they may be adorned with all Christian virtues.

We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and that all may be one as you and the Father are one.

We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel. We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples.

We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person.

We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster.

We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected.

We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives. We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal. We pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Bishop The Lord be with you People And also with you.

Bishop Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were being cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and

said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139: 1-13

- 1. LORD, you have searched me out and known me; * you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2. You trace my journeys and my resting-places * and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3. Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, * but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4. You press upon me behind and before * and lay your hand upon me.
- 5. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; * it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6. Where can I go then from your Spirit? * where can I flee from your presence?
- 7. If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
 if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8. If I take the wings of the morning * and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9. Even there your hand will lead me * and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10. If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, * and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11. Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; * darkness and light to you are both alike.

- 12. For you yourself created my inmost parts; * you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13. I will thank you because I am marvelously made; * your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

- 1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
- 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills of this world in the next.
- 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son and him who reign, with them in highest heaven, eternal, Triune God, whom heaven and earth adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

The Gospel

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. John 10: 11-18

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily The Rev. Lance Robbins

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Examination

All are seated except the ordinand, who stands before the Bishop.

The Bishop addresses the ordinand as follows

My sister, the Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. All baptized people are called to make Christ known as Savior and Lord, and to share in the renewing of his world. Now you are called to work as pastor, priest, and teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the Church.

As a priest, it will be your task to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion your life in accordance with its precepts. You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism and in the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood, and to perform the other ministrations entrusted to you.

In all that you do, you are to nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.

My sister, do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to this priesthood?

Answer I believe I am so called.

Bishop Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and

responsibility?

Answer I do.

Bishop Will you respect and be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you be diligent in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and in seeking the

knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you endeavor so to minister the Word of God and the sacraments of the New

Covenant, that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve, laboring

together with them and with your fellow ministers to build up the family of God?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you do your best to pattern your life and that of your community in accordance with

the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to your people?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you persevere in prayer, both in public and in private, asking God's grace, both for

yourself and for others, offering all your labors to God, through the mediation of Jesus

Christ, and in the sanctification of the Holy Spirit?

Answer I will.

Bishop May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things give you the grace and power

to perform them.

Answer Amen.

The Consecration of the Priest

All now stand except the ordinand, who kneels facing the Bishop and the presbyters who stand to the right and left of the Bishop.

Consecration Hymn

Veni Creator Spiritus (Come, Holy Spirit)

- 1. Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, and lighten with celestial fire.
- 2. Thou the anointing Spirit art, who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.
- 3. Thy blessed unction from above is comfort, life, and fire of love.
- 4. Enable with perpetual light the dullness of our blinded sight.
- 5. Anoint and cheer our soiled face with the abundance of thy grace.
- 6. Keep far from foes, give peace at home: where thou art guide, no ill can come.
- 7. Teach us to know the Father, Son, and thee, of both, to be but One,
- 8. that through the ages all along, this may be our endless song:
- 9. praise to thy eternal merit, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A period of silent prayer follows, the people still standing.

The Bishop then says this Prayer of Consecration

God and Father of all, we praise you for your infinite love in calling us to be a holy people in the kingdom of your Son Jesus our Lord, who is the image of your eternal and invisible glory, the firstborn among many brethren, and the head of the Church. We thank you that by his death he has overcome death, and, having ascended into heaven, has poured his gifts abundantly upon your people, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry and the building up of his body.

Here the Bishop lays hands upon the head of the ordinand, the Priests who are present also laying on their hands. At the same time the Bishop prays

Therefore, Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to Keisha.; fill her with grace and power, and make her a priest in your Church.

The Bishop then continues

May she exalt you, O Lord, in the midst of your people; offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you; boldly proclaim the gospel of salvation; and rightly administer the sacraments of the New Covenant. Make her a faithful pastor, a patient teacher, and a wise councilor. Grant that in all things she may serve without reproach, so that your people may be strengthened and your Name glorified in all the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

The People in a loud voice respond Amen.

The new priest is now vested according to the order of priests.

The Bishop then gives a Bible to the newly ordained, saying

Receive this Bible as a sign of the authority given you to preach the Word of God and to administer his holy Sacraments. Do not forget the trust committed to you as a priest of the Church of God.

The Bishop greets the newly ordained.

The Peace

The new Priest then says to the congregation
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Offertory Anthem

Joyful Praise Geschke

Today's offering will be directed to Keisha's Discretionary Account which is used to assist those in need in our community.

Please write checks to:
Zion Episcopal Discretionary Account
and mail them to:
Zion Episcopal Church
c/o Rev. Keisha Stokes
120 East Main Street
Palmyra, NY 14522

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Bishop

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through the great shepherd of your flock, Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his resurrection sent forth his apostles to preach the Gospel and to teach all nations; and promised to be with them always, even to the end of the ages.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

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 and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Bishop Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Bishop The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for

you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn

Taste and See Moore

After Communion

Almighty Father, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of your Word and Sacraments. We pray that Keisha may be to us an effective example in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with her, may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

Choral Benediction

Go Now in Peace Besig and Price

Blessing

The Bishop then asks the new priest to bless the people.

The new Priest says

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**.

Closing Hymn

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks to be to God.

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God Karg-Elert

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WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE:

To my family and friends for their unending and unconditional love, encouragement, and support.

To Pauline Stebbins for the time and love she put into making my stole and chasuble.

To my church families at Good Shepherd, Webster, Incarnation, St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene, Trinity, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Zion, Palmyra, and St. John's, Canandaigua for their prayers and support.

To Bruce Dunn and Chris Nucitelli for making it possible to live-stream this liturgy and celebration.

To the Good Shepherd COVID Choir and the Good Shepherd Chime Choir.

To everyone present both in-person and virtually. Thank you so much for sharing this day with me!

PARTICIPANTS

Presenters The Rev. Josh Barrett

The Rev. David Hefling The Rev. Lance Robbins

Ms. Gail Rapp Mr. Mick Snyder

Dr. Karyn Robbins

Lector Ms. Marie Fessler

Cantor

Organist and

Soloist Ms. Kathy Stokes

Preacher The Rev. Lance Robbins

Deacon The Rev. Patti Blaine

Presider The Rt. Rev. Dr. Prince Singh