

**"Ready or not, here I come!"**

**An Order of Service for the Celebration of a New Appointment**

**PRELUDE**

**"The Church's One Foundation"**

UMH 545

**WELCOME & Announcements-** Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

**INTRODUCTION to Worship** – Rebeka Maples, Director of Spiritual Formation

*This service may be adapted for a new or re-appointed pastor. Before reading the scripture, the pastor (and other appointed staff) come before the congregation; representative(s) of the church read the parts of the Leader. This is a good opportunity to include others (young and old) in the service.*

*If you're going to a new church, read along (on mute) with the pastor, otherwise, with the congregation*

*Leader to congregation:* Dear friends, in today's service we are pleased to welcome (*Name as*) our new pastor.

We believe he/she is well qualified and has been prayerfully appointed by our bishop.

*Leader to the pastor:* (*Name*), you have been sent to live among us as a bearer of the Word of God, a minister of the sacraments, and a sustainer of the love, order, service, and discipleship of the people of God.

*Pastor:* Today I affirm (reaffirm) this commitment in the presence of this congregation.

*Leader to the congregation:* Brothers and sisters in Christ, as people committed to the ministries of the Church through your prayers, presence, gifts, and service, will you celebrate and support our *Pastor (Name)* in these ministries?

**Congregation: We reaffirm our commitment to support you with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.**

*Leader:* "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'" (*from Matthew 28: 18-19*)

**Congregation: We give all our praises to the One who came to bring good news, who taught us to pray, and who offers salvation.**

**SONG**

**"Glory Be to the Father"**

UMH 71

**PRAYER** *Leader:* Eternal God, strengthen and sustain us in our ministries together, with (*Name*) as our pastor (*and names of other appointed staff maybe be included*).

Give him/her and us patience, courage, and wisdom to care for each other and challenge each other, that together we may follow Jesus Christ, living together in love, and offering our gifts in service to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PRESENTATION

*(for a first-time appointment, various presentations may be offered)*

**Church member: Pastor (Name), receive this Bible, and be among us as one who proclaims the Word.**

*Pastor: Amen.*

**Church member: Pastor (Name), use this water, and baptize new Christians in this place.**

*Pastor: Amen.*

**Church member: Pastor (Name), take this bread and cup, and keep us in communion with Christ and the Church.**

*Pastor: Amen.*

**Church member: Pastor (Name), use this hymnal and Book of Worship to guide us in our prayer and praise.**

*(Pastor: Amen.*

**Church member: Pastor (Name), use this Book of Discipline, and help us strengthen our connections in the United Methodist Church.**

*Pastor: Amen.*

**Church member: Pastor (Name), receive this globe, and lead us in our mission with this community and all the world.**

*Pastor: Amen. Ready or not, here I come!*

*In the name of Almighty God, let us pray together,*

**ALL: Holy and Eternal God, bless the ministries of your Church. We thank you for all you have given us. Draw us together in one Spirit, that each of us may use our gifts, hear your Word, and gather at your table as disciples who are baptized to be one in service to you, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SONG "We Are the Church"**

*UMH 558*

**CALL TO MINISTRY** *(inspired by 1 Samuel 8, 11; 2 Corinthians 4–5; Mark 3)*

*Pastor: Ready or not here I come!*

**All: We are ready to hear God's amazing Word.**

*Pastor: The Spirit is upon me and God has spoken.*

**All: We are ready to listen and build God's kingdom.**

*Pastor: God offers us a new way.*

**All: We are ready to let the Spirit guide us.**

*Pastor: God calls each of us, and Christ welcomes us.*

*Come, sisters and brothers, we are all part of one family in God's Church.*

**SCRIPTURE Ecclesiastes 3:1-12**

**SERMON "Ready or not, here I come!"**

Rebeka Maples

**SONG "This is a Day of New Beginnings"**

*UMH 383*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*(inspired by Mark 3:20-35)*

*Pastor:* Creator God, you call us, but you do not leave us. Guide and protect us when we stray away.

**All: Christ Jesus, you call us to serve others.  
Help and encourage us when the burden is too much.**

*Pastor:* Healing Spirit, you call us and move us ever closer into fellowship with you and each other. Open our eyes to your wisdom in leadership and service.

**All: Open our hearts that we may learn to see the barriers that separate us,  
so we may become as one family in your love.**

*Pastor:* Open our minds to learn again to hear your love as we celebrate and worship you. Hear the prayers on our hearts and minds, for ourselves, our families, our Church, and our world, as we lift them up to you...

*(prayers may be shared or typed in chat)*

Listen to our prayers for the healing of our lives and all the suffering in our world. Knowing, Good God, you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer our prayers in all the holy names of God. **Amen.**

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*(based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)*

*Pastor:* Rejoice always,  
pray without ceasing,  
give thanks in all things;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.  
May the Lord bless you and keep you,

**All: and may the peace of Christ that passes all understanding,  
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

*Pastor:* Sisters and brothers of Christ, ready or not, go into all the world!  
Go forth with forgiveness and grace.  
Go forth with compassion and love.  
Go forth and be Christ in all you do and all you say.

**All: We are ready to go as Christ's family for all the world to see.**

## POSTLUDE "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

*Lutkin*

### Resources:

See UMC Discipleship Ministries: "An Order for the Celebration of an Appointment"  
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/>.

See Ministry Matters website: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/>.