

**The Ordination of  
Jessica Abell and Debra McCanless  
to the Sacred Order of Deacons**

The Right Reverend Phoebe A. Roaf  
Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of West Tennessee

**May 29, 2021  
10:00 AM  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
Memphis, Tennessee**

## **PROCEDURES TO MITIGATE COVID-19**

- Face masks are required to be worn by unvaccinated adults.
- Please maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others not in your immediate household.

As a courtesy to others, please make sure your phones are on a silent setting.

# THE ORDINATION OF DEACONS

**VOLUNTARY**

Meditation on FINLANDIA "We would be building"

Dennis Janzer

*Please stand.*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**HYMN 400 vs. 1,7 (1982 HYMNAL)**

All creatures of our God and King

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voices, let us sing:  
    alleluia, alleluia!  
Bright burning sun with golden beams,  
Pale silver moon that gently gleams,  
    O praise him, O praise him,  
    Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
    O praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
    O praise him, O praise him,  
    Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Bishop*  
*People*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Bishop*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE PRESENTATION

*The Bishop and people sit.*

*Presenters* Phoebe, Bishop in the Church of God, on behalf of the clergy and people of The Diocese of West Tennessee, we present to you Jessica Abell and Debra McCanless to be ordained as deacons in Christ's holy catholic Church.

*Bishop* Have they been selected in accordance with the canons of this Church? And do you believe their manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

*Presenters* We certify to you that they have satisfied the requirements of the canons, and we believe them qualified for this order.

*Bishop* Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this Church, obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?

*Ordinands* I am willing and ready to do so; and I solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.

The ordinands then sign the above Declaration in the sight of all present.

Please stand.

*Bishop* Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of this ministry, and the weight of your responsibility in presenting Jessica Abell and Debra McCanless for ordination to the sacred order of deacons. Therefore if any of you know any impediment or crime because of which we should not proceed, come forward now and make it known.

*Bishop* Is it your will that Jessica and Debra be ordained as deacons?


*People* **It is.**



*Bishop* Will you uphold them in this ministry?



*People* **We will.**

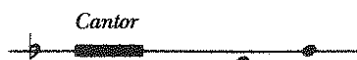
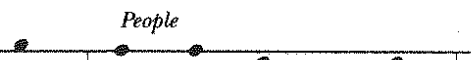
*Bishop* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Please kneel. The litanist leads the Litany for Ordinations.


*Cantor*  *People*   
God the Fa - ther, Have mer - cy on us.


*Cantor*  *People*   
God the Son, Have mer - cy on us.

*Cantor*  *People*   
God the Holy Spir - it, Have mer - cy on us.

*Cantor*  *People*   
Holy Trini - ty, one God, Have mer - cy on us.

*Cantor*  *People*   
We pray to you, Lord Christ. Lord, hear our prayer.

*Cantor*   
For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and  
be found without fault at the Day of your Coming,

*People*   
we pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all members of your Church in their vocation and ministry, that they may serve you in a true and godly life, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, that they may be filled with your love, may hunger for truth, and may thirst after righteousness, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Jessica and Debra, chosen deacons in your Church, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That they may faithfully fulfill the duties of this ministry, build up your Church, and glorify your Name, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, they may be sustained and encouraged to persevere to the end, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For their families, that they may be adorned with all Christian virtues, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another,



- 35       **Make me go in the path of your commandments,  
                  for that is my desire.**
- 36       **Incline my heart to your decrees  
                  and not to unjust gain.**
- 37       **Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;  
                  give me life in your ways.**
- 38       **Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
                  which you make to those who fear you.**
- 39       **Turn away the reproach which I dread,  
                  Because your judgments are good.**
- 40       **Behold, I long for your commandments;  
                  in your righteousness preserve my life.**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Acts 6: 2-7*

**A**nd the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait at tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

*Reader*       The Word of the Lord.  
*People*       **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE**

**HYMN 488 (1982 HYMNAL)**

Be thou my vision

*Slane*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
all else be nought to me, save that thou art--  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

\ Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father; thine own may I be;  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

High King of heaven, when victory is won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,  
still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 22: 24-27

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**A** dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE SERMON

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf

*Please stand.*

**W**e believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**W**e believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

**W**e believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



# THE EXAMINATION

*All are seated except the ordinands, who stand before the Bishop.*

*Bishop* My sisters, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely. As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

*Bishop* My sisters, do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to the life and work of a deacon?

*Ordinands* I believe I am so called.

*Bishop* Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

*Ordinands* I do.

*Bishop* Will you be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

*Ordinands* I will.

*Bishop* Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures?

*Ordinands* I will.

*Bishop* Will you look for Christ in all others, being ready to help and serve those in need?

*Ordinands* I will.

*Bishop* Will you do your best to pattern your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to all people?

*Ordinands* I will.

*Bishop* Will you in all things seek not your glory but the glory of the Lord Christ?

*Ordinands* I will.

*Bishop* May the Lord by his grace uphold you in the service he lays upon you.

*Ordinands* Amen.

# THE CONSECRATION OF THE DEACONS

*All now stand except the ordinands, who kneel facing the Bishop.*

**HYMN 503 (1982 HYMNAL)**

Come Holy Ghost

*Veni Creator Spiritus*

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,  
and lighten with celestial fire.  
Thou the anointing Spirit art,  
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face  
with the abundance of thy grace.  
Keep far from foes, give peace at home:  
where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Thy blessed unction from above  
is comfort, life, and fire of love.  
Enable with perpetual light  
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
and thee, of both, to be but One,  
that through the ages all along,  
this may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**O** God, most merciful Father, we praise you for sending your Son Jesus Christ, who took on himself the form of a servant, and humbled himself, becoming obedient even to death on the cross. We praise you that you have highly exalted him, and made him Lord of all; and that, through him, we know that whoever would be great must be servant of all. We praise you for the many ministries in your Church, and for calling this your servant to the order of deacons.

