

A Service of Installation
Reverend Damien J. Lake
Associate Conference Minister
of The Missouri Mid-South Conference
of The United Church of Christ



September Twenty-Sixth of the year Two Thousand and
Twenty at Eleven o'clock in the morning.

The Order of Service

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel
Conference Minister & Worship Leader

Introit:

The Chancel Choir at the First Congregational of St. Louis

Directed by *Dr. Sarah Bereza*

“Come All You People (Uyai Mose) Alexander Gondo, descant by C. Michael Hawn

Doxology

Columbia United Church of Christ

Soloist: *James Melton*

Pianist: *Harry Beckett*

Greetings:

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

Opening Prayer:

Most Holy Rev. George Lucey, Bishop of American Catholic Church
Friend and Colleague of Damien

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

...and also with you.

Let us pray

Eternal God, by your grace you have set us together in your Church,
whose foundation is your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant your continuing grace, we pray,
to all who exercise leadership in your Church,
that they may with diligence and faithfulness
fulfill their various ministries;

and grant that we your people may follow them where you lead
and minister faithfully in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn
Oasis UCC, Jefferson City, MO
Singers: *Nancy Luehrman & Angie Hulseay*
Pianist: *Bill Lehman*

Offertory
Rev. Rob Van Ess
Holy Trinity Memphis, TN

Anthem
Pilgrim Congregational UCC, St. Louis, MO

Gospel Lesson
Rev. Michael Stephens, Southwood UCC, Raytown, MO
Rev. Christi Tennyson, Pilgrim UCC, Labadie, MO
Leon Sharpe, Member of Christ the King in Florissant, MO

A Word of Wisdom
The Rev. Joaquin K. Barry,
Friend and Colleague of Damien

Installation Service

Greetings:

Conference Board President: *Andrea Asselmeier*

The Missouri Mid-South 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.

Conference Board President: *Andrea Asselmeier*

The Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called Rev. Damien Jon Lake as its pastor and teacher and

respectfully requests that the Conference install Damien in this ministry among us,
according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Western Association COM Representative: **Cathy Bear**

The Western Association has reviewed the request of The Missouri Mid-South
Conference. We have prayerfully examined Damien, and we are pleased to install
Damien as the Associate Conference Minister.

Damien, servant of God, you have joined us today as a sign of your acceptance of the
call to this office.

Conference Board President: *Andrea Asselmeier*

Installation is the action of a conference of the United Church of Christ in cooperation
with a local association. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship
among the conference, the associations 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.

Conference Representative: *Andrea Asselmeier*

To you who have gathered, hear these words from the apostle Paul: We beg you, our
brothers and sisters, 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.

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

To you who have gathered, 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

Dear friends, The Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ has
declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Rev.
Damien Lake to be our Associate Conference Minister, to minister in this conference as
pastor and teacher and that it now receives him as appointed by God for ministry.

Western Association Moderator: *Betty Thaller*

The Western Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of
Christ has declared that Damien Lake has met all the necessary conditions for
installation to this office.

Conference Board President: *Andrea Asselmeier*

Damien, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ has been led to call you as their Associate Conference Minister, are you willing to enter into this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the conference?

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

Members of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ, will those who are able raise your hand and affirm your covenant with Damien as your Associate Conference Minister?

I invite you to respond with these words: We, the members of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ, receive Rev. Damien Lake as our Associate Conference Minister, promising to labor with him in the ministry of the gospel and to give him due honor and support.

We gather with him and with the whole United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Prayer of Installation

Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel

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 Damien to whom the care of your people in this conference is now committed. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon him, on the people of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ, and on all conferences of the United Church of Christ that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage. Grant us the spirit of power and 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...Amen.

Conference Board President: *Rev. Andrea Asselmeier*

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as the Associate Conference Minister of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer:

Rev. Chris Schwab, friend and colleague of Damien

Closing Song

I Know Where I've Been

1st Congregational Church of Memphis, Tennessee

Benediction/Going Forth

Rev. Damien Lake

A Special Thanks

Damien would like to thank all those who have contributed to this service today, through music, word and celebration of his ministry with the Missouri Mid-South Conference.

Damien also wanted to say thank you to the search committee who sought out the guidance of the Spirit throughout their process which led them to call him. In addition Damien shares a special thank you to his family and friends who have and continue to support him in his ministry. A special word of gratitude for his wife and partner, Susanne (Sue) who has walked alongside him through good and bad times, helping Damien to recognize his call to ministry and supporting him in so many ways.