

# Service of Ordination and Installation of Sandy Garcia



Grace Presbyterian Church

1811 Fairhill Road

Fort Wayne, IN, 46808

March 15, 2026

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## GATHERING

**Prelude**                      *Great is Thy Faithfulness* - Runyan

**Processional** - *The clergy and participants in the service are invited to join in the processional and to be seated in their assigned area.*

**Welcome and Opening Sentences** - *Rev. Dr. Erin McGee*

**Call to Worship** - *Rev. Dr. Erin McGee*

We gather in the presence of the living God,  
who calls people by name and sends them into the world.

**We come to worship the God who is faithful in every generation.**

Today we rejoice in God's grace—

grace given in baptism,

grace that forms disciples,

grace that calls servants into ministry.

**We celebrate the God who equips and sends.**

For from Christ comes our calling,

through the Spirit comes our strength,

and to God belongs all glory.

**Let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving!**

**Opening Hymn**

**Here I Am, Lord**

**#69**

**Call to Confession** - *Rev. Amy Beitelschees-Albers*

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Because we trust in God's mercy, we are free to confess our sins honestly. Let us come before God with humble hearts.

*Prayer of Confession - Rev. Amy Beitelschees-Albers*

Gracious God, you call us to follow you, yet we confess that we often follow our own way. You call us to trust, yet we rely on our own strength. You call us to serve with love, yet fear and doubt hold us back. Forgive us, Lord. Renew our hearts, strengthen our faith, and help us say “yes” to your call with courage and joy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Time of Silent Prayers and Confessions)*

*Assurance of Pardon - Rev. Amy Beitelschees-Albers,*

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

*Passing the Peace - Ryan Crismore*

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us share the peace of Christ.

## THE SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

*Sentences of Scripture - Rev. Dr. Shawn Coons*

God gives many different gifts to his people.

**But it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

There are many ways to serve God.

**But we all serve the same Lord.**

God works through each of us in different ways.

**But it is the same God who is at work in all of us.**

Each person is given a gift from the Spirit.

**And every gift is given to help the whole community.**

So remember this truth.

**Together we are the body of Christ!**

And each one of us—

**is an important part of that body!**

**Statement of Ordination** - *Rev. Dr. Shawn Coons*

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Through baptism, we are all welcomed into the Church of Jesus Christ and marked as God's own by the Holy Spirit. In baptism, God calls each of us to follow Jesus, to grow as his disciples, and to serve the world in his name.

This is the calling we share: to love God, to love our neighbors, and to bear witness to the grace of Christ in our lives.

Within the life of the church, the Spirit also calls some to particular forms of service—some as deacons, some as ruling elders, and some ministers of Word and Sacrament—so that the whole church may be strengthened for its mission.

Ordination is a gift from Christ to the church. Through it, Christ continues his ministry among us: caring for those in need, guiding the life of the church, proclaiming the good news of the gospel, and celebrating the sacraments that nourish God's people.

Today, we rejoice in God's call and faithfulness.

Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, through the authority entrusted to this commission, now ordains Sandy Garcia to the ministry of Word and Sacrament as a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and installs her as Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church.

With joy and thanksgiving, we celebrate the work that God has begun in her life and the ministry that now begins among us.

Thanks be to God!

**Constitutional Questions** - *Rev. Dr. Shawn Coons*

Sandy, in baptism, you were claimed by the love of God, clothed in the grace of Jesus Christ, and anointed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to share in Christ's mission in the world.

Now you are called by God, through the voice of the church, to new service and ministry in Jesus' name.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), I ask you to affirm your commitment to this calling by responding to the following questions:

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, acknowledge him as Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

**I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

**I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expressions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and guided by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

**I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and continually guided by our confessions?

**I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a colleague and friend in ministry, working with others, and subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

**I will.**

Will you, in your own life, seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

**I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

**I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

**I will.**

Will you be a faithful minister of Word and Sacrament, proclaiming the good news of the gospel, teaching the faith, and caring for God's people? Will you take an active part in the life, governance, and discipline of the church, serving faithfully in its councils, and in all your ministry, seeking to reflect the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

**I will.**

### **Constitutional Questions to the Congregation** -*John Current*

Do we, the members of Grace Presbyterian Church, receive Sandy as our pastor, called by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

Do we promise to pray for her, encourage her, respect her leadership, and walk with her as together we follow Jesus Christ, who alone is the Head of the Church?

**We do.**

Do we promise to support her with our prayers, our presence, and our generosity, providing for her welfare as she serves among us, standing with her in times of difficulty and sharing with her in times of joy?

**We do.**

Will we listen to the Word she proclaims, welcome her pastoral care, and honor her leadership as she seeks to serve and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?

