

WORSHIP RESOURCES MARITIME CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING 2011

THURSDAY EVENING

A Call To Worship From Now On:

In those days...the Israelites were fruitful and prolific;

They multiplied and grew exceedingly strong,

So that the land was filled with them

Not so long ago, we remember the sons and daughters of God's people: Geroge Pigeon, Lydia Gruchy, Robert McClure and Lois Wilson [suggest a few others names?]. The voices that call from our past, the echo of faith sure and strong and true.

In those days, the people went out into this land called Canada, with the fire of the Spirit in their hearts and the grace of God in their actions.

That all may be one, God's Spirit called them In Christ Jesus –

and they gathered in a cathedral of ice and stone,

And so it was done: bold, brash, and brave, a people and a church was born.

Spires rose to touch the windswept skies of the prairies, to brush the Rockies of the west,

and dance along the shores of ocean coastline of the east.

From four directions, a call would rise in the land and its voice would be carried even along the warm currents of Bermuda:

We are not alone, we live in God's world – we believe in God!

In those days, the people of the United church were fruitful and prolific, They multiplied and grew exceedingly strong,

So that the land was filled with them. R

From now on,

Love's the gospel that still guides us

From now on,

Trust with faith the truth will find us

From now on

The bright light of hope shows God still knows the way

So How can we go wrong? From now on.

But in these days, We find ourselves asking,

Where have all the people gone?

Some are found in fear, behind closed and closing doors,

Some are found anywhere but the uncomfortable pew,

Some are found beside us, the conviction of the Risen One ready to let loose again,

But many say, “The harvest seems thin, and the nets are pulled up empty –“

And the voice cries over the currents of our past:

[Can be another voice beside the “one/leader” or split for reader response]

[Second Voice] ‘My food is to do the will of God who sent me and to complete the Gospel. I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’

But many say, “The land that was overflowing with promise, is drowned in cynicism and apathy...”

Well someone once said Roses don’t grow easily here – we reap that which God has sown.

In these days, the people of the United Church are still fruitful and prolific,

Numbers are not the only measure of our strength,

and growth is measured in the breadth of the Kingdom’s heart, not in worldly wealth.

In these days, we remember the Word of Christ to us all: R

From now on,

Love’s the gospel that still guides us

From now on,

Trust with faith the truth will find us

From now on

The bright light of hope shows God still knows the way

So How can we go wrong? From now on.

In these days to come,

Much seems adrift,

Our course seems unsure,

Can doubtful feet stumble into a certain future?

But just remember: the Rock on which we stand, Is older than 1925

It was born when the Spirit brooded over the waters and a light shone in the darkness...

It was born on a green hill far away,

In an empty tomb carved from the rock

An empty tomb. A Risen Christ. A Living Spirit! A Loving God!

With fire in our hearts, and the Spirit's call in our actions, in these days to come, United we stand to declare that gospel truth from age to endless age: R

From now on,

Love's the gospel that still guides us

From now on,

Trust with faith the truth will find us

From now on

The bright light of hope shows God still knows the way

So How can we go wrong? From now on.

Prayer of Opening - Valerie Kennedy

Loving and Creating God,

Whose breath gives life to the world and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze, we come this night needing your strength and your wisdom. Open us to your Spirit - open our ears to hear the words of compassion and challenge, open our hearts to your unconditional love and open our eyes to see your transforming power in us and in the world. Be with us in this time where we will both celebrate and lament the past. We are here to worship, praise and feast. In the name of Jesus. Amen

Hymn #651 VU Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Intro to Quilt Val

Hymn #623 VU Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design as quilt squares are brought forward, laid on table/stage

Act of Remembrance

This race that is set before us, we run it with perseverance only because we are surrounded by that great cloud of witnesses.

The power that gives us is something like the amazing synergy of a flock of Canada Geese flying in V formation. As the one in the lead tires, she falls back, and another moves up to take the lead. And together, they make the most amazing journeys.

And so we take a few moments, at the beginning of our meetings each year, to give thanks for the lives of those ministers who have flown at the head of the V, whose ministries have given us strength for our journey.

Though they are gone, we still fly in their wake.

[Project pictures of ministers who have died in the last year, and as each one is on screen, someone at an unseen mike will read a short statement about something in their life]

Rev. Bill Pope

Besides his ministry in the church, Bill was one of the founding members of the Windsor Elms, and saw it grow to a 120 bed nursing home. He also supported maritime writers through his home-based publishing company, and won the Richardson Award himself in 1992, for his writing about the loss of his son to cancer.

Rev. Tom Bellis

It must have been his Welsh ingenuity, and divine providence, that Tom and a dorm-mate survived the Mount Allison residence fire of 1941, by tying bedsheets together and lowering themselves to safety.

And just ask the folks from Margaree, about his story-telling, his passion for the beauty in the woodgrain, or his deepest passion, for his beloved Ann.

