

The Ordination of
Gregory John Kremer
and
Keisha Marie Stokes
to the Sacred Order of Deacons



Sunday, May 17, 2020

3:00pm

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Live streamed at: <https://vimeo.com/415630449>

THE ORDINATION OF A DEACON

Prelude *"Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist" (We Now Implore the Holy Ghost)* Buxtehude
Prière à Notre-Dame Boëllmann
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring J.S. Bach

Welcome

Opening Acclamation

Please remain standing as you are able.

Bishop Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Bishop Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Opening Hymn *All Creatures of Our God and King* Rev. Lance Robbins

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voices, let us sing: Alleluia, alleluia! Bright burning sun with golden beams, pale silver moon that gently gleams, O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, Alleluia! Praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One: O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Presentation

The presenters, standing before the Bishop, present the Ordinands, saying

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

Bishop Have they been selected in accordance with the canons of this Church? And do you believe their manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

Presenters We certify to you that they have satisfied the requirements of the canons, and we believe them to be qualified for this order.

Bishop Greg, 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?

Greg 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.

Bishop Keisha, 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?

Keisha 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 Ordinands then sign the above Declaration in the sight of all present.

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

If no objection is made, the Bishop continues

Is it your will that *Gregory and Keisha* be ordained deacons?

People **It is.**

Bishop Will you uphold them in this ministry?

People **We will.**

Bishop In peace let us pray to the Lord.

The Litany for Ordinations

Dr. Karyn Robbins

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 and Greg, chosen deacons in your Church, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That they 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 of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and 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 Acts chapter 17, verses 22-31

Kathy Stokes

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66: 7-18

Read Responsively

Kate Kremer

- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.**
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what he has done for me.**
- 15 I called out to him with my mouth, *
and his praise was on my tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;**
- 17 But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.**

Sequence Hymn

Christ Be Our Light

Kate Kremer

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

The Gospel

John 14: 15-21

Rev. Sue Ouellette

Deacon

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Prince Singh

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Examination

All are seated except the Ordinands, who stand before the Bishop.

The Bishop addresses the Ordinands as follows

My sister and my brother, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.

As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

My sister and brother do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to the life and work of a deacon?

Ordinands I believe I am so called.

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

Ordinands I do.

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

Ordinands I will.

Bishop Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures?

Ordinands I will.

Bishop Will you look for Christ in all others, being ready to help and serve those in need?

Ordinands I will.

Bishop Will you do your best to pattern your life and that of your household in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to all people?
Ordinands I will.

Bishop May the Lord by his grace uphold you in the service he lays upon you.
Ordinands Amen.

The Consecration of the Deacons

All now stand except the Ordinands, who kneel facing the Bishop.

Consecration Hymn

Come, Holy Ghost

Kathy Stokes

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, and lighten with celestial fire.

Thou the anointing Spirit art, who dost sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above is comfort, life, and fire of love.

Enable with perpetual light the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face with the abundance of thy grace.

Keep far our foes, give peace at home: where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son, and thee, of both, to be but One, that through the ages all along, this may be our endless song: 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

O God, most merciful Father, we praise you for sending your Son Jesus Christ, who took on himself the form of a servant, and humbled himself, becoming obedient even to death on the cross. We praise you that you have highly exalted him, and made him Lord of all; and that, through him, we know that whoever would be great must be servant of all. We praise you for the many ministries in your Church, and for calling these your servants to the order of deacons.

Here the Bishop lays hands upon the head of each Ordinand, and prays

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

Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to Gregory; fill him with grace and power, and make him a deacon in your Church.

Make them, O Lord, modest and humble, strong and constant, to observe the discipline of Christ. Let their life and teaching so reflect your commandments, that through them many may come to know you and love you. As your Son came not to be served but to serve, may these deacons share in Christ's service, and come to the unending glory of him who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

The People respond **Amen.**

The new deacons are now vested according to the order of deacons.

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

Receive this Bible as the sign of your authority to proclaim God's Word and to assist in the ministration of his holy Sacraments.

Offertory Hymn

Here I am, Lord

The Rev. Sue Ouellette

Today's offering will be collected for the discretionary funds of the newly ordained deacons.

Links to these accounts can be found at: <http://www.episcopalrochester.org/deaconordination>

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide, Till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to
them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord. If you lead me, I
will hold Your people in my heart.

Litany of the Ordinands

Keisha Stokes and Greg Kremer

In thanksgiving for the support and nurture we have received from our families and friends as we
have discerned our call to serve God. Lord in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for our sponsoring parishes, Trinity Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Church of
the Good Shepherd and their rectors, Rev. Debs Duguid-May and Rev. Lance Robbins. We are
grateful for your love and support. We give thanks for those who have served on the vestries at these
parishes, which have offered affirmation of our calls. Lord in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the parishes that opened their hearts and doors to us as seminary students: Trinity, Incarnation, St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene, and St. George's. Lord in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School community. Lord in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died from COVID-19 and their families and friends. May their souls and the souls of all the departed through the mercy of God rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them. Lord in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for guidance and wisdom in our future endeavors as we continue to serve God and the people of God. In response to the lessons learned throughout this coronavirus epidemic, give us your grace as we work to create a more loving and just world. Lord in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those of you who are watching online. While we regret that you cannot be here in person, we know you are with us in Spirit and for that we are grateful. Lord in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **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.

Closing Collect

Bishop

Let us pray.

All

Beloved One, we thank you for feeding us with your Holy Word, nourishing us with the prayers of all your saints, and for uniting us with Christ 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. And we pray that Keisha and Greg may be to us an effective example in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with them, 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 forever. Amen.

Blessing

Dismissal

New Deacons

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

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Closing Hymn

Christ for the World We Sing

Rev. Debs Duguid-May

Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring with loving zeal; the poor and them that mourn, the faint and overborne, sin-sick and sorrow worn, whom Christ doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring with fervent prayer; the wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed, redeemed at countless cost from dark despair.

Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring with one accord; with us the work to share, with us reproach to dare, with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.

Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring with joyful song; the newborn souls whose days, reclaimed from error's ways, inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.

Postlude

Toccata from Symphony V

Widor

PARTICIPANTS

Presenters

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Duguid-May
The Rev. Lance Robbins
Mrs. Kate Kremer
The Rev. Sue Ouellette
Dr. Karyn Robbins
Ms. Kathy Stokes

Readers

Ms. Kathy Stokes
Mrs. Kate Kremer

Organist

Dr. Karyn Robbins

Deacon

The Rev. Sue Ouellette

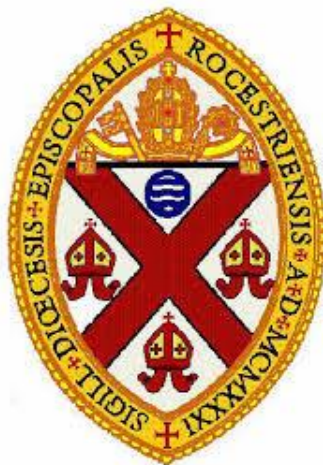
Videographer

The Rev. Dr. Billy Daniel

Presider

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Prince Singh

With deep thanks to the parishes who have supported us along our journey: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, St. George's Episcopal Church, Incarnation Episcopal Church, and The Episcopal Church of St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene.



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