**We will.**

### **Prayer of Ordination and Installation** -*Rev. Dr. Shawn Coons*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Gracious and eternal God, with joy we give you all thanks and praise.

Throughout the ages, you have been faithful to your covenant people whom you have called out of bondage and redeemed to be your own.

In every time and place, you have chosen servants from among your people to point the way to salvation.

We are grateful for ancestors in the faith who followed without fear, placing their trust in you alone.

We give you thanks for judges and monarchs who ruled in righteousness and peace.

We praise you for prophets and apostles who spoke your bold words of mercy and of truth.

We thank you for the pastors and teachers who have nurtured your people in faith and faithfulness.

Above all, we praise you for Jesus Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to set others free.

Anointed by your Holy Spirit, he proclaimed your reign on earth, revealing your saving love in all he said and did.

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon your servant Sandy, whom you called by baptism as your own. Grant her the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

Give her a spirit of truthfulness that she/he may proclaim your Word in Christ from pulpit, table, and font, and in the words and actions of daily living.

By the gifts of your Holy Spirit, empower her to build up the church, to strengthen the common life of your people, and to lead with compassion and vision.

In the walk of faith and for the work of ministry, give her gladness and strength, discipline and hope, humility, humor, and courage, and an abiding sense of your presence.

*Those gathered around the candidate lay hands on her.*

*All present may pray together:*

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon your servant Sandy, whom you called by baptism as your own.

Grant her the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

Give her a spirit of truthfulness to rightly proclaim your Word in Christ from the pulpit, the table, and the font, and in the words and actions of daily living.

Give her the gifts of your Holy Spirit to build up the church, to strengthen the common life of your people, and to lead with compassion and vision.

In the walk of faith and for the work of ministry, give to your servant Sandy, and to all who serve as pastors among your people, gladness and strength, discipline and hope, humility, humor, and courage, and an abiding sense of your presence.

*The laying on of hands is completed. The moderator continues:*

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit of power and truth upon the whole church, that we may be for you a holy people baptized to serve you in the world.

Sustain this congregation in ministry. Ground them in the gospel, secure their hope in Christ, strengthen their service to the outcast, and increase their love for one another.

Show them the transforming power of your grace in their life together, that they may be effective servants of the gospel, offering a compelling witness in the world to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Declaration of Ordination and Installation** - *Rev. Dr. Shawn Coons*

Sandy, you are now a teaching elder in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ.

**Welcome to Ministry**

*Members of the presbytery and others, as appropriate, welcome the newly ordained minister into the ministry as a teaching elder.*

**Charge to the Newly Ordained** - *Rev. Dr. Winterbourne LaPucelle Harrison-Jones*

**Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry** - *Rev. Martín Garcia*

**Charge to the Congregation** - *Rev. Ann Pitman*

**Choir Anthem** - *In This Very Room* - *by Ron and Carol Harris*

**THE WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination** - *Ryan Crismore*

Gracious and loving God,

As we turn now to your Word, send your Holy Spirit to open our hearts and our minds. Help us to hear your voice clearly, and to receive with joy the good news you speak to your people.

Bless Sandy, whom you have called to the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and bless all of us who gather as your church. As your Word is read and proclaimed, shape us by your truth, strengthen us for your service, and guide us in the way of Jesus Christ.

May your Word give us wisdom, courage, and hope, so that together we may follow where you lead.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Holy Scripture Reading** - *Exodus 3: 1-15* - *Luci Foltz Gilpin*

**Sermon**      *If  $x + y = z$ , Then Why is the Sky Blue?* - *Rev. Alan Thames*

**Hymn of Response**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

#611

## THE EUCHARIST

**Invitation to the Table** - *Rev. Sandy Garcia*

Friends in Christ,

This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

People will come from north and south, from east and west, to sit at the table in the kingdom of God. This is not our table—it is the Lord's table. And our Lord invites all who trust in him, all who seek his grace, and all who hunger for new life to come and share in this meal.

Today, we celebrate not only the grace of God given to us in Christ, but also the calling that God places upon the Church. Just as God calls pastors to proclaim the Word and serve the sacraments, God also calls each of us to follow Christ and to live as his people in the world.

At this table, we remember that we do not walk this journey alone. Here Christ meets us with grace. Here Christ nourishes our faith. Here Christ sends us out renewed to love and serve.

So come—not because you must, but because Christ invites you.  
Come—not because you are perfect, but because you seek God's mercy.  
Come—because here we remember the love that gave itself for the life of the world.