Rev. Don Fairweather

Don came from nursing into ministry, in Manitoba, Ontario, and the Maritimes. He had a love of all God's creatures, especially his three beloved dogs, Lincoln, Chaleur, and Ringo, and his parrot, Jagoe. He felt as much at home by the Bay of Chaleur as he did at his cottage in Ontario, as long as he was by the water, Don was at peace.

Rev. Sid Snow

Sid gave 60 years of ministry, in his native Newfoundland, as well as in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He was an armed forces padre and legion chaplain, and Sid also served as mayor of Douglastown, NB

Sid loved being out and about. Like Jesus, he did not wait for people to come to him. If he found people in need he would reach out and help them regardless of who they were.

Rev. Reg Miller

Reg was also from Wales, and served alongside His Royal Highness Prince Phillip on the HMS Valliant, during World War II.

He may have won Fredericton's 'Unsung Hero' award, but his voice always rang clear at the Remembrance Day ceremonies as he spoke from the podium.

Wayne York

Wayne Yorke put DLM's on the map. He brought to his ministry a passion for teaching, a "can do" attitude, and an intuitive skill around difficult situations.

He wore many hats, but one large pair of shoes, which will be hard to fill.

Then a collage of all of them will go on screen, as a lament is played.

(leave collage on screen until after the prayer then go to words of Lord's Prayer)

Let us pray.

I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Blessed indeed, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them" (Rev 14,13)

O God of Life, and Death, and Life,

we give you thanks this night, for all those who have gone before us, whose lives have been lived in service to you, and who now have found wholeness and completion in your embrace.

As we remember these ministers we have lost in the last year, we pray for their families, their ministries, and all those who loved them. Thank you for their witness, their commitment, and their faith.

"We do not know what a day may bring, but only that the hour for serving is always present"

(from ServiceBook)

And so, O God, in honour of Bill, and Tom, Donald and Sid, Reg and Wayne, we offer ourselves in service to you in our time and place. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together, so let us sing:

Our Father...

Scripture: Exodus 1:1-7

Meditation - A Story by Ted Harrison, president of Manitou Conference, retold with his permission, by Matt Fillier

“Letting Go of Old Ways” Reflection

May the words of our mouths, and the living of our faith, and the songs that give us meaning, be pleasing to you, God...

I'd like to share with you: A few months ago, I returned to the church where I grew up—not far from here in Scarborough. I was invited to preach at their 50th anniversary service—and after much prayer, I knew that what I had to do for them was to suggest somehow that it would be okay for them to close the church. It was a bittersweet responsibility, to be the native son, returning to say, it's okay to let go. At children's time, there were five kids. Four of them were my family. “Is this temple not in your sight as nothing, now?” -- I was able to share with those children (my daughters, my niece and nephew) this story:

Many of the people there knew that as a teenager in the eighties, I was the caretaker there at that little suburban United Church. One springtime, I came across a couple cardboard boxes full of sad-looking old church books in the choir room: some dilapidated Bibles, several of the blue hymn books, and a handful of green service books. Their day was done.

The more serviceable Bibles and hymnbooks had already been sent to foreign missions (*I met some of them years later in Trinidad, which is a different story*). I spoke to a couple church elders, who were reticent about throwing out these holy books. They weren't ready. As it turns out, I was.

Blue boxes weren't introduced until several years later. So I brought the two boxes to a roadside recycling centre (on Midland, near Ellesmere), where a kindly man in coveralls explained to me that they couldn't recycle the books. Why not? “Well,” he explained with a strained face, “there are Bibles in there!” I showed him the sorry state of the topmost Bible. He interrupted, “—but, son, you have to *tear off the covers to recycle the paper!*”

[NOD] I stood tall, determined, and held that Bible in front of me, ready to tear. --I felt like I was about to perform cardiac surgery without the benefit of anaesthesia. Before I tore, I said one word. I said, “Sorry.” I pulled the cover off, and dropped it to the ground. Then I placed the chunk of frayed scripture on the ground and said two other words: “Thank you.” And I picked up the next book, and with the tearing and the placing, I uttered the same words, “Sorry... Thank You... Sorry... Thank You...”

On the third or fourth book, the man in the coveralls asked me: “Are you going to say that with every book?” And I said, “Yes. Yes, I guess I am.” He replied, “Well, I better get a chair.” He came back with a lawn chair. He sat down. And to my surprise, he picked up a book. Before he pulled off the cover, he said “Sorry.” And as he placed the cover and the chunk of pages, he said, “Thank you.” There were no other words. The two of us took turns at that task until all those words were done.

Those words --words of honouring, words of otherwise unspoken grief, words of loving respect—they come back to me as I consider what it means to *let go of old ways of being church*.

Sorry/Thank you Prayer

Voice 1: Our lives are a tangled web of 'sorry' and 'thank-you', inextricably bound by the messiness of this embodied human whole, that God so strangely creates, and redeems.

Voice 2: As we awaken both the lament and the gratitude, we are invited to respond in song, alternating between the line: **"I recognize the sorry things within; these I lay down."** and **"Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices"**

Voice 1: let us pray.

