

Calgary Presbytery & St Thomas United Church
Covenanting Service for Justin McNeill, Ordained Minister
In team ministry with Tracy Robertson, Diaconal Minister & Sandra Dusoswa, Office Manager
Sunday, October 15, 2017

Welcome to STUC – Linda Miller (Chair of Executive Council)

Hymn MV#2 - Come All You People (3x)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Gathering Prayer: (Rev. Jope Langejans)

Holy God, we gather to mark this moment in the life of St. Thomas United Church. We give thanks for the moments that have led to this one, the joyful and the painful alike, as each of these moments was and is a step towards the next. We give you thanks that in each step you were there, guiding, loving, calling, and hoping, O God, and we ask for your presence in this next step. Be with each of us along the journey of our lives of faith, that through them we would know you more deeply and follow you more fully. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Scripture Reading: (Rev. Jope Langejans)

Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Genesis 12:1-3

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Ministry of Music: Erin MacLean-Berko & Dmetri Berko - "The Prayer" (Written by David Foster)

Message: Rev. Bill Weaver

Service of Covenanting:

(Chair of Presbytery)

The one we call Christ became a servant of all. By our baptism we affirm our call to a ministry of worship, witness, and reconciliation. As we gather to celebrate the ministries to which we are all called, and dedicate ourselves to the service of Christ, the Church, and the world, we affirm that:

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God, who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church;
to celebrate God's presence,**

**to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

(Justin) Through the process of discernment and preparation for ministry, I acknowledged and affirmed my call to Ordained Ministry. Each type of ministry is equal, yet requires different gifts, learnings, and abilities. Each person is different; yet together as the body of Christ we are called to work together to build a world in the image of God. As part of my response to the call of ministry with St. Thomas United Church and Calgary Presbytery I offer these gifts:

Cup & Patten: a symbol of my gifts offered to remind us of our re-remembering in sacrament.
Bible: a symbol of the centrality of how the sacred story informs our Christian potential.
Prayer Shawl: a symbol of caring for the pastoral needs of this community.

(Tracy) Yet, even as Christ is the cornerstone, he did not minister alone. So too we are not called to lead without others or minister in isolation. You are not alone in this community or in this presbytery. Together with the gifts you offer, I offer these gifts:

Bowl & Pitcher: a symbol of my gifts offered in the service of social justice in the world.
Curriculum: a symbol of my gifts offered so that we might live out our full Christian potential.
Prayer Shawl: a symbol of caring for the pastoral needs of this community.

(Sandra) Ministry is not just for those ordained or commissioned; it is the work of who we are as a people of faith, working in community as a community. To each of your gifts I offer these gifts:

Agenda/Calendar: a symbol of my gifts of organization to keep order and bring calm to chaos.
Notebook: a symbol of my gifts of administration to develop and maintain the inner workings of this community of faith.
Prayer Shawl: a symbol of caring for the pastoral needs of this community.

Together we affirm the unique gifts offered by each of us to this community of faith. We acknowledge our equal, yet distinct roles, and our commitment to ministry within The United Church of Canada.

(Barb Lough, Secretary of Calgary Presbytery)

On behalf of Calgary Presbytery, I present Justin McNeill and Tracy Robertson, who have been called to a ministry of Word, Sacrament, Education, and Pastoral Care. We believe they are qualified and have been prayerfully and lawfully selected.

To Justin and Tracy

You are responding to a call within Calgary Presbytery. You have accepted as your vocation the service of God through the service of people, that they might become firm in faith, confident in hope, and

creative in love. Together you are called to be a part of the community of faith within St. Thomas United Church, and within the wider Church.

Q: On behalf of Calgary Presbytery, Alberta & Northwest Conference, and The United Church of Canada, I ask you: Do you commit yourself to this trust and this responsibility?

A: I do, God being my helper.

Q: Will you accept the discipline of Calgary Presbytery, and together with its other members, be responsible for the oversight of the church's life?

A: I will, God being my helper.

Q: Will you accept the support and encouragement of St. Thomas United Church and this Presbytery?

A: I will, God being my helper.

Promises of the Team Ministry

Justin McNeill, Tracy Robertson, and Sandra Dusoswa, as a team in ministry here at St. Thomas United Church, you have been called by Calgary Presbytery and by St. Thomas United Church. In the words of our creed, "We are not alone".

Q: Believing in the grace implied by these simple words, will you support one another, pray for one another, uphold one another, encourage one another, and minister together in your congregation and in the wider church?

A: We will, God being our helper.

Q: Will you call upon the Holy Spirit to embolden and energize your work together?

A: We will, God being our helper.

Q: Will you remember the call and example of the Servant Leader, Jesus the Christ?

A: We will, God being our helper.

Q: Will you accept the support, love, and encouragement of St. Thomas United Church congregation as you live out your ministry within the community of faith?

A: We will, God being our helper.

Promises of St. Thomas United Church Congregation

Would those present from St. Thomas United Church please stand as you are able.

To all gathered here today, you have called Sandra, Tracy, and Justin to serve in various capacities. They will need your support, love, and encouragement. You will worship together, study together, teach together, and minister together.

God invites us into communities of faith where we can work and pray together with openness and integrity, where we can experience grace and forgiveness, where gifts are able to be offered and received, and where in spite of differences, we gather around the table Christ sets in our midst. On behalf of Calgary Presbytery, Alberta & Northwest Conference, and The United Church of Canada, I ask you:

Q: Will you respond with them to God's call in a ministry of worship, study, prayer, and action within the Church and in the world?

A: We will, God being our helper. (Please be seated).

Promises of Calgary Presbytery

Members of Calgary Presbytery, please stand as you are able.

Q: Will you, as members of Calgary Presbytery, join with these ministers and this congregation, in a ministry that is both theirs and ours?

A: We will, God being our helper.

Q: Will you exercise oversight for their work and witness, and support and encourage them in this ministry?

A: We will, God being our helper.

Ministry of Music: St. Thomas Adult Choir - "Make This Church a Welcome Place" (Raney/Williams)

Pastoral Prayers:

Hymn: MV#161 - I Have Called You by Your Name

Laying on of Hands:

At this time, we would ask representatives from the congregation, and family members, to come forward and surround these ministers being covenanted with your physical and spiritual presence.

Family members and congregation reps, please place a hand gently on the shoulder, back, or head of these ministers being covenanted. Let us pray:

Good and gracious God, in every age you have chosen servants to speak your word and serve your people. We thank you for these ministers whom You have called to serve each other and this community. Give them the gifts and the passion to do their work in Your name. Fill them with the Holy Spirit so they may be strengthened and worthy of their call, and a faithful disciple of Jesus.

All: **Amen!**

Declaration:

On behalf of Calgary Presbytery, Alberta & Northwest Conference, and The United Church of Canada, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, we recognize and affirm Justin, Tracy, and Sandra in their ministry and this team. Thanks be to God.

All: **Amen!**

Benediction:

The love of God, the revolutionary witness of Jesus, and the sustaining grace of the Spirit be with you.

And also with you. Amen.

Parting Hymn: MV#8 - And on This Path

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Please stay and enjoy a light reception.