



Friends and Family,

Thank you for gathering here today as the Body of Christ to worship and offer your prayerful support to me as I respond to the call God has placed upon my life. The faithfulness of our God is truly great, and I pray that today you may be renewed in your knowledge of that God and strengthened in your own call as one who has been named as Christ's own.

Today, I recognize and remember Dr. Doyle Sager, my mentor and friend through 22 years of Kingdom service together here at First Baptist Church. His fingerprints are forever upon my life and my ministry. How blessed I am to have served alongside Doyle.

I give my deepest thanks today to my parents who have been the greatest influencers upon my life and my calling. Their example in word and action of love for God and service to others has forever shaped me. There are no words to convey my gratitude and love for them, God's greatest gifts to me.

Friends, I could not be who I am without your presence in my life and ask that you continue to uphold me through your prayers. With the Apostle Paul, I offer my prayers for you: "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:17-19

Grace & Peace, Melissa

MELISSA'S LIFE VERSE~

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NRSV)

MELISSA'S LIFE QUOTE~

"She served all human beings by promoting their dignity and respect, and made those who had been defeated by life feel the tenderness of God" Pope John Paul II regarding Mother Teresa

*Reality Ministries in Durham, NC, practices a common life of friendship and mutuality amongst people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. The band, Meek Squad, is comprised of some of these community members. (meeksquad.org) Prayer Before the San Damiano Cross is based on the prayer Saint Francis of Assisi prayed to discern God's will.



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
JEFFERSON CITY



Ordination of



Rev. Melissa Hatfield

Sunday, April 3, 2022 / 6 pm

First Baptist Church, Jefferson City



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, MO
Sunday, April 3, 2022 / 6 pm

The Ordination of Rev. Melissa Ann Hatfield

If my own experience can be trusted, then God does not call us once but many times. There are calls to faith and calls to ordination, but in between there are calls to particular communities and calls to particular tasks within them... but we are not meant to hear them all by ourselves. It was part of God's genius to incorporate us as one body, so that our ears have other ears, other eyes, minds, hearts, and voices to help us interpret what we have heard. ~ Barbara Brown Taylor

Prelude

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Call To Worship

*We gather as a community of faith in God's subversive world.
We gather to celebrate that no darkness can extinguish light,
to remember love will always be more powerful than death,
and to trust peace will always be stronger than violence.
We gather, people of faith in the light of God's world.
Welcome to worship.*

Congregational Hymn No. 15 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Invocation & Welcome

Dr. Keith Herron

Scripture Lessons

*Old Testament / Micah 6:6-8
Epistle / Ephesians 3:14-21*

*Ken Enloe
Connor Leesman*

Song of Reflection

*Prayer Before the San Damiano Cross
arr. Meek Squad

Charge to the Candidate

Rev. Dr. Roger & Linda Hatfield

COMMISSIONING LITANY

Leader: *There are different gifts,*

People: *But it is the same Spirit that gives them.*

Leader: *There are different ways of serving God,*

People: *But it is the same Lord who is served.*

Leader: *God works through individuals in different ways,*

People: *But it is the same God who achieves God's purpose through them.*

Leader: *Each one is given a gift by the Spirit, to use it for the common good.*

People: *Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of Christ.*

Leader: *Though we have different gifts, together we are a ministry of reconciliation led by the risen Christ. We work and pray to make God's church useful in the world, and we call people to faith, so that, in the end, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Creator. In that spirit, we are all called to serve.*

People: *Just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to set others free.*

Leader: *Melissa, is it your belief that God has called and gifted you for ministry and do you commit yourself this day to the trust and responsibility of being a Minister of the Gospel? Will you be diligent in pursuit of God, true to the example of Christ, faithful to the gospel of grace, and will you serve the Church of Jesus Christ?*

Melissa: *It is my belief that I am called by God, and I commit myself to the responsibilities of my calling.*

Leader: *And you, people of God, having heard Melissa's commitment and witnessed her walk of faith, what is your desire?*

People: *To ordain her as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To empower her to serve all God's people. And to encourage her with our blessing. Amen.*

The Presentation of the Ordination Gift

Mark Leesman

The Prayer of Blessing

Deborah Scott

An Invitation to Bless

Dr. Keith Herron

The Laying on of Hands

You are welcome during this time of focused prayer for Melissa to come forward and participate in this ancient rite of blessing and encouragement.

Congregational Song

Make Me Like You

Benediction

Rev. Melissa Hatfield

*May the Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26 (NRSV)*

**Please join us for a reception in Melissa's honor
in the Fellowship Hall.**