Voice 2: God of history, both written, and unwritten,
where Truth is hard to come by, and even harder to recognize,
sift through our memories, and help us find our place in what is yet to come...

For all the ways in which the good old golden days were neither good, nor golden,
when our religion has excluded, oppressed, condemned,
and for all the ways we perpetuate these abusive traditions, either actively, or passively ...

All Sing: "I recognize the sorry things within; these I lay down."

Voice 1: For all those who have gone before us,
who have followed the Way of Jesus with courage and resilience,
who have forged new paths of justice and respect,
for all those who have followed the Way of Jesus with humility and honesty,
taking responsibility for harm done, and calling us to change ...

All Sing: "Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices"

Voice 2: For the rise of selfish individualism that erodes human solidarity;
The concentration of wealth and power without regard for the needs of all;
For the delusion of unchecked progress and limitless growth,"
(from A Song of Faith)

All Sing: "I recognize the sorry things within; these I lay down."

Voice 1: For moments of unexpected inspiration and courage lived out,
experiences of beauty, truth, and goodness,
blessings of seeds and harvest,
friendship and family, intellect and sexuality,
the reconciliation of persons through justice
and communities living in righteousness,
and the articulation of meaning.
(From a Song of Faith)

All Sing: "Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices"

Voice 2: For taking for granted the food on our tables, the air in our lungs, the earth beneath our feet,

For not paying attention to the fragile health of this planet, and our place in the web of life,

All Sing: "I recognize the sorry things within; these I lay down."

Voice 1: For farmers, and fishers, and all partners of your creation who bring forth its richness and abundance;

for prophets, who take the time to listen to the earth, to learn its danger, who speak with clear voice;

for encouragers, who find in us the wherewithal to care, to make a difference...

All Sing: "Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices"

Voice 2: For giving up too quickly, for talking ourselves into believing that 'good enough' is good enough, when really we know better, when really we can do better,

For not seeing the good within; within ourselves, within each other

for not going towards our fear, for hiding behind our tiredness and our habits...

All Sing: "I recognize the sorry things within; these I lay down."

Voice 1: For the people in our congregations, for the people in our communities,

for all the ways they embody You,

for all the ways they show up, with food, with money, with ideas, with energy, with passion...

All Sing: "Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices"

Liturgy for Service of Communion , Thursday evening May 26, 2011
(Communion by Intinction)

Invitation to the Feast:

Celebrant 1: It seems that He loved to gather over a meal. Rumour had it he was a glutton and a drunkard. Well, He would sit with anyone, anywhere: in the home of friends, in the company of strangers, on a hillside with loaves and fishes. He sat with saints and sinners, with the last and the least, and thanks be to God.

Celebrant 2: And now at this Table, Jesus is host. He asks us for no credentials, only this:
Are you hungry? Hungry for a better world? Hungry for a deeper faith?
Do you thirst for justice? For community? Then come. Come and be fed.
For the One who always joins us at our tables, now invites us to be guests at His.

Communion Hymn: #472 VU Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

Statement of Faith:

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Celebrant 1: The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant 2: God of history, God of our hearts,
as you were among the sons and daughters of Israel,
so too, be with your sons and daughters gathered here tonight.

Celebrant 1: For we come as generations before have come, O God,
to give thanks and praise to you who tossed the stars into the sky,
who created life from dust and dared to call it good;
who brings us - even still - manna in the morning, and fire by night.

Celebrant 2: In Jesus of Nazareth you made yourself known to us:
known in the flesh and in the blood,
known in the tears and laughter,
in the blessing and sharing;

Celebrant 1: Jesus upset tables, and expectations, and the well to do.
And in so doing he calls us to do the same:
to walk in the way of love,
to work for justice and resist evil,
to turn to you, O God, and to one another.

Celebrant 2: Even death could not hold him. And now, as did the women at the empty
tomb, we raise the cry of gladness, joining our voices with the saints of all
times, and all places, saying:

ALL: **Holy, holy, holy God,
power of life and love!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Celebrant 1: Remembering Jesus' death and celebrating his resurrection, we await with
hope the in-breaking of his Spirit. And so together we proclaim the
mystery of our faith:

ALL: **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant 2: Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon these good gifts of the earth:
 the grain of the field,
 the fruit of the vine,
 crushed, broken, and blessed.
 May we who share in this meal, become the Body of Christ for the world.

(Institution Narrative - Remembering Jesus at Table)
 (Fraction during this time)

Celebrant 1: And so it was at evening time, that Jesus gathered at table with his friends.
 And he took bread, and he blessed it and broke it,
 and he gave it to them, saying:
 ‘Take. Eat.
 This is my body, given for you.
 This do in remembrance of me.’

Celebrant 2: And in the same way after supper he took the cup, saying:
 “This is the new covenant in my blood,
 poured out for the forgiveness of sins.
 As often as you do this, do this in remembrance of me.”