**The Great Thanksgiving - Rev. Sandy Garcia**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks and praise. From the beginning, you have called people to follow you and to serve the world in your name. In Jesus Christ, you came among us, showing us your love, bringing healing, and calling us into new life.

Today we rejoice in the work of your Spirit. We give thanks for your Church and for the call you have placed upon me to serve in the ministry of Word and Sacrament among your people. With joy we celebrate your faithfulness and the new chapter of ministry beginning in this community of faith.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we join the song of praise:

**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.**

Gracious God, send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Nourish us with your grace, unite us in your love, and send us out to serve you with faith, hope, and love.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gracious God, receive our praise and our thanksgiving. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup, that as we share them we may truly share in the life of Christ.

Unite us with Christ and with one another, so that we may be one body, serving you in the world. Strengthen us to live with justice, mercy, and humble faith until the day we share in your eternal feast.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### **Words of Institution**

On the night before he gave himself for us, our Lord Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

“This is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and said:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Special Music** - *Carlos Mora-Chisaca*

### **Prayer After Communion**

Gracious God, we thank you for this holy meal.

You have fed us with the life of Christ and renewed us by your Spirit.

Send us now into the world with joy,  
to follow Jesus, to serve others,  
and to live your love every day.  
Amen.

## OFFERING

### **Call to Offering** - *Tom Monnier*

As we celebrate the ordination and installation of a new pastor, we remember that the ministry of the church belongs to all of us. Through our prayers, our service, and our gifts, we join together in God's work in this place. With gratitude to God, let us present our offerings.

**Offertory**                      *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* - Beethoven

### *Doxology #606*

### **Prayer of Dedication** - *Tom Monnier*

Generous God, every good gift comes from you. We offer these gifts in thanksgiving for your grace and as a sign of our commitment to your work in the world. Bless these offerings and use them to support the ministry of this church, that your love may be known in our community and beyond.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SENDING

### **Charge** - *Rev. Sandy Garcia*

Go now into the world as people called by God.

Follow Jesus with courage.

Serve others with humility.

Seek justice, show mercy, and walk faithfully with your God.

And as you go, remember this:

Christ goes before you,

the Spirit walks beside you,  
and the love of God sustains you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Amen.**

*Give instructions to reception... Tom Monnier - Also crochet hearts...Sandy*

### **Guest Gift from Rev. Sandy**

**Blessing** - Rev. Sandy Garcia

May the God of grace,  
who calls us to walk the path of faith,  
strengthen you for the journey ahead.

May Jesus Christ,  
who gave his life in love for the world,  
guide your steps in truth and compassion.

And may the Holy Spirit  
renew your hearts, give you courage,  
and lead you to serve with hope and humility.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**Postlude**

*To God be the Glory - Doane*

*During the singing, the newly ordained teaching elder may lead members of the commission and other worship leaders in procession from the place of worship.*

## SPECIAL GUESTS

### Clergy Commissioners

*Rev. Dr. Shawn Coons, Moderator, Presbytery Whitewater Valley, Lead Pastor, Fairview Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis*  
*Rev. Dr. Erin McGee, Lead Presbyter, Whitewater Valley Presbytery, Indianapolis*  
*Rev. Dr. Winterbourne LaPucelle Harrison-Jones, Senior Pastor, Witherspoon Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis*  
*Rev. Ann Pitman, Honorably Retired*  
*Rev. Amy Beitelschees-Albers, Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA, Bluffton*  
*Rev. Alan Thames, Honorably Retired*  
*Rev. Martin Garcia, Amistad Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne*

### Elder Commissioners

*Ryan Crismore, First Presbyterian Church, Bluffton,*  
*Tom Monnier, Grace Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne*  
*Luci Foltz Gilpin, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne*  
*John Current, Grace Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne*

### Musicians

*Tom Callahan - Music Director*  
*Sue Creager - Pianist*  
*Carlos Mora-Chisaca - Worship Leader, Amistad*

### Grace Presbyterian Church Staff

*Rev. Sandy Garcia - Senior Pastor*  
*Justin Gudel - Administrative Assistant*  
*JoAnn Getts - Treasurer*  
*Tim Bauman - Custodian*

### Worship Notes:

- Congregation reads the responses in **bold**.
- \*Indicates when to stand in body or spirit.
- The offering today will support the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley's Preparation for Ministry Committee in providing support for ministerial candidates. Thank you for all your guidance and support!!!

In This Very Room

1. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for one like me,  
 2. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for all of us,  
 3. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for all the world,

and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for one like me;  
 and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for all of us;  
 and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for all the world;

and there's quite e-nough hope, and

quite e-nough pow'r to chase a-way an-y gloom, for

Je - sus, Lord Je - sus, is in this ver-y room.