



The Ordination of

Christopher David Scheller

by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn

to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry

Sunday, May 1, 2022

at 3:00 p.m.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn

101 Forest Avenue, Swampscott, Massachusetts

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Prelude Voluntary I John Stanley (1712 - 1786)

Processional Hymn “Wake, Now, My Senses” No. 298 [STLT]

Wake, now, my senses, and hear the earth call;
 feel the deep power of being in all;
 keep, with the web of creation your vow,
 giving, receiving as love shows us how.

Wake, now, my reason, reach out to the new;
join with each pilgrim who quests for the true;
honor the beauty and wisdom of time;
suffer thy limit, and praise the sublime.

Wake, now, compassion, give heed to the cry;
 voices of suffering fill the wide sky;
 take as your neighbor both stranger and friend,
 praying and striving their hardship to end.

Wake, now, my conscience, with justice thy guide;
join with all people whose rights are denied;
take not for granted a privileged place;
God's love embraces the whole human race.

Wake, now, my vision of ministry clear;
brighten my pathway with radiance here;
mingle my calling with all who will share;
work toward a planet transformed by our care.

Call to Worship Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, Parish Minister

Chalice Lighting DCLL Search Committee

Reading Selected writings of Martin Buber Rev. Hank Peirce

Choral Response

“Wisdom”

Robert L. Sanders

Get wisdom, and she shall preserve thee;
Love her, and she shall keep thee.
Exalt her and she shall promote thee,
She shall compass thee with a crown of glory.
Ponder the path of thy feet,
And let all thy ways be established.

Offering

Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell

Unitarian Universalist Society for Ministerial Relief

Checks may be made payable to UU Society for Ministerial Relief.

You may also donate online at uucgl.org/donate.

Offertory

“Sweet Hour of Prayer” tune by William Bradbury (1816-1868),
setting by Patricia Lou Harris (1939 -)

Ordination Sermon

Rev. Jim Robinson

Act of Ordination

Mary Gatlin, Board of Trustees and Chair, Faith Development Ministry Team:

The call to ministry in the liberal tradition comes from both an inner spiritual conviction and a more visible, outer manifestation. Chris, we recognize and affirm your call to the ministry. Upon the recommendation of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association and by the authority and unanimous consent of the members of this congregation, we, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn, choose to offer you ordination, a privilege that is inherent in the nature of our free church. Are you ready and willing to continue your ministry as an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister?

Chris Scheller: Yes, I am.

Mary Gatlin: Within the Unitarian Universalist religious movement, the authority to confer ordination lies wholly with the local congregation. It is fitting, therefore, that the act of ordination be performed by the members of this church. I invite the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn to rise.

Members of the Unitarian Church of Greater Lynn [*Please rise, as you are able, and speak the following*]: We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn, hereby ordain you, Christopher David Scheller, to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Among us and all who you may be called to serve, we ask you to do these things: to speak the truth, as you know it, with honesty and courage; to share with us our human joys and sorrows; to remind us to be reverent before mystery; to help us to a fuller understanding of what is holy, sacred, and divine; to bear witness to our moral and ethical concerns; to urge us toward a deeper commitment to justice, equity, and compassion; to call us forth to the responsibilities of community in the church and in the world; to set forth by the example of your life and your ministry, a deep commitment to the covenanted principles of our free faith; and finally, to serve us in all ways with love. In this, we pledge to walk with you in the unity of the spirit, in the bond of peace, and in the ways of truth and love, as it is known and to be made known unto us. [*Members please be seated*].

Mary Gatlin: I invite everyone, family, friends, colleagues and companions, to rise in body or spirit and join together in reciting the words of affirmation that are in the order of service.

All Gathered [*Please rise, as you are able, and speak the following*]: With joy and pride, we affirm this ordination. We have encouraged and comforted you as you worked and prepared for this day and all the days to come. We offer our continuing love and support. May your ministry nourish both yourself and others, and be a source of inspiration and healing in the world. [*Please be seated*].

Mary Gatlin: Do you accept the responsibilities and the joys, the privileges and the burdens of ordained ministry in this Unitarian Universalist tradition?

Chris Scheller: I do, with gratitude to you all, and with joy and love in my heart.

Mary Gatlin: May you go forth, a minister in this tradition, knowing that the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn commissions you to serve our Unitarian Universalist faith with passion, conviction and grace.

Presentation of the Stole

Laying on of Hands/Prayer of Ordination

Rev. Jude Geiger

Anthem

“Go Out”

Elizabeth Alexander

Go out into the highways and byways,
And give the people something of your new vision.
You may possess a small light only, but uncover it and let it shine.
Use it to bring more understanding into every heart and mind.
Give them not Hell, but courage and hope.
Do not push them deeper into despair,
But preach the kindness and the everlasting love of God.