Celebrant 1: The Bread of Heaven,

Celebrant 2: The Cup of Life,

Celebrant 1: The Gifts of God, for the People of God.

-----*We share the Feast*-----

(we invite you to come forward to receive by intinction- there are servers available for those who wish)

Prayer After Communion:

Celebrant 2: As you put your life into our hands, O Christ,
 now we put our lives in yours. Take us and renew us.

ALL: **What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us.**

Lead us on then, Holy One.

ALL: **Lead us on. Amen.**

Theme Song: *From Now On*, verse 1 and refrain

(Note: prayer after communion was adapted from *A Wee Worship Book*, WGWP)

Friday morning worship

Call to Worship and Lighting the Christ Candle

One: The lord be with you

All: And also with You!

(light Christ Candle)

One: This is the place
and this is the time:

All: Here and now God waits

To break into our experience:

One: To change our minds,

All: To change our lives,

One: To change our ways;

All: To make us see the world

And the whole of life

in a new light;

One: To fill us now with hope, joy, and certainty for the future.

All: This is the place,

as are all places;

One: This is the time,

as are all times.

All: O God of this place,

and every place,

God of this time,

and all time,

here and now,

we praise you. {Allan Gaunt}

From Now On (Refrain)

From now on, love's the Gospel that still guides us.

From now on, trust with faith, the truth will find us.

From now on, the bright light of hope

shows God still knows the way,

so how can we go wrong, from now on?

Prayer of Opening -

God of all moments, once upon a time moments, and of the moments of the present - Be with us as we explore who we are today as the church - your church in the Now! We are aware that these questions have been asked before - and in similar circumstances. Help us not to be complacent or cynical - give to us the freedom to examine who we are in safety and with honesty. Help us to draw the circle wide and to continue to dream dreams of your kingdom here on earth. Amen

Exodus 16:1a-3, 9-18, 35

Hymn More Voices #8 And on this path

Quilt Squares -quilt squares will come forward during the hymn

Table Groups, a few minutes to answer the question

'What is Good about your wilderness?

'What is there to celebrate or lament about your church today?

Where is your manna? How are you being fed?

. Questions go on one slide up on screen for the table time.

FROM NOW ON

Words & music: Emma Lee Stewart © 2011

We built our faith on a rock, a foundation strong—
an anchor firm, grounded safe in the Saviour's love;
and in the garden we hear quiet words and the world becomes calm,
an Easter people of love, full of faith as we greet the new dawn.

Refrain: *From now on, love's the Gospel that still guides us.
From now on, trust with faith, the truth will find us.
From now on, the bright light of hope
shows God still knows the way,
so how can we go wrong, from now on?*

We find ourselves as we're sailing against the wind,
For in our struggles we're found and transformed once again.
And though we're tossed and we're turned,
fix our gaze on the rising sun,
An Easter people of faith,
filled with love as we greet the new dawn.

Refrain: *From now on, love's the Gospel that still guides us.
From now on, trust with faith, the truth will find us.
From now on, the bright light of hope
shows God still knows the way,
so how can we go wrong, from now on?*

BENEDICTION (Adapted from: Old maps no longer work – Joyce Rupp OSM)

I keep pulling it out -
 the old map of my inner path.
 I squint closely at it,
 trying to see some hidden road
 that maybe I've missed.
 But there's nothing there now,
 except some well-travelled paths.
 They have seen my footsteps often,
 held my laughter, caught my tears.
 I keep going over the old map.
 But now the roads wander through a wilderness.....

Toss away the old map.

You must be kidding!

Toss it away. It's of no use where you're going.

I have to have a map!
 Even if it takes me nowhere,
 I can't be without direction!

But you are without direction, so why not let go, and be free?

So here I am – tossing away the old map,
 sadly, fearfully, putting it behind me.
 What will I do?

Trust me.

no map, no specific directions,
 no "this way ahead" or "take a left".
 How will I know where to go?
 How will I find my way? No map?!!

