



St. Thomas United Church
Open Hands – Open Hearts – Open Minds

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Sunday, September 25, 2016, 10:00am

Theme: New Directions

✠ indicates stand as you are able

MV = More Voices

Bold indicates participation by the people

VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz – Over the Hills & Far Away – Jimmy Page & Robert Plant*

WELCOME, SPIRIT LINES, GREETING ONE ANOTHER
(Please feel free to move around)

INTROIT: *This Is the Day (2Times-Projected)*

MV#122

CHRIST CANDLE & SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Leader)*

OPENING PRAYER: *(Unison - Projected)*

Gracious and loving God, you call each one of us by name, inviting us to accept our status as your beloved children, and to join with you in ministry – loving you and loving our neighbour. May our hearts and minds be open to messages of challenge and comfort, as we embrace the goodness of your truth and love. Amen.

✠HYMN: *I Can Feel You Near Me God (Projected)*

MV#48

(Children and Youth are invited to join with their leaders at one of the entrances to the Sanctuary)

Open Minds

SCRIPTURE: *Luke 16:19-31 (NRSV)*

Scripture Reader: Sherrill Knight

Affirmation:

One: This is the witness of The Church,

Many: thanks be to God!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Orchestra – “For Bob” – by Dick Worton,
Lyrics by Sheila Humphries and Dick Worton*

†HYMN: *Come, O Holy Spirit (Projected)*

MV#23

THE MESSAGE: *Lead On*

Open Hands

HYMN: *Soil of God, You and I (Projected)*

MV#174

MINUTE FOR STUC: *The Youth Advisory Committee*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Tithes, Offerings, PAR, & Prayers.

(Please print clearly and place your Prayer Slips in the Prayer Baskets.)

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Orchestra - Austrian Hymn*

– by Franz Joseph Haydn

†OFFERTORY: *What Can I Do? (Projected)*

MV#191

†OFFERTORY PRAYER: *(Unison, Projected)*

O God, as you seek out those who are lost and lonely, find us. As we live in your loving presence, lead us to joy and freedom for ourselves and all of creation. May the good news of your church in action: for justice and reconciliation; for peace and wholeness; for open hearts, minds, and hands inspire others to acts of ministry in our community and around the world. May these offerings be but

**the first step in that bold proclamation of growing in your love.
Amen.**

CALL TO PRAYER: *Where Two or Three Are Gathered (Projected)*

MV#14

PASTORAL PRAYERS & PRAYER OF JESUS

Open Hearts to Each Other and the World

CONCLUSION OF COVENANT WITH REV. DR. BOB –
Concluding Our Covenant

Barb Lough:

When a minister comes into our church,
we covenant with one another;
we promise to walk together as God's People,
deepening our commitment to Jesus Christ
and growing closer to God.

God's covenant with us never changes,
but our covenants with one another do change.
We gather now to mark the release from the covenant
between the Rev. Dr. Bob K. Fillier, St. Thomas United Church,
and Calgary Presbytery.

Symbols of Ministry

Rev. Bob: Friends, you called me into your midst,
to serve with you in the ministry of
Preaching, Administration, and Stewardship.

[Gesture with Bible]

Rev. Bob: The Bible is the symbol of the ministry
of the Word among us.
May God's Word continue to challenge,
nurture, and inspire you.

**All: We will continue to place scripture at the centre of our life.
The Word of God lives among us.
Thanks be to God.**

[Gesture with Pitcher of Water]

Rev. Bob: The font is the symbol of our baptism,
the place of our birth into the Body of Christ.

May you continue to welcome new members through the Living Waters of our faith.

All: We will continue to celebrate new life in baptism; the font of blessing welcomes all. Thanks be to God.

[Gesture with Loaf and Cup]

Rev. Bob: The table is the symbol of our communion in Christ, the source of nourishment and strength. May you continue to share the bread and cup, remembering the One who is the Bread of Life and the True Vine.

All: We will continue to break the bread and share the cup; the table invites us to taste and see that God is good. Thanks be to God.