Charge to the Minister

Rev. Daniel Gregoire

Charge to the Congregation

Mandy Neff

Right Hand of Fellowship

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

Recessional Hymn

“Sing Out Praises for the Journey”

No. 295 [STLT]

Sing out praises for the journey, pilgrims, we, who
carry on, searchers in the soul’s deep yearnings,
like our forebears in their time. We seek out the
spirit’s wholeness in the endless human quest.

Look inside, your soul’s the kindling of the hearth fire
pilgrims knew. Find the spirit, always restless,
find it in each mind and heart. Touch and hold that
ancient yearning, kindling for a newfound truth.

Stand we now upon the threshold, facing futures
yet unknown. Hearth behind us, wayside hostel
built by those who knew wild roads. Guard we e’er their
sacred embers carried in our minds and hearts.

Benediction

The Reverend Chris Scheller

Postlude

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637 - 1707)

“Jig” Fugue in C

The congregation invites you to a reception immediately following the service.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

The members, staff, and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn, and to all those that have nurtured, supported, and believed in my ministry through the years including my colleagues, family, and friends.

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, the Parish Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn, who has been instrumental in advising Chris in moving through ordination and into Preliminary Ministerial Fellowship.

The Director of Community Life and Learning Search Committee:
Mary Gatlin, Scott Nowka, Stephen Young

Today's Musicians:
The Choir of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn
Director of Music, Kenneth Griffith II
Pianist, Laura Hargrove

Service Marshal:
Rev. Hank Peirce

Clergy Hospitality Coordinator:
Gloria Kozlosky

Hospitality Committee:
Nicki Buscemi
Eileen Cummings
Mary Gatlin

Videographer, Steve Deveau
Livestream Service, Jason Gatlin

Invitations and Order of Service:
Angie Kern
Elizabeth Muller
Mary Kiene-Gualtieri

Childcare:
Connor Buscemi-Nowka
Cat Kelsey

GUEST SPEAKERS

Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell. Jeff was the long-time minister of First Church in Salem. He is the current minister at First Parish Church in Weston, where he served as a supervisor to Chris and great support in the ordination process.

Rev. Jude Geiger. Jude is a long-time minister in Metro New York, past board member of LREDA, and serves on the UUA's Hope for Us Conflict Engagement Team. He is Chris' star-aligned ministry mentor as Chris moves through Preliminary Ministerial Fellowship.

Rev. Daniel Gregoire. Daniel has served congregations in New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania, and is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton, where he served as a wonderful supervisor and friend to Chris in his path to ministry.

Mandy Neff. Mandy serves as the Director of Lifespan Faith Development for First Parish in Cambridge and is president of the New England chapter of LREDA. Mandy supported Chris early in his path to ministry while he was a member at First Parish in Cambridge and serves as an inspirational colleague and fellow religious educator.

Rev. Hank Peirce. Hank comes from old Swamp Yankee stock, and has been a leader in our faith since a teenager. He has served as a minister in a number of churches in Maine and Mass. Hank brings years of experience as the Dean of clergy marshals to help this service come together.

Rev. Jim Robinson. Jim is a sixth generation Unitarian. He was ordained in 1978 and served UU congregations in Concord MA, Brewster MA, London UK, and Sharon MA. He was a most patient and encouraging Internship Supervisor and mentor for Chris while serving in Sharon, MA.

OUR CHURCH HISTORY

Our congregation has a long history, and the present congregation is the outcome of the merger of three churches. Our earliest roots are in the First Church of Christ of Lynn, organized in 1632.

About two hundred years later, in 1822, a group of liberals withdrew to form the Second Congregational Society. Its first building was dedicated on South Common Street in 1832 and its second at the corner of Atlantic and Baltimore Streets in 1910. In 1919 that congregation changed its name to the Unitarian Church of Lynn.

The First Universalist Society, located in Lynn, was organized in 1833. Its first building was dedicated on Union Street in 1835 and its second on Nahant Street in 1873. By the late 1800s, the congregation was the largest Universalist Church in America. In 1908, the congregation changed its name to First Universalist Parish of Lynn.

The Swampscott Universalist Society was organized in 1889, and its building on Burrill Street was dedicated in 1891. The Swampscott Universalist Society later changed its name to the Swampscott Universalist Church.

Between 1964 and 1966 these three churches consolidated. On March 22, 1981, our present meetinghouse, on seven and a half acres of wooded land in Swampscott, was dedicated; and the congregation was renamed the *Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn*.



WE ARE A SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

that gathers to explore deeper truths together,
to support one another through the complexities
and struggles of daily life, and to serve the greater good by
becoming more compassionate in our thoughts, words and actions.
Join with us to cultivate reverence, peacefulness, and an ethic of
loving engagement with the world.



101 Forest Avenue, Swampscott, Massachusetts 01907
781-595-8836 • website—uucgl.org