*There was a time before maps
 when pilgrims travelled by the stars.*

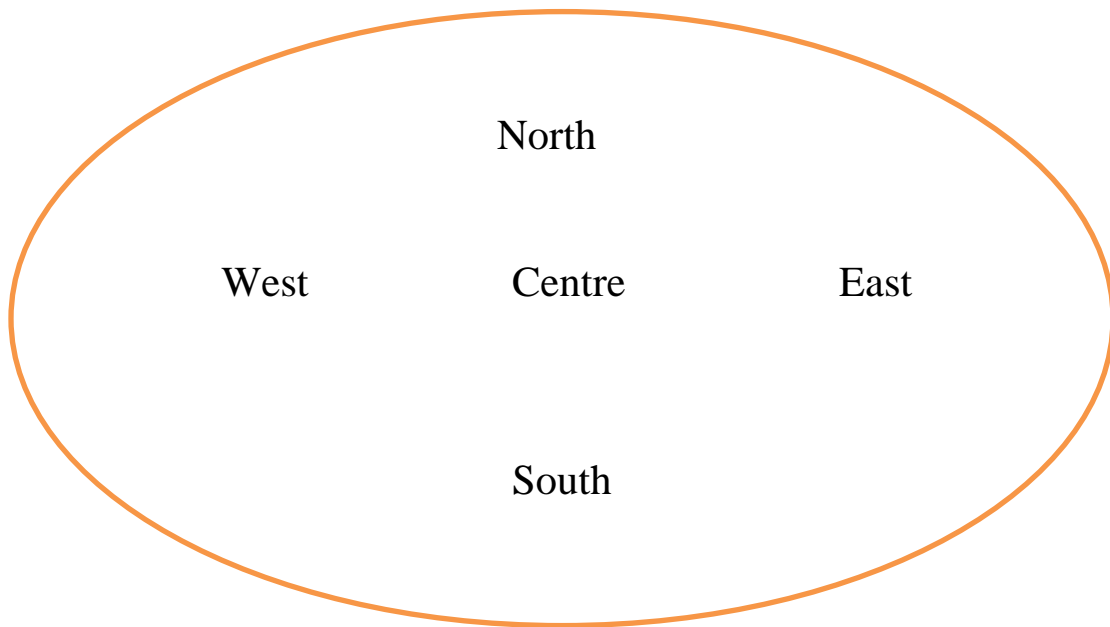
It is time for the pilgrim in me
 to travel in the dark,
 I will walk deeper
 into the dark of my night.
 I will wait for the stars,
 trust their guidance,
 and let their light be enough for me.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP

WHAT DO YOU SEE ?

(Taken from Numbers 13, and from the present day)
Five readers, standing in the centre of the circle as below,
(North is facing the stage)

North, East, South, West will face outward. Centre may slowly turn, if we have a portable mic for them



North: I am Igal, son of Joseph, from the tribe of Issachar .
I was chosen to go on the reconnaissance mission into Canaan,
and bring back intel to Moses, so he can decide where our future lies.

East: I am Joshua, son of Nun, from the tribe of Ephraim.

I am on the recon team too.

West: me too... I am Shammua, no, not Shamu the orca whale,
ShammUa, son of Zaccur, from the tribe of Reuben

South: Spies, is what we are... oh... sorry ... my name is Caleb,
son of Jephunneh, from the tribe of Judah.

Centre: I am Moses, and they are looking to me for direction.
Do we go forward into the unknown, or back to try to survive in the
wilderness? Tell me, What do you see?

East: We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk
and honey! Here is its fruit!

North: But the people who live there are very powerful, and the cities are
fortified and very large!

West: The land we explored devours those living in it! We saw the
Nephilim there! We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we
looked the same to them ...

Centre: It took us 40 years to get this far, I sure don't want to do anything
stupid now, and get us wiped off the face of the earth. But we can't stay
where we are ... what to do? What to do? God, if we try to go forward, are
you just setting us up for defeat?

South: We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can
certainly do it!

North and West grumble under their breath:

North: Oh Caleb, you're so naïve...

West: It's not going to work...

Centre: Well, I did tell you to be bold! We didn't come this far to quit
now. Joshua and Caleb, lead on!

Invite all to sing MV#104 Mungu once in African, once in English?

Centre: We are Maritime Conference, the United Church of Canada, 2011

East: East Seaside Pastoral Charge

West: First Metro High Street

North: Upper Greenvale Union Church

South: Koinonia House Church

Centre: It took us 86 years to get this far, I sure don't want to do anything stupid now, and get us wiped off the face of the earth. But we can't stay where we are ... what to do? What to do? God, if we try to go forward, are you just setting us up for defeat? What do you see?

East: opportunity

West: fizzling out

North: already finished, and just don't know it yet

South: new beginnings

Centre: Say more...

East: I see congregations planning to build affordable housing for seniors, and going into our schools to support gay/straight alliances amongst students and staff, and...

West: ... and fewer and fewer people in the pews to do more and more jobs

North: ... we are irrelevant in people's eyes, and seem like that to ourselves

South: But that frees us from what doesn't work anymore, to follow Jesus back out into our community, out into the rest of creation

Centre: And the good old days aren't an option anyway, anymore than going back to Egypt was. There is something out there in the unknown, we just have to rise up out of our hiding places and try something.

East: I see vote mobs, awakening new commitment and deep caring

West: I see bullies, in church and government and school playgrounds and boardrooms, silencing the voices of compassion and justice and integrity

North: I see nuclear run-off in the ocean, and melting polar icecap, and acid rain and oil spills, and I think it won't matter anyway, cuz we're not going to be here much longer anyway

South: I see something that I can do, and I will do it
 Centre: What do you see?

Sing Mungu as quilts are brought into the circle and move slowly around circle, holding them up so all the congregation can see them continue circling as music ends

Centre: These are what our reconnaissance teams have seen, and brought back for us... What do you see, when you look into our future?

