

I live my life in widening circles  
that reach out across the world.  
I may not complete this last one  
but I give myself to it.

I circle around God, around the primordial tower.  
I've been circling for thousands of years  
and I still don't know: am I a falcon,  
a storm, or a great song?

–Rainer Maria Rilke

*Following the Flow*, Jan Richardson



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## First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE ORDINATION TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY FOR ABIGAIL & JAKE COOK

Sunday, April 30, 2023 • 4:00 PM

PRELUDE

Jacob Hill

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 52:7-10

Josh McGee

Leader: How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger bringing good news

**All: Breaking the news that all's well, proclaiming good times,  
announcing salvation, telling Zion, "Your God reigns!"**

Leader: Voices! Listen! Your scouts are shouting, thunderclap shouts,  
shouting in joyful unison.

**All: They see with their own eyes God coming back to Zion.**

Leader: Break into song! Boom it out, ruins of Jerusalem:

**All: God has comforted his people! He's redeemed Jerusalem!"**

Leader: God has rolled up his sleeves. All the nations can see his holy arm.

**All: Everyone, from one end of the earth to the other,  
sees him at work, doing his salvation work.**

HOLDING SPACE FOR CHALLENGE: *I Believe*

Mark Miller

*Choral Ensemble*

INVOCATION

Eric Cain

\*HYMN OF CALLING 473: *Will You Come and Follow Me*  
(verses 1-4)

KELVINGROVE

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Devin Withrow

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ORDINATION COUNCIL

Chris Gambill

LITANY OF AFFIRMATION AND ORDINATION

Linda Jones, Nikki Byers, Andrew Britt

Leader: We gather with you, Abigail and Jake, as the great cloud of witnesses that has traveled with you on your journey of faith. On this night, we affirm God's work in your life and ordain you to the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**People: We are the voices of nurture, formed from the wonderful churches that surround you. With ever-abiding care, we have given you the foundation of faith. Go forth and nurture others with the same generosity of spirit as we have nurtured you.**

Leader: We are the voices of love, formed from the family that surrounds you. With unyielding sustenance, we have embodied the love of God that extends beyond condition. Go forth and love others with the same depth of devotion as we have loved you.

**People: We are the voices of challenge, formed from the dear friends who surround you. With reverent conviction, we have perpetually summoned you to think and act outside of your comfort zone. Go forth and challenge others with the same spirit of friendship as we have challenged you.**

Leader: We are the voices of the oppressed, formed from those outside of the community of faith who surround you. With the passionate need for liberation, we have awakened you to the service of reconciliation. Go forth and seek justice for others with the same ferocity of need as we have called you.

**People: We are the voices of partnership, formed from the fellow ministers who surround you. With a shared understanding of vocation, we have traversed with you through the desert of unbelief to the waters of life. Go forth and walk alongside others with the same breadth of compassion as we have walked with you.**

**All: In all things, look to Jesus Christ who pioneers and perfects our faith in love.**

Ordinands: Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we will go forth in the enveloping grace of God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 19:37-42

Mary Foskett

Leader: This is the gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Until All Can Be Free*

Ryan Andrew Newson

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Corinthians 2: 7-12

Joanne Henley

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A CHARGE TO THE CANDIDATES

David Gushee

A CHARGE TO THE CHURCH

Emily Hull McGee

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

*All are invited to come forward with a word of blessing and a gesture of encouragement.*

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Rebecca Hewitt-Newson

PRESENTATIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

Emily Hull McGee

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 289: *The Servant Song*

BEACH SPRING

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Abigail Cook and Rev. Dr. Jake Cook

POSTLUDE

Jacob Hill

\*Those who are able will please stand.

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*Please join us in a celebration reception for Abigail and Jake in the Commons following worship.*

### **Ordination Council**

Karla Anderson-Sarmiento

Nikki Byers

Rev. Eric M. Cain

Rev. Dr. Christopher Gambill

Rev. Dr. Richard Groves

Rev. Dr. David P. Gushee

Eva Johnson

Rev. Emily Hull McGee

Josh McGee

Rev. Rebecca Hewitt Newson

Dr. Ryan Andrew Newson

Rev. David Williamson

## **LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

### **Dr. Andrew Britt**

Friend and member of Practicing Moral Discernment class

### **Nikki Byers**

Friend and member of Practicing Moral Discernment class

### **Rev. Eric Cain**

Friend and McAfee School of Theology classmate

### **Dr. Mary Foskett**

Friend and Professor of Religious Studies, Wake Forest University

### **Rev. Dr. Chris Gambill**

Friend and Vice Chair of Deacons, First Baptist Church on Fifth

### **Rev. Dr. David Gushee**

Friend and Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics at Mercer University

### **Rev. Joanne Henley**

Friend and member of Practicing Moral Discernment class

### **Rev. Dr. Linda Jones**

Friend and member of Practicing Moral Discernment class

### **Rev. Emily Hull McGee**

Friend and Pastor, First Baptist Church on Fifth

### **Josh McGee**

Friend and member of Practicing Moral Discernment class

### **Rev. Rebecca Hewitt-Newson**

Friend and Co-Pastor, Emmaus Way Church, Durham, NC

### **Dr. Ryan Andrew Newson**

Friend and Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics, Campbell University

### **Rev. David Williamson**

Friend and Associate Pastor for Worship, Arts, & Administration, First Baptist Church on Fifth

### **Devin Withrow**

Friend and Student, Wake Forest University School of Divinity

### **Choral Ensemble**

Mary Foskett, Roper Halverson, Emily Hull McGee,  
Olena Withrow, Cyrus Bush, Jacob Hill, Devin Withrow



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**BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.**