

**The Presbytery of the Peaks**



**A Celebration of the Commencement  
of  
Pastoral Ministry**

**with**

**The Rev. Vernie L. Bolden, Jr.**

**&**

**Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church**

On behalf of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of the Peaks and the Committee on Ministry call this congregation to the worship of God. The committee counts it a privilege to lead you in worship and to install the one whom you have called to equip you for ministry. The entire presbytery rejoices with you upon this occasion, and pledges to you its prayers and support as you undertake this ministry together.

A Service of Divine Worship  
in Thanksgiving and for the Commencement  
of a Ministry

**The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.**

and

**Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church  
301 Patton Avenue NW, Roanoke, VA**

June 25, 2017

"Celebrating 125 Years of Our Faith's Harvest"

3:00 p.m.

### **We Assemble in God's Name**

**Praise Music**

Loudon Avenue Christian Church Men's Chorus

**Lighting of Candles**

**Processional**

Frederick A. Bolden, Organist

**Welcome and Statement of Purpose**

Ray Williams, Clerk of Session

**\*Call to Worship -- from Psalm 96: 1, 2; Isaiah 43:18b-21 (NIV)**

The Rev. Ellen Woodworth

**Leader:** O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**People:** *Sing, and give praise to God's name; tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.*

**Leader:** "Do not dwell on the past," says the Lord. "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

**All:** ***God provides water in the desert, and drink for his people - a people he formed for himself, that we might proclaim God's name. Praise the Lord!***

**\*Prayer of Invocation (unison):**

O God, light of the minds that know you, life of the souls that love you, strength of the thoughts that seek you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise:**

"Come and Go with Me to My Father's House"

(insert)

**Call to Confession**

**Leader:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

**Prayer of Confession (unison):** Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. At times we have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, or even our brothers and sisters, as we have loved ourselves; and we have refused to hear the cry of those in need. Forgive us, we pray. In every way that we have not shown love, empower us to love, and free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Silent Prayer**

## We Give Thanks to God

### Offering

**Offertory Prayer:** Almighty God, our Heavenly Father: you have not spared your own Son, but given him for our sake; and with him, have freely given us all things. Receive these offerings which we bring and dedicate to you. Enable us, with all our gifts, to yield ourselves to you, that in body, soul, and spirit we may truly and freely serve you, in in your service find our deepest joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Special Music

Loudon Avenue Men's Chorus

### \*Choral Response

*All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.*

### \*Hymn of Thanksgiving

"Here I Am, Lord"

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## We Go in God's Name

### \*Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Vernie L Bolden, Jr.

### \*Choral Response

### \*We Carry Our Light Into the World

### \*Congregational Response

"What a Mighty God We Serve"

(insert)

### \*Postlude

Frederick A. Bolden, Organist

\*Please stand if you are able



### **Meet our new pastor, The Rev. Vernie L. Bolden, Jr.!**

Mr. Bolden is the third of 4 children born to Rev. Dr. Vernie, Sr. and Mrs. Margie Bolden; born in Springfield, MA, but reared in Rochester, NY and Cleveland, OH. He graduated from the University of NC-Greensboro with a Bachelors' degree in Fine Art, and received the Master of Divinity degree from Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY. He was licensed and ordained to pastoral ministry by the Piedmont District Convention of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Vernie is the father of three children: Avery Elle, Vaughn Lee and Odessa Rose Bolden, and is married to Dr. Angela Lee Bolden. He is currently employed by The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center as the Banquet Manager.

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church welcomes Rev. Vernie L. Bolden, Jr. as its 13th Pastor in the chronology of clergy providing leadership and care to a dynamic congregation, whose collective and individual achievements throughout the 20th century are benchmarks in the history of the renaissance of the Roanoke Valley's African American community. He will be serving a diverse congregation representing multi-cultural heritages, cross-generational experiences, and family legacies that in some cases span up to 5 generations.

As the church celebrates the 125th Anniversary of its founding, it is especially significant that today's celebration is the beginning of a new day, a new ministry and a new journey with Christ. The church moves forward with Rev. Bolden, being appreciative and respectful of our historic past; confident that our new shepherd will establish a contemporary presence within the faith community, and with anticipation of an exciting future together.

Keep us in your prayers. As we look up unto the hills from whence cometh our help, "facing a rising sun of a new day begun", we march on for the common good for all God's children.

*Peace & Blessings!*

NOTE: The 125<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary will culminate in a grand homecoming weekend in late September, 2017. Please look for notifications/announcements concerning all activities planned for this momentous occasion.

*-- Elder Joyce A. Bolden, Chairman of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee*