

# Welcome

**W**e believe that all people are blessed and loved equally by God. Following the teachings of Jesus we heartily welcome everyone into God's covenantal community. Whatever your race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic or marital status, variety of thoughts and beliefs, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression - whoever you are and wherever you come from you are welcome into the full life and ministry of our church.

Service of Installation of  
*The Reverend Racquel R. Ray*  
as Associate Minister of Congregational Life



## **Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**

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**Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

**2:00 PM**

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*We are a Christian community that worships God, embraces all people,  
ministers to one another, works for justice and peace,  
and renders loving service to God's world.*

### WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

Matthew Marion

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Trinki Brueckner

Aquene,

Welcome to the lands of the Pokanoket people, their ancestral home for over 10,000 years prior to settler colonization. We pay respect to the tribal elders and people of this community who served and continue to serve as stewards of the lands and waterways of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Let this acknowledgment serve as a reminder of



# *Order of Service for Installation*

## **GREETING**

REV. DR. PATTY KOGUT:

The Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the Church in heaven and on earth. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

**PEOPLE:**

**Let us look to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## **PRESENTATION**

TOM STROLLA

*To the Conference Representative:*

Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called Racquel Ray as a pastor and teacher and respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Association of the Southern New England Conference install her in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

REV. DR. PATTY KOGUT

*To the congregation:*

The Rhode Island Association has reviewed the request of Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. They have prayerfully examined Racquel Ray and are pleased to install her as your pastor and teacher.

*To Rev. Ray:*

Racquel, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

## **EXHORTATION**

REV. DR. PATTY KOGUT:

Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, a pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ. Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

*To the congregation:*

Hear these words from the apostle Paul: We beg you, our siblings, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves.

*To Rev. Ray:*

We urge you, our sibling, warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.

*To All:*

See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you, in your life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

## COVENANT

REV. DR. CLAUDIA DEMICK

*To the congregation:*

Dear Friends, Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Racquel Ray to minister in this place as a pastor and teacher and that it now receives her as appointed by God for this ministry. The Rhode Island Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that she has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

*To Rev. Ray:*

Racquel, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ has been led to call you as a pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Rhode Island Association.

REV. RACQUEL RAY:

I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

REV. DR. CLAUDIA DEMICK:

*To the congregation:*

Members of Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your pastor and teacher?

*Members of Barrington Congregational Church, UCC who are able  
stand for the remainder of the covenant.*

**CHURCH MEMBERS:**

**We, the members of Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, receive Racquel as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her due honor and support. We gather with her and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

REV. DR. CLAUDIA DEMICK:

*To Members of the Rhode Island Association:*

Members of the Rhode Island Association, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ and its pastors and teachers?

*Members of the Rhode Island Association who are able stand for the remainder of the covenant.*

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:

**We, the members of the Rhode Island Association of the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the pastors and teachers of Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

### **PRAYER OF INSTALLATION**

*All who are able may stand.*

REV. DR. PATTY KOGUT:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have called your servants to make promises before you; now enable us to keep our vows that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. Bless, we pray, your servant Racquel to whom the care of your people in this church is now committed. Pour out your Holy Spirit on her, on the people of Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ and on all the churches of the Rhode Island Association and Southern New England Conference, that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage. Grant us the spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. Make our ministry a means of awakening the careless, strengthening the faithful, comforting the afflicted, building up your church, and converting sinners to you. Guard us against the snares of temptation that we may be kept pure in heart, fervent in spirit, and valiant against evil. And at the last, by your grace, receive us in your eternal home, where, with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ reigns in glory, one God, for ever and ever.

**ALL: Amen.**

### **DECLARATION**

REV. DR. PATTY KOGUT:

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Rhode Island Association and the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as pastor and teacher, Associate Minister of Congregational Life, of Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**



CHORAL ANTHEM

*Order My Steps*

Schrader

CHARGE TO REV. RAY AND THE CONGREGATION

The Rev. Rotunda East

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Patricia Stoddard

Nancy Arena

Kim Zeleznik

WE GO FORTH WITH THE WORD

\*HYMN (*see music insert*)

*Draw the Circle Wide*

\*BENEDICTION

Jane Tonn

POSTLUDE

*\* Those who are able, please stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Patty Kogut – Southeast Region ~ Area Conference Minister, Barnstable, Old Colony, Pilgrim, Rhode Island Associations, UCC

Rev. Dr. Claudia Demick - Chair, Church and Ministry Committee, Rhode Island Association, Southern New England Conference

Rev. Dr. Dale Azevedo – RI Association President, and Senior Minister, Barrington Congregational Church, UCC (BCCUCC)

Martine Bruno, MDiv, LMSW, YDS '22, MID, Southern New England Conference, UCC

Rev. Mahogany S. Thomas, YDS '20, Potomac Association, Central Atlantic Conference, UCC

Rev. Rotunda East, MDiv, BCC – Chief, Chaplain Service, Ethics Consultation Coordinator, Providence VA Medical Center

Trinki Brueckner – Member of Mission and Justice Team, BCCUCC

Jane Tonn – Deacon, Member of the Search Committee, BCCUCC

Tom Strolla – Moderator, BCCUCC

Lauren Silva – Confirmation Candidate, BCCUCC

Ethan Lapinski and Tessa Lapinski – Youth Group Members, BCCUCC

Patricia Stoddard – Chair of Deacons, BCCUCC

Nancy Arena – Deacon, Chair of Mission and Justice Team, BCCUCC

Kim Zeleznik – Chair of Staff Parish Relations Team, BCCUCC



Pianist: Matthew Marion

Ushers: Greg Voigt, Helen MacDonald, Frank Lee, Barbara Lee

Worship Tech Support: Tom Colby, Kim Colby

Elevette Operator: Elizabeth Azevedo



All are invited to a reception in Fellowship Hall following the service.