East: I see ... [something positive from one of the quilt pieces, a success story]

West: I see ... [something troubling from one of the quilt pieces, a challenge, difficulty]

North: I see ... [a dying, closing, nothingness, despair (don't know if there will be a quilt piece for that? (I think one of my churches is doing Job's Tears pattern, but that will already be up on the wall, cuz it is for the past)]

South: I see ... [something that makes you smile,]

Centre: I see the creativity and commitment and gift that has created this kaleidoscope of glimpses into our past, and present, and future, I see the Creator weaving (velcroing) us together,

North: the good and the bad,

West: seam to seam,

East: colour by colour,

South: thread by thread ...

Centre: and the picture is far from finished

We have quilting to do yet, folks ...

We don't know what the future will look like,

But what we do know is ...

Start singing, Mungu

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Pre-service singing

Introit *: “From Now On”

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Refrain: **From now on, love’s the Gospel that still guides us.**
 From now on, trust with faith, the truth will find us.
 From now on, the bright light of hope
 shows God still knows the way,
 so how can we go wrong, from now on?

Call to Worship and Lighting of Christ Candle *:

People of God, Listen up! There is Good News stirring!

**We have come up from the land. What word do you
 have for us?**

People of God, open your eyes. There is Good News rising!

**Rising in the streets; rising in those who have seen the Risen One;
 rising in the voices of those who proclaim: “Yes Lord, I will Go!”**

People of God, open your ears. There is Good News rushing!

**Rushing up to meet us; taking hearts by storm; overturning the tables
 of possibility; bursting from the tombs that close our hearts!**

People of God, open your hearts. There is Good News
 blazing!

**Blazing in the darkness; a holy fire that shall not be overcome; a light
 gleaming God’s hope for a people,
 a church, all the world!**

The flame that burns in the darkness is here.

(Lighting of the Christ Candle)

Do you see it? Do you hear it? Now believe it:

People of God – The Word has come:

All the world lies open – Pentecost is now!

Processional Hymn *: *MORE VOICES 23* “Come, O Holy Spirit”

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Prayer of Opening

Let all God’s people pray:

Come, Holy Spirit,

Give us a new breath of freedom, a new heart of fire, a new
 strength of purpose, to see the story of God, in the people of
 God – in our past, in our present and in our future.

Come Holy Spirit,

Show us the patterns of your presence in the places of our lives
 where we work and serve, as much as
 where we worship and pray.

Come Holy Spirit,

Make us a sign of God in our world where hope is frail and
 daily life is a struggle to survive.

Come, Holy Spirit, as we worship you. Amen

Adapted from Yvonne Morland

Holy Scripture: Joshua 4:16-24

Sermon: Moderator, Mardi Tindal

Reflective Silence

Hymn *: VOICES UNITED 563

“Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

Words: Cesáreo Gabaráin 1979, trans. Gertrude C. Suppe, George Lockwood, © 1979 Cesáreo Gabaráin, administered by Oregon Catholic Press, Translation © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under Licensingonline.org 605470.

Affirmation of our Faith *: VOICES UNITED 918 “A New Creed”

**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.

The Executive Secretary: Statement of Ministry

The 86th annual meeting of the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada received the report of the Education and Students Committee in which candidates for ordination to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada were recommended. The annual meeting affirmed these recommendations.

This Conference has examined these people and believes they are called and equipped to serve as ministry personnel within The United Church of Canada.

In what we are about to do, the church, recognizing God's call to these ministries, prays that those who are called will continue to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as the Church authorizes and recognizes their particular and diverse ministries.

President, I present to you the following Candidates for Ordination into the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada.

(Candidates for the Order of Ministry)

Sarah Rose Chapman

Alison Louise Etter

Bonnie Ann Fraser

Lena Medeiros

Lori Beth Sheffield-Bowles

Mary Josephine White

President: You have heard your names called. Do you believe you have been called and are ready to answer the call to the Order of Ministry within The United Church of Canada?

(Candidates for the Order of Ministry)

I am ready, by God's grace.

The President:

“Jesus Christ came into the world to be the servant of God and all people. As servant Lord, Jesus calls his Church to a ministry of worship, witness, and reconciliation. In baptism we were received as members of his Church and at confirmation we committed ourselves to its ministry. In order that this ministry of the whole Church may be fulfilled,

God has given the ordained ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care, and the diaconal ministry of Education, Service, and Pastoral Care. It is the responsibility of the Church to seek, train, and set apart those whom God calls so to serve.”

**Vows Are Exchanged In the Presence of Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer and
within the Community of Maritime Conference**

President: *to each Candidate for Ordered Ministry:*

Do you believe in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you commit yourself anew to God?

I do.

President: *To each Candidate being Ordained to the Order of Ministry*

(“Ordained Minister” means a member of the Order of Ministry who has been ordained to the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care)

Do you believe that God is calling you to the ordained ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care, and do you accept this call?

(Candidates for Ordination)

I do.

President: *To each Candidate for Ordered Ministry:*

Are you willing to exercise your ministry in accordance with the scriptures, in continuity with the faith of the Church, and subject to the oversight and discipline of The United Church of Canada?

