

# The Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.



Photo by Ed Smith

## **A Service of Installation of The Reverend Doctor Michael W. Galica**

**April 26, 2026**

**2:00 PM**

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

# Preparing for Worship

Prelude

Ringing the Church Bell

Welcome & Announcements

## Gathered by God as One

Invocation

Rev. Paul Sangree

God with us, you gather us together in congregations and strengthen us for service to you and to the world you made. We welcome your Spirit in this place as we praise you for the work you are doing here, the same work you invite us to join. Lead us to your Son, Jesus, the great shepherd of all your sheep, in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

Introit

“Be Thou My Vision” W&R #502 v1–2

Chancel Choir

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 95 (CEB)

Linda Lake

Come, let's sing out loud to our God!

**Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation!**

Let's come before God with thanks!

**Let's shout songs of joy to God!**

God is our God,

**and we are the people of God's pasture, the sheep in God's hands.**

\*Gathering Hymn

“The God of Abraham Praise”

NCH #24

Prayer of Confession

Linda Lake

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned. When we confess our sins to God, God forgives and heals us.

**We need your healing, merciful God: give us true repentance. Some sins are plain to us, some escape us, some we cannot face. Forgive us; set us free to hear your word to us; set us free to serve you.**

*A time of silence to contemplate these words  
and how they apply to us personally and as a community of faith.*

Assurance of Pardon & Grace

Rev. Paul Sangree

God forgives you. Forgive others; forgive yourself.

**Through Christ, God has put away our sin. Thanks be to God!**

Our Celebration

“Seek Ye First”

W&R #349

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,  
knock, and the door shall be open unto you; Allelu, alleluia!**

## Proclaiming God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Linda Lake

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 42:5–9

Pew Bible p.584–585

Psalm

Luke 1:46b–55 (The Inclusive Bible)

Read by All

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.**

**For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant,  
and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed.**

**For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,  
and holy is your Name.**

**Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you.**

**You have shown strength with your arm;**

**you have scattered the proud in their conceit;**

**you have deposed the mighty from their thrones**

**and raised the lowly to high places.**

**You have filled the hungry with good things,**

**while you have sent the rich away empty.**

**You have come to the aid of Israel your servant,**

**mindful of your mercy—**

**the promise you made to our ancestors—**

**to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever.**

Epistle

1 John 2:5b–7,12–17

Pew Bible p.989–990

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

"Song of the Spirit" (Derek Hakes)

Bell Choir

Response

This is the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

“To Hear from God”

Rev. Dr. Yvette Armstead

\*Sermon Hymn

“God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian”

NCH #355

## Installation of a Pastor

Presentation

Gretchen Patterson, CCSH Moderator

The Congregational Church of South Hero United Church of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called Michael Warren Galica as its pastor and teacher and respectfully requests that the Champlain Association install him in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Invitation

Champlain Association

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

Exhortation

Champlain Association

*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 the Pastor...*

We urge you, our brother, 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

## Champlain Association

Michael, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God, and that the Congregational Church of South Hero has been led to call you as pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Champlain Association?

**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.**

Members of the Congregational Church of South Hero, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your pastor and teacher?

**We, the members of the Congregational Church of South Hero receive Michael as our pastor and teacher, 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 United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

Members of the Champlain Association, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with the Congregational Church of South Hero and its pastor and teacher?

**We, the members of the Champlain Association of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the pastor and teacher of the Congregational Church of South Hero, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

## \*Prayer of Installation

## Champlain Association

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 Michael to whom the care of your people in this church is now committed. Pour out your Holy Spirit on him, on the people of the Congregational Church of South Hero, and on all the churches of the Champlain Association 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 welcoming those you have gathered. 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.**

**\*Declaration**

**Champlain Association**

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Champlain Association of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as pastor and teacher of the Congregational Church of South Hero United Church of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymn of the Day** “To You, O God, All Creatures Sing”

NCH #17 v 1,6

Charge to the Minister

Rev. Ken White

Charge to the Congregation

Rev. Mark Mendes

## **Responding to God**

**Litany of Dedication and Commitment**

**Pastor Mike**

To you, God, belongs the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty.

**All that is in the heavens and the earth is yours, and of your own we give you.**

**Offertory**

**“Here I am, Lord” (Daniel Schutte)**

**Chancel Choir**

*This afternoon’s offering is shared between assistance for Members in Discernment within the Champlain Association and CCSH’s Local Missions fund, which supports our neighbors in need from the Champlain Islands community.*

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.**

**CREATOR, CHRIST and Holy Ghost.**

*(sing the ending you are more comfortable with)*

**Praise FATHER, SON and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**\*Dedication**

**Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kin-dom. Amen.**

# Eating Together at God's Table

*Welcome to the Table of the Lord. In this church all persons who are open to the Holy Spirit, who seek to grow in Christian love, and who choose to serve in the name of Jesus are welcome to participate. Our bread is gluten-free; our cup is grape juice.*

## Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Mike

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## Communion Prayer & Words of Institution

Pastor Mike

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your love which brings us close to you.