A VERY SPECIAL WELCOME TO ALL OF THE VISITORS WITH US TODAY:

We are blessed to have the Rev. Mahogany Thomas as our guest preacher today. Mahogany is a graduate of Yale Divinity School MDiv '20 and has been a close friend to Racquel throughout their seminary and ordination processes. Rev. Mahogany is a Preacher with a passion for teaching and a pastoral heart. She served as Minister of Youth and Families at First Church UCC in Middletown, CT. She has also served at First Congregational UCC of Glen Ellyn, Trinity UCC in Chicago, and most recently as Executive Minister at Peoples Congregational in Washington D.C. Mahogany and Racquel have been close friends since their first Old Testament class in their first semester at YDS. Mahogany soon became part of the Ray Family and a close sister to Abe, Rebecca, and Lizzy. It was long talks, shared worship, prayer walks, and arduous yoga classes with Rev. Mahogany and an introduction to Andover Newton Seminary's founding Dean Rev. Sarah Drummond that led Racquel to the United Church of Christ in the final semester of seminary. Rev. Mahogany lives in Washington, D.C., with her beloved dog, Moses.

Martine Bruno, MDiv, LMSW joins us from the Connecticut branch of the Southern New England Conference. Martine is a Member in Discernment and is close to Ordination in the United Church of Christ. Martine is a Yale Divinity School and Yale School of Social Work dual degree graduate. She was recently featured in NYC-Arts and Josh Groban's Great Big Radio City Show. Martine and Racquel became friends during Orientation at Yale. As second career students with obligations outside of the quad they shared many hours and cups of tea in mutual support and prayerful encouragement. Martine brings her Haitian roots, her Pentecostal Spirit, her gifts for healing and wholeness, and a God-given gift of voice into the everyday work of building healthy communities.

Rev. Rotunda East, MDiv, BCC is the Chief of Chaplain Services and the Ethics Consultation Coordinator at the Providence Veterans Administration Medical Center. She is a United States Air Force Retired Veteran deeply committed to the welfare of our local Veterans. Chaplain East and Racquel met as Racquel was discerning a call to seminary and preparing for formal chaplaincy education at YDS. Sharing a call to care for Veterans, service in the USAF, and indomitable gifts of the Holy Spirit Chaplain East and Racquel have been prayer partners for many years. Chaplain East offers the Charge today understanding the value of having a Veteran in ministry and how dedicated their ministry can be to their congregation.

ALTAR FLOWERS:

The altar flowers for today's Installation Service are given by Rev. Racquel and Von Ray in exuberant thanksgiving for our family's community. We are grateful for all of our clergy friends and colleagues who have faithfully supported our family throughout the Discernment, Formation, Ordination, Search & Call, and Installation process. Rebecca was one year old when Racquel started the academic journey leading to today. Christian and Abe were in high school. Elizabeth had never seen mom NOT writing papers until 2022! We are grateful for our Spirit-filled sisters in Christ - Martine, Mahogany, Rotunda

and others who share the prayer circle with Racquel throughout those 10 years and counting.

We are grateful for the Committee on Church and Ministry for the Rhode Island Association and the Southern New England Conference who recognized the call in Racquel and supported her through the Ordination process. And out of that gratitude, Racquel now serves on that Committee to ‘pay it forward’.

And we are grateful for Barrington Congregational Church, UCC! For Rev. Dale who shared prayers with Chaplain Racquel through the last semester of seminary and through ministry in the nursing home throughout the pandemic. We are grateful for the staff and Deacons who supported Racquel throughout Dale’s Sabbatical in shared ministry to this special congregation. We are grateful for the BCCUCC Search Committee who held the utmost care in boundaries and confidentiality throughout the arduous two year Search & Call process. We are grateful to the Church Council for receiving Racquel into the ministry of this church. And most importantly, we are grateful to the congregation – YOU, the people – of this church who warmly welcomed us into the ministry, who made MANY phone calls to the Search Committee, and whom Racquel fell in love with over the course of Sabbatical Coverage. This church is a vibrant and healthy, warm and welcoming, Open and Affirming, faithful church where God’s Spirit is free to move and to do the work that God has called us all to do. THANK YOU!!

Special thanks to the BCCUCC Choir and Music Director Matthew Marion for their gift of music.

Special thanks to the BCCUCC Confirmation Class of 2023 and the BCCUCC Youth Group.

Thanks also to the Search Committee who are hosting and to everyone who helped with or provided refreshments for the reception.



Large Print Bulletins and Hearing Devices are available from the Ushers.

The service is also being livestreamed to be watched online by those unable to join us in person.

*Please freely change the wording of any part of this service to more inclusive language.  
Our purpose is to worship God in wholeness.*

All of the hymns are from *The New Century Hymnal* (black)

The Scripture readings are from  
*A Women’s Lectionary For The Whole Church* by Wilda Gafney





Ministers to the World:	All the Congregation
Senior Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Dale Azevedo
Associate Minister:	The Rev. Racquel Ray
Faith Formation Director:	Andrea Terni Bullard
Music Director:	Matthew Marion
Office Administrator:	Christine Wallis
Financial Secretary:	Patricia Stoddard
Custodians:	Jay Buckley, Frank Lee

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