

WEDNESDAY
MAY 19TH 2021
8PM EST

JAMES CHAPEL
& ZOOM

CATHOLIC COMMISSIONING SERVICE

CELEBRATING
2021 CATHOLIC
GRADUATES:

ALLISON CONNELLY
ALYSSA TERRY
NAN M. WALSH

Welcome

Alyssa Terry

Nan Maureen Walsh (she/they) is graduating from Union Theological Seminary with a Masters in Arts degree. Nan's thesis "What We Talk About When We Talk About Union with God," draws from a background in Buddhist practice; current commitment to the Camaldolese charism and Benedictine Rule; interdisciplinary concentration in systematic theology and psychology; and the teaching, training, and directing of training, teachers of the Alexander Technique. Nan has been formed by the Sisters of the Ursuline Order, The Tibet Center Sangha, and the Brothers of the Camaldolese Benedictine Order in Big Sur, CA. She is a Camaldolese Oblate, and the founder and Executive Director of Sapientia Initiative, a non-profit educational organization. Nan is joined in James Chapel for today's commissioning by Dr. Phyllis Tribble and Ellis Gelhorn.

Allison Connelly (she/her) is graduating from Union Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. Her interdisciplinary concentration in Disability Theology culminated with her thesis, "Christian Ableism: What it Is, How it Hurts, and Where to Go from Here." Allison has been formed by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, PA, and by lay catholic communities such as Benincasa Community and Spirit of St. Stephen's Catholic Community. Allison identifies as both Catholic and United Church of Christ, and is joined in James Chapel for today's commissioning by her fiancée, Brooklyn Vetter.

Alyssa Terry (she/her) is graduating from Union Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. Her interdisciplinary concentration focused on Religious Education. Alyssa has been formed by the Sister's of St. Benedict of St. Joseph, MN during her time as an undergrad at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, and by countless other lay leaders and friends. Alyssa is joined in James Chapel for today's commissioning by her girlfriend, Alyssa Kaplan.

Opening Hymn: Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you
Work great things in me
And your mercy will last from the Depths
Of the past to the end of the age to be
Your very name puts the proud to shame
And to those who would for you yearn
You will show your might
Put the strong to flight
For the world is about to turn
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears
For the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

From the halls of power to the fortress tower
Not a stone will be left on stone
Let the king beware for your
Justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne
The hungry poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never earn
There are tables spread, ev'ry
Mouth be fed
For the world is about to turn
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears
For the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

Though the nations rage from age to age
We remember who holds us fast
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp
This saving word that out forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound
'Til the spear and rod can be
Crushed by God
Who is turning the world around
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears
For the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

Opening Prayer

Nan M. Walsh

God of our making and lover of all creation,
We gather in radical resistance and participation in the face of the institution of our church that does not permit our holy ordination, and thus we come together to affirm, bless, and commission the Catholic ministry of Allison Connelly Alyssa Jane Terry, and Nan Maureen Walsh.

Graduates: *God of our making and lover of all creation, sustain us.*

God of our longing,
We gather together to remember those who wait and hope for peace that is inseparable from justice. Hear our prayer and our lament for all who have been abandoned and forgotten on this precious earth.

Graduates: *God of our longing, open our eyes, ears, and hearts as we work towards peace that is justice in our suffering world.*

God of all mercy,
We find the holy church wherever you make your home in us. Dwell in all our hearts, and help us heal the broken places in ourselves and in our world— where there is plundering, division and destruction, align with our struggle to protect, unite, and heal.

Graduates: *God of all mercy, be a sure support of the work of our hands and hearts as we align with each other to work towards a greater reconciliation.*

God of all hope,
We come together to encourage and support each other in the face of our finitude in a world of mounting meaningless and despair; and yet for small, but certain, reason we believe that the world yet imagined is still the ultimate good.

Graduates: *God of all hope, as we journey in, and towards, your infinite love, strengthen our confidence in resurrection through the medium of our own beings. May we always bear witness, and endeavor to be real demonstrations— however limited, of the reality of resurrection and infinite love in this world.*

All: *Amen.*

First Reading: The Map You Make Yourself by Jan Richardson

Allison Connelly

Second Reading: John 20:11-18

Dr. Phyllis Tribble

Blessings and Affirmations

Folks gathered in person and on zoom will have a chance to offer a blessing or affirmation on those graduating.

Charge and Commissioning

Joan Chittister's Litany of the Women

Charge: May our Mother God hold you in her embrace.
May she empower you to live into the ministry to which you have been called.

Closing Prayer: The Hearth Keeper Prayer

Nan, Alyssa, and Allison

Recessional Hymn: The Summons

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

After the service concludes, we will have three break out rooms (one for each graduate). Friends and family of the graduate will be invited to join their graduate in their breakout room to chat.