[Gesture with Towel and Basin]

Rev. Bob: The towel and basin are the symbols of our calling to justice and service, according to the example of Jesus, who washed the feet of his friends. May you continue to walk the way of the cross of Christ.

All: We will continue to serve others and to work for justice, following in the way of Jesus, Friend and Servant of all. Thanks be to God.

[Gesture with Keys]

Rev. Bob: These keys are a symbol of our daily duties and the work of administration; and of this building, a witness to Christ's presence in this community. May your light continue to shine in this place.

All: We will continue to build, to dream, and to grow, discerning the will of God for us in our time and place. Thanks be to God.

Recognizing the Release from the Covenanted Ministry

Jeff McLean: On July 1, 2012, St. Thomas United Church called Rev. Bob to serve as the lead minister for preaching, administration, and stewardship among us.

Rev. Bob: St. Thomas United Church I thank you for your

love, kindness, and support during these years. I am grateful for the struggles, the surprises, and for the opportunities we have shared and I ask you for your forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

Congregation: We receive your thankfulness and offer our forgiveness. We ask you to forgive us for our mistakes. We are grateful for your guidance and your gifts.

Barb Lough: [to congregation: Please stand as you are able.] Do you, St. Thomas United Church release Rev. Bob from the duties of the ministry in this place?

All: We do, with God's help.

Barb Lough: Will you respect the new relationship that now begins and offer your encouragement and prayers for his continued ministry elsewhere?

All: We will, with God's help.

Barb Lough: Do you, Rev. Bob, release St. Thomas United Church from their dependence upon you as lead minister for preaching, administration, and stewardship?

Rev. Bob: I do, with God's help.

Barb Lough: Will you respect the new relationship that now begins and offer your encouragement and prayers for their continued ministry here?

Rev. Bob: I will, with God's help.

Jeff McLean: [to Presbytery: Please stand as you are able] Do you, Calgary Presbytery, release Rev. Bob from your ministry partnership?

Presbytery: We do, with God's help.

Jeff McLean: [to Rev. Tracy: Please stand.] Do you, Rev. Tracy, release Rev. Bob from the ministry that you have shared in together and the covenant you made?

Rev. Tracy: I do, with God's help.

Jeff McLean: [to Staff Members: Please stand as you are able]
Do you, those in staff roles here with St. Thomas, release Rev. Bob from the ministry of this place?

Staff: We do, with God's help.

Jeff McLean: Do you, Rev. Bob, release Calgary Presbytery and the remaining pastoral team and staff from your ministry partnership?

Rev. Bob: I do, with God's help.

Prayer

Barb Lough: Creator God, Holy One,
Great Spirit of Mystery and Love, God of Covenant,
we give thanks for remembered times
when we together have shared the life of faith.

Rev. Tracy: We thank you for the moments we have shared with Rev. Bob in worship, in learning, in play, in laughter, in tears, in prayer, and in service. We pray that Rev. Bob will be aware of your guidance, as he moves to a new ministry.

Rev. Bob: We pray that your Spirit continues to influence St. Thomas United Church, and Calgary Presbytery in their ministry. Be with us in our time of celebration. Bless the insights we have received by your grace during this mutual covenant, now ending.

Jeff McLean: We pray for wisdom, healing, and abundant new life. May we move forward confidently with renewed energy and vision; in Christ we pray. Amen.

Blessing

[Presider, Chair, Rev. Tracy, and remaining staff, form a circle around Rev. Bob for the laying on of hands]

Barb Lough: Rev. Bob, go now, surrounded by our love, led by the promises of the living God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Spirit of Life. Amen.

‡COMMISSIONING and BENECTION: (*Leader*)

‡HYMN: *Wherever You May Go (Projected)*

MV#216

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Bob Fillier, Rev. Tracy Robertson, Kari Orosz, The Orchestra, Sheila Humphrey, Greg Hyatt, John McCrea, Jan & Keith Campbell, YAC, Kirsten Carr, Brittney Whittaker, Tess & Harold Ashley, Sherrill Knight, Mark Wagner, The Kim-Fine Family, Maxine Mendritzki, Cathy Rivard.