Therefore, Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to Jessica; fill her with grace and power, and make her a deacon in your Church.

Therefore, Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to Debra; fill her with grace and power, and make her a deacon in your Church.

Make them, O Lord, modest and humble, strong and constant, to observe the discipline of Christ. Let their lives and teaching so reflect your commandments, that through them many may come to know you and love you. As your Son came not to be served but to serve, may these deacons share in Christ's service, and come to the unending glory of him who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

*The people in a loud voice respond* **Amen.**

*The new deacons are now vested accordingly.*

Receive this Bible as the sign of your authority to proclaim God's Word and to assist in the ministration of his holy Sacraments.

## THE PEACE

*Bishop*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*            **And also with you.**

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

*It is customary for an offering to be collected on behalf of the ordinands. Today's collection will be divided evenly between the following ministries of the Diocese: West Tennessee Haiti Partnership and Barth House University Ministry. Please make checks out to Diocese of West Tennessee and write "Deacon Ordination" in the memo line. Checks may be mailed to the Diocese at the address on the back cover. To give online please navigate to: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=D962UWHNMK83J](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=D962UWHNMK83J)*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come Down, O Love Divine

Ralph Vaughn-Williams

Come down, O Love divine,  
Seek thou this soul of mine,  
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing.  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn  
Till earthly passions turn  
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let your glorious light  
Shine ever on my sight,  
And make my pathway clear, by your illuming.

And so the yearning strong  
With which the soul will long  
Shall far surpass the pow'r of human telling;  
For none can guess its grace  
Till we become the place  
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Bishop* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Bishop* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**I**t is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through the great shepherd of your flock, Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his resurrection sent forth his apostles to preach the Gospel and to teach all nations; and promised to be with them always, even to the end of the ages. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**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.**

**W**e give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

**W**e pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**O**ur Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Bishop* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**  
*Bishop* The gifts of God for the people of God.

## THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

*Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seats via the side aisles. When the host is offered, receive it in your hand. When you have returned to your seat you may momentarily remove your mask to consume the host. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest.*

**COMMUNION ANTHEM**      Christian, the morn breaks sweetly o'er thee      Harry Rowe Shelley

Christian, the morn breaks sweetly o'er thee  
And all the midnight shadows flee;  
Ting'd are the distant skies with glory,  
A beacon light hangs out for thee.  
Arise! arise! the light breaks o'er thee,  
Thy name is graven on the throne;  
Thy home is in that world of glory  
Where thy Redeemer reigns alone.

Courage, cheer up, the day breaks o'er thee,  
Bright as the summer's noontide ray;  
The starry crowns and realms of glory  
Invite thy happy soul away.  
Away! away! leave all for glory,  
Thy name is graven on the throne,  
Thy home is in that world of glory  
Where thy Redeemer reigns alone.

## COMMUNION HYMN

**HYMN 325 (1982 HYMNAL)**

Let us break bread together

*Let Us Break Bread*

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees;

*Refrain*

when I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees;

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees;

*Please stand or kneel.*

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Bishop*      Let us pray.

**A**lmighty Father, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of your Word and Sacraments. We pray that Jessica and Debra may be to us effective examples in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with them, may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**BLESSING**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**HYMN 460, vs. 1,5 (1982 HYMNAL)**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

*Hyfrydol*

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation  
hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!  
his the scepter his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of holy Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation  
hath redeemed us by his blood.

**THE DISMISSAL**

*Deacons* Let us go forth in the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**VOLUNTARY**

Majestic Trumpet – Behold the Majesty of the Lord

Dennis Janzer

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TODAY TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN HONOR OF THE ORDINANDS  
BY ST. MARY’S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL.**

**THE ORDINANDS HAVE PLACED A GIFT AT THE TABLE NEAR THE DOOR  
FOR EACH OF THE ATTENDEES  
IN APPRECIATION FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT  
THROUGH THEIR JOURNEY TO ORDINATION.**

# PARTICIPANTS

*Celebrant and Preacher*  
The Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf

*Gospeler*  
The Rev. Deacon Gerri Endicott

*Deacon of the Table*  
The Rev. Deacon Drew Woodruff

*Assisting Clergy*  
The Very Rev. Jean Vargo

*Master of Ceremonies*  
The Rev. Canon Sharon Alexander

*Litanist*  
The Rev. Ollie Rencher

*Old Testament Lector*  
Kim Finch

*New Testament Lector*  
Carrie Woodard

*Presenters for Jessica Abell*  
The Rev. Clay Calhoun  
The Venerable Margaret Jones  
Anne Burruss  
Peter Abell

*Presenters for Debra McCanless*  
The Rev. Ollie Rencher  
The Venerable Margaret Jones  
Michael Rowland  
Peter Dale

*Vesting Assistant for Jessica Abell*  
Peter Abell

*Vesting Assistant for Debra McCanless*  
Peter Dale

*Oblationers*  
Antoinette Cheney  
Katie Collier

*Ordinands' Ushers*  
Lee Nix  
Jennifer Winstead

*Organist*  
Dr. Dennis Janzer

*Cantors*  
Aoife Shanley  
Paul Murray

*Thank you to all who participated in today's ordination.*

The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee

692 Poplar Avenue

Memphis, Tennessee 38105

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