(Those being ordained)

I am.

President: Friends, let us pray for the outpouring of spiritual gifts upon these servants whom God has chosen for Ordered Ministry.

Silent Prayer

Those appointed lay on hands.

For Ordained Ministry

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon your servant

Sarah Rose Chapman

Alison Louise Etter

Bonnie Ann Fraser

Lena Medeiros

Lori Beth Sheffield-Bowles

Mary Josephine White

for the office and work of ordained ministry in your Church.

Presentation of Bible

President: Receive this Bible. Proclaim in word and action the Gospel of Christ with diligence and love.

The Declaration for those being Ordained to the Order of Ministry:

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Sovereign Head of the Church, and by the authority of the Maritime Conference of The United Church of Canada, I declare that

Sarah Rose Chapman
Alison Louise Etter
Bonnie Ann Fraser
Lena Medeiros
Lori Beth Sheffield-Bowles
Mary Josephine White

has been Ordained a minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care within the holy catholic church.

After each person is declared Ordained

Congregation Sing: from *MORE VOICES* 36 “Glory to God”

Alleluya, amen!

After all declared Ordained

Prayer for the new ministers:

**Gracious God, give to these, your servants,
 grace and power to fulfill their ministry.
 Grant that always having the assurance of faith,
 abounding in hope, and being rooted in love,
 they may continue strong and steadfast
 in Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
 to whom, with you, and the Holy Spirit,
 be glory and honour, worship and praise,
 now and forever. Amen.**

*(The congregation is invited to greet those newly
 welcomed as ministry personnel.)*

God Calls us to the Table

We Give Thanks

Offering Our Gifts: (money, chalice, plate, water and quilt squares)

Our offering will be forwarded to the Mission and Service Fund of The United Church of Canada.

We thank you for your generosity.

Anthem: “Give Us Your Peace”

by Michael Mahler

Solo by Emma Lee Stewart

Prayer of Dedication

As people with a vision of a God of Love

We offer our prayers.

As people with a vision of eternity

We offer our time.

As people with a vision of an end to poverty,

We offer our money. {Offering plates are placed}

As a people who celebrate our past, present and future

We wrap ourselves in the warmth of the quilt of celebration of where we have been, where we are now, and where we will go with God’s leading.

{Quilt is placed}

As a people ready to follow Jesus

We offer bread for the journey. {Bread is placed}

As people of the new covenant.

We offer the cup of joy. {Cup is placed}

As people with a vision of community

We offer all we have shared together.

As people with a vision of a just society

We offer ourselves. Amen

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation To The Feast:

Celebrant 1: *We gather as the one body of the Risen Christ, sisters and brothers of Jesus who calls us each and all, friends. There are no strangers here. This table does not belong to Maritime Conference. It is not the table of the United Church of Canada. This is the table of Jesus Christ, who invites us, to break the bread, to share the wine, to transform and be transformed, in the love and justice of our Holy God. May the Spirit richly bless all those who gather here, to be the church for the world God so loves.*

Communion Hymn *: *MORE VOICES 194* **“Bread of Life”**

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Call To Give Thanks

Celebrant 2:

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant 2:

Holy One and One in Three,
 You weave the darkness and light, you bind water and earth,
 You set the stars and stretch the heavens,
 You fill the universe with the breath of life,
 You called your people up from the dust,
 Male and Female – One whole image of glory – you created them,
 To live in the land, where there is room for all...

God of heaven and earth, we give you thanks.

Celebrant 3:

Holy One and One in Three,
 We give thanks,
 When your people were called up from their wandering ways,
 And your covenant was made –
 In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 Inscribed deep in our hearts, forever: We, your people, and you, our God.

God of all people and places, creeds, colours and races...we give you thanks.

Celebrant 4:

Holy One, and One in Three,
 We give thanks, for even when our covenant has been broken, our promise swept aside,
 You would not turn away from those you love,
 From the orphan and widow, the sinner and saint, the least, lost, and lonely of our world's senseless ways.
 We give thanks for the prophets you stir up from the wilderness,
 Who stand up and speak out against the powers of injustice and evil,
 Who open our ears and our hearts to the power of your Word, shaking our lives like thunder.

God of justice and peace, we give you thanks.

Celebrant 1:

Holy One, and One in Three,
 We give thanks for Jesus,
 Born in human likeness, found in human form,
 He lived for justice, spoke kindness,
 Wept in weakness, forgave all with love,
 And set his face toward intolerance and hatred with strength and relentless hope.
 With the conviction of the Spirit in his life,
 Jesus poured out the gospel for us all,

And broke down the walls that divide us from you.
 Yet people turned away, and the forces of empire,
 The instruments of oppression and death, nailed Jesus to a cross.
 But in him, you wove every strand of your loving power,
 And when you called,
 Jesus crossed over,
 Up and out of the tomb, rose the Christ who lives with us now and
 forevermore.
 And so we sing with the saints above and those below, in the name of the One who
 lives again and is to come:

Song of Creation: *MORE VOICES* 203

“Kingsfold Communion Set”

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Remembering Jesus At Table

Celebrant 2:

Blessed is our brother Jesus,
 Who, before his suffering, earnestly desired to be at table with his sisters and brothers,
 Who, on the night before he gave himself unto death,
 Took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
 “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
 In the same way, after supper, he passed the cup, saying:
 “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this whenever you drink it, to remember
 me.”