**We thank you that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life.**

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, to remember me."

**By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.**

Gracious God, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new, in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, who taught us to pray...

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

## Distribution

*We receive Holy Communion by intinction. As you come forward at the instruction of a deacon, receive the bread from the pastor. Continue to the deacon on the side you are seated and dip the bread in the cup. If you consume the bread before you dip, please ask the pastor for another. Return to your seat via the side aisles. If you would like to partake of Holy Communion and are unable to come forward, let the deacon know and the bread and cup will be brought to you.*

## Prayer after Communion

**Most loving God, creator and redeemer, we give you thanks for this foretaste of your glory. Through Christ, and with all your church across time and space, we offer ourselves and our lives to your service. Send us out in the power of your Spirit, to stand with you in the world. Amen.**

## Sent Forth as God's Witnesses

\*Sending Hymn      "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"      W&R #68

\*Benediction      Pastor Mike

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, in the Name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

\*Benediction Song      "Be Thou My Vision"      NCH #451 v4

**Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still by my vision, O Ruler of all.**

\*Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve God.

**Thanks be to God!**

## About Pastor Mike

Rev. Dr. Michael W. Galica joined the Congregational Church of South Hero in November of 2025, after serving Lutheran congregations in Western Pennsylvania and Northern Utah. He is passionate about connecting church and community together, helping Christians to bear witness to the reign of God—in which all people are loved, welcomed, and have their needs met.

One of Pastor Mike’s particular interests is in exploring evangelism in our post-Christian context. He seeks to model an understanding of evangelism as an invitation into Christian community, a space for people to find belonging and welcome through the love of God shown by the church.

Mike and his wife, Michelle, have two furry “children”: Izzy (a black labrador mix) and Archie (a spicy white cat). Outside of church, Mike reads science fiction, plays video games, and enjoys performing music or supporting it as a sound tech.

## About CCSH

The Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C. embraces Jesus’ message that God loves and accepts every person. God calls us to care for and meet people where they are as together we worship, rest in, and serve God.

We are a congregation with a shared commitment to community, service, and welcome. We celebrate the gifts and questions of each person who enters our door as we seek—through worship and prayer, service and listening for God’s still speaking voice. We are committed to the reconciliation of all persons as children of God and lovers of all creation.

## About Pastor Yvette

Rev. Dr. Yvette A. Armstead is an ordained minister dedicated to serving others. Dr. Armstead holds a PhD in Christian Counseling and an MBA in Public Health Administration. She serves as the Minister and Servant Leader for the Domestic Violence Ministry at Beulah Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie. Additionally, she has led senior care initiatives and is currently pursuing a DMin in Missional Leadership at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

A proud mother and grandmother, she enjoys reading and walking. She has published a book titled *Rise and Shine: Empowering Affirmations for Boys of Color*, guided by Matthew 5:16. Pastor Yvette and Pastor Mike were “seat-neighbors” in their DMin cohort at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

*A few things about our church...*

- ❖ A **restroom** is in the back area of the church by the closets. Additional restrooms and a **changing table** are downstairs.
- ❖ A **supervised nursery** is downstairs for children age 5 and under.
- ❖ **Bold type** in the bulletin indicates a response by all.
- ❖ An \* (**asterisk**) notes an invitation to stand in body or spirit, as you are able.
- ❖ Hymns marked **NCH** are in the **black New Century Hymnal**.  
Hymns marked **W&R** are in the **green Worship & Rejoice** hymnal.

Today's Liturgy comes primarily from the *Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ*. The Confession, Offering Prayers, and Prayer after Communion are from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.

*Thank you to Rev. Paul Sangree, the Vermont Conference Associate Conference Minister; Rev. Katherine Arthaud and Rev. Devon Thomas, representing the Champlain Association; Pastor Yvette, Pastor Ken, and Pastor Mark for sharing, and our pastor, Mike. We also thank Linda Lake for reading; the members of our chancel choir (directed by Diantha Howard), bell choir (directed by Mary Jane Wirsing, who is also our organist); and everyone who worked so hard to make this service and reception happen!*

## What is Installation?

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, its 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.

## Reception

You are invited to a light reception following today's service in the fellowship hall downstairs. Come and join us in this time to visit with Pastor Mike and with one another!

### **Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.**

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*Pastor Mike's office hours for the week are posted outside his office.*

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