The Ordination of

EVERETT HOWE

Saturday, May 2, 2020
2:00 p.m. Pacific Time

First
Unitarian Universalist
Church of San Diego

LIVE STREAM
FIRSTUUSANDIEGO.ORG

INFORMATION
HTTP://EWHOWE.COM/ORDINATION.HTML
Chase Pado serves First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego as Pianist and Organist. He also serves as the accompanist for Chalice Choir, Women’s Choir, and Voices in Unity Choir at First UU. Chase holds a BA in Music from the University of California, San Diego with a focus on Jazz Piano Performance.

Lorelei Isidro-Garner is a musician, mother, free dancer, teacher, casual artist, and nature lover. She has performed as Music Coordinator/South Bay Choir Director for three years and has directed First UU’s Women’s Choir for one year. A place to visit on her bucket list is New Zealand.

Rev. Kathleen Owens has been serving the First UU Church of San Diego since the spring of 2007, first as Associate and currently as Lead Minister. The dynamic ministry she gratefully shares with the Rev. Tania Márquez is an exciting adventure. Kathleen and her ministry are powerfully sustained and inspired by sharing her life with Jan Gallo.

Rev. Katy Kroll Swanson is a hospital chaplain currently working part-time at Rady Children’s Hospital of San Diego and caring for her 4-year-old daughter through the quarantine. She is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and an affiliated community minister with First UU Church of San Diego.

The JUUL Tones is a small a cappella choir that has been part of First UU’s music program since 2004. The group serves in the community in addition to singing for church services. Everett has been a JUUL Tone since 2009.

Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube was Lead Minister of First UU Church of San Diego from 2004 to 2014. He now has a ministry of spiritual direction and is an Affiliate Faculty member at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

Rev. Tera Klein is the pastor of Throop UU Church in Pasadena, where she supervised Everett’s internship. She also serves as Visiting Assistant Professor at Starr King School for the Ministry, and is a doctoral student at the Pacific School of Religion.

Rhiannon Smith currently serves as President of First UU Church of San Diego. She is also a member of the Young Adult group, sings in the Women’s Choir, and is part of Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), both here in our congregation and as a member of the national Steering Committee. Rhiannon is the Administrator for the Pacific Western Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Isaac Castro has been a member of First UU Church of San Diego for over eight years. Within our church community, he has been involved with the Young Adult Group, the Worship Team, and the Journey Toward Wholeness Core Team. He is a first-year student at Starr King School for Ministry, enrolled in both the M. Div. program and the Master of Arts in Social Change program.

Isabella Furth has been a member of First UU Church of San Diego since 2006. She is one of the leaders of the Organizing for Justice program and is a member of the Social Justice Executive Team. Bella also sings with the JUUL Tones. She and Everett have been married for more than 25 years.

Rev. Sharon Wylie is the minister at Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Escondido, CA, where she has served since 2012.

Rev. Tania Márquez is the Assistant Minister of the First UU Church of San Diego, serving half of her time as the minister of the congregation’s South Bay campus.

Rev. Dr. Frank Placone-Willey has served as Lead Minister of Summit UU Fellowship, in East San Diego County, since 2010. He will soon retire from congregational ministry to resume full-time work and community ministry as a psychotherapist and non-profit consultant. He resides in La Mesa with his wife Pilar and their two dogs, Millie and Wally.
Prelude — Chase Pado
“Honeysuckle Rose” (Fats Waller/Andy Razaf)

Introit — Lorelei Isidro-Garner
“Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire” (Trad./Hal Hopson)

Welcome — Rev. Kathleen Owens

Invocation and Chalice Lighting — Rev. Katy Kroll Swanson

Church Hymn and Aspiration — Lorelei Isidro-Garner

Music — JUUL Tones; Andrea Newall-Lockett, Director
“One Voice” (Ruth Moody, arr. A. Newall-Lockett)

Offering — Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube

Hymn — JUUL Tones
“You Are Not Alone” (Kate Munger)

Homily — Rev. Tera Klein

Act of Ordination — Rhiannon Smith, Everett Howe, Isaac Castro, Isabella Furth

Presentation of Stole — Isabella Furth

Prayer of Ordination — Rev. Sharon Wylie

Blessings from the Congregation

Charge to the Minister — Rev. Tania Márquez

Welcome to Fellowship — Rev. Dr. Frank Placone-Willey

Charge to the Congregation — Rev. Kathleen Owens

Benediction — Rev. Dr. Everett W. Howe

Postlude — Chase Pado
“Ain’t Misbehavin’” (Fats Waller & Harry Brooks/Andy Razaf)

ASL interpretation provided by Paul Lambert
RHIANNON:

In the living tradition of Unitarian Universalism, the authority to ordain a minister lies solely with the local congregation. An ordination is a joyous and meaningful occasion, when a congregation joins together to recognize one who has answered the call to minister to others and to hold the world in love and justice. We confer a sacred charge to those we ordain, entrusting them with the life-long task of ministry. The act of ordination bestows the authority of religious leadership, the title of Reverend, and the privilege of wearing a stole.