Prayer of Self-Giving

Celebrant 3:

Therefore, as we eat this bread, and drink from this cup,
 We stand firm, united as one people and one church,
 We proclaim in word and in action:
 That sin cannot enslave us,
 Tyranny cannot capture us,
 Death cannot have us,
 For the reign of God shall set us free,
 Even as we sow the harvest for the bread of tomorrow, and prepare the wine of the age to
 come.
 With voices united we sing:

Affirmation of Memory & Hope: *MORE VOICES* 204

“Memorial Acclamation”

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Prayer of Transformation

Celebrant 4:

Come then, life-giving Spirit of our God,

Brood over these bodily things: the bread and wine,
 These hearts and souls,
 This people and this United Church,
 Who are hungry for the gospel and thirsty for your kingdom come.
 Transform us, recreate us, renew us, revive us in the fire and grace of your Word,
 Broken and poured out for all people of God!

Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine

Celebrant 1:

The bread of life, broken for us all.

Celebrant 2:

The cup of blessing, poured out that we would have eternal life.

Celebrant 1:

The food of God, for the people of God.

Celebrant 2:

Friends, come and eat. Come and drink, for all is ready at the table.

We Eat & Drink In The Name of Christ

Choir Anthems

Choir sings from *More Voices* as the elements are being distributed

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant 3:

We rise from this Table, O God:

filled with bread and wine and thanksgiving,

filled with the lessons of our past,

filled with the celebrations of this day.

We are ready to move into our promise-filled future,

So lead on, O God, lead on!

The Prayer of Christ

And together we pray as One body:

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who
 trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
 from evil, For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever
 and ever, Amen.**

and let all God's people sing...

MORE VOICES 205

“Great Amen”

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Installation of the President: Rev. Jane Johnson

Executive Secretary:

We present to you, Jane Johnson whom this Conference has elected to preside over its life and work until such time as her successor comes to office, that she may be installed in the office of President of Maritime Conference.

President:

Do you believe that you are called to the office of President of Conference and do you accept this trust?

President-Elect: I do.

President:

Will you, with Christ's people, be faithful in prayer and in the study of Scripture, that you may know the mind of Christ and boldly proclaim and interpret the Gospel of Christ by Word and Sacrament, that the people of God may be strengthened and that God's gospel may be advanced?

President-Elect: I will.

President:

Will you perform the duties of your office within the polity of The United Church of Canada?

President-Elect: I will.

Promises of Members of Conference *:President:

Will you, the members of Maritime Conference, support and encourage Jane Johnson with your prayer and work?

Members: We will.

President: Let us pray.

Gracious God, whose Spirit has ever blessed the Church with varieties of gifts for the work of ministry, we thank you that you have blessed us with gifts that enrich our life together and strengthen our witness and service in the world. Especially we thank you for the particular gifts that your servant, Jane, brings to the office of President of Conference. By your grace, enable her to exercise this ministry with wisdom and humour, courage and compassion, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon your servant, Jane that she may minister faithfully in the office of President of Maritime Conference.

People: Amen.

Installation:

I, Ruth Gamble, President of Maritime Conference, do now install you, Jane Johnson as President of Maritime Conference and confer upon you all such obligations and authority as belongs to the Office.

Presentation of Symbols: (Stole, Bible, Gavel, Cane)

The Greeting

Presentation of Past-President's Stole

Hymn *: "From Now On"

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We built our faith on a rock, a foundation strong—
an anchor firm, grounded safe in the Saviour's love;
and in the garden we hear quiet words and the world becomes calm,
an Easter people of love, full of faith as we greet the new dawn.

**From now on, love's the Gospel that still guides us.
From now on, trust with faith, the truth will find us.
From now on, the bright light of hope
shows God still knows the way,
so how can we go wrong, from now on?**

We find ourselves as we're sailing against the wind,
For in our struggles we're found and transformed once again.
And though we're tossed and we're turned,
fix our gaze on the rising sun,
An Easter people of faith,
filled with love as we greet the new dawn. **R**

Faith and love brought us here –
faith and love make the answer known.
Be not afraid, trust our Creed -- "We are never alone."
Into the future we go, seeds of love as the knowledge we sow.
An Easter people of faith, full of hope as we find our way home. **R**

Benediction ***Recessional Hymn "From Now On"**

**From now on, love's the Gospel that still guides us.
From now on, trust with faith, the truth will find us.
From now on, the bright light of hope
shows God still knows the way,
so how can we go wrong, from now on?**