Today, the members of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego gather in spirit to ordain Everett William Howe to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Everett, you and Bella joined First Church nearly fifteen years ago. You found a community that values the inherent worth and dignity of all people, that encourages a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, and that recognizes the interdependence that connects us to one another and to all existence. As your calling to serve took shape, we sponsored your process of becoming a minister under the auspices of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Now, with the blessing and recommendation of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we wish to offer you ordination.

Are you prepared to accept the mantle of ministry?

EVERETT:

I am.

RHIANNON:

Will the members of the congregation please speak the words of ordination, with Isaac Castro as a representative voice. The words are in the order of service, and in the subtitles.

ISAAC and CONGREGATION:

By the authority granted by our living tradition, we, the members of First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, joyfully ordain you, Everett William Howe, into the
Unitarian Universalist ministry. Wherever you may be called to serve, we charge you to speak the truth with humility and courage; to minister to joys and sorrows; to live with integrity; to continue to learn and grow; and to work each day for justice and for the beloved community. We pledge to support you throughout your ministry in all the ways we can.

**RHIANNON:**

Will Everett’s family and friends please join in these words of support, with Bella as a representative voice. The words are in the order of service, and in the subtitles.

**BELLA and other FAMILY and FRIENDS:**

Everett, we have journeyed with you on your path to this moment, and we will continue to be sources of love and support for you. With joy and pride, we witness and affirm your ordination today, and offer our blessings upon your ministry. May your ministry nourish you, and may it be a source of love, justice, and healing for you and for the world.

**EVERETT:**

With a deep sense of gratitude, and with awareness of its privileges and responsibilities, I take up the ministry to which you ordain me. I dedicate myself to this work, knowing that, like those before me and those who will come after, I cannot do it alone. With understanding and faith, I vow to act courageously in support of justice, truth, and peace; to foster a sense of wonder and mystery about the universe; to nurture curiosity and spiritual growth; and to support those around me with compassion.

**RHIANNON:**

Everett, as you go forth, know that our support goes with you. May your ministry nourish you and be a blessing to all you encounter.

In a moment, Bella will place upon your shoulders a stole, a representation of the yoke of ministry. Though it is made only of fabric and thread, we know that its weight is great. Know that all of us witnessing this ordination believe that you are fully capable of carrying this mantle with humility and grace, and that you will be careful that this weight does not overburden your ministry, your personhood, or your relationships.
Today's offering benefits three causes vital to Unitarian Universalism.

The **Living Tradition Fund** provides critical support for UU ministry: need-based scholarships for ministerial students, new minister assistance to reduce educational debt, and grants to ministers for emergency assistance. It is supported in large part by offerings at UU ordination services.

**Black Lives of UU** (BLUU) provides support, information, and resources for Black UUs to expand justice-making, liberation, and the power and capacity of Black UUs within our faith.

**First UU's Food Pantry** opened its doors in our South Bay campus in January, and has already become an important source of food for hundreds of families. Support for this ministry is especially important during the present pandemic.

Please go to the First UU Church of San Diego home page and click on the “Donate” button on the bottom of the page to make a contribution. Specify ‘other’ for the type of gift, and mention Everett's ordination in the comment section of the donation form.

[www.firstuusandiego.org](http://www.firstuusandiego.org)

**Thank you!**
There are many people who have supported me on the journey that has led to this day. First, thank you to Nancy Fisk for her help in organizing this ordination and for the beautiful flowers visible in the Zoom window with me and Bella. Thank you to Jan Carpenter Tucker for her artistic work and design skills; she created this Order of Service, including the amazing cover image. Thank you to Anna Liza Smith and Ame Stanko, for the technical support that made this online ordination possible.

Thank you to Rev. Kathleen Owens and Rev. Sue Magidson, who heard the first whispers of my call to ministry and who helped me believe, on that very first day, that this day could come.

Thank you to all of the members of the JUUL Tones. I’ve sung with you for more than a decade, and your friendship, laughter, and musicality have helped me through many a difficult time. A special thank you to our director, Andrea Newall-Lockett, for her constant friendship and support.

Thank you to the faculty and students at Starr King School for the Ministry, and to the student cohort group I met with every month for three years: Shannon Eizenga, Rev. Alexa Fraser, and Rev. Jan Hutslar.

Thank you to my friends and former colleagues at CCR, for their patience and understanding as I worked part-time for five years while in seminary. Thank you to the members of First UU Church of San Diego, for encouraging me throughout. And thank you to my many ministerial colleagues and mentors, who have welcomed me into their community.

Thank you to my parents and to my siblings, for providing a solid foundation of acceptance and love. My mother, Norma Howe, died before I had decided to enroll in seminary; I think of her daily, and I expect she would have been amused to see one of her children enter ministry.

Thank you to my children, Cee Emery Howe and Robert Furth, for supporting me in an unexpected career move and for teaching me so much.

And thank you to Isabella Furth, the love of my life and a smart, strong, justice-loving woman, for being with me throughout this long journey. Bella, you took up the slack when I was exhausted, you were a sounding board when I was confused, and you were patient when I was anxious—yet again—about finishing a paper or a sermon on time. I am forever grateful. But don’t think I will ever let you forget that it was your idea that we join a church.
The graphic image was created from several layers, one of which is a photograph Everett took of the glassblower’s kiln at the Spanish Village Art Center, Balboa Park, in San Diego.