



BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

OF THE EAST DISTRICT,

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CONFERENCE

Organist/Choir Director: Leslie Forward

Supply Organists: Sharon Dean, Ruth Davidge, Louise Dровер

Caretaker: Wayne Parsons Secretary: Lisa Butt

Clergy: Rev. Beverly (Youth & Christian Education)

Rev. Stephen (Worship & Pastoral Care)

President of Newfoundland and Labrador Conference:

The Reverend Russell Small

January 3rd, 2010 - 7:00pm

WE GATHER

Organ Prelude

Welcome and Life and Work of our Church

Call to Worship:

L: This is God's world and we are part of it.

P: In God's world there is wonderful diversity.

L: The Church is made up of people from the north, south, east and west. In God's family all are to be loved and accepted.

P: May we reflect the hospitality of God.

L: Within us and amongst us the Spirit unites us, building bridges we cannot build alone.

P: God has made us one. God has made us all different!

L: Wherever we go we can meet God.

P: There is nowhere we can go where God can not reach us.

Opening Prayer (In Unison):

Gracious God,

we thank you that there is no difficulty in life
when we are ever deserted
and no journey where we ever walk alone.

As we ponder this night about the depth and breathe
of your love and call of ministry,
we pause to pray for an ever deeper faith
and a renewed sense of your call in our lives.

Let this night be filled with gratitude as we reflect
upon your powerful presence with us
and as we commit our lives to seek after the holy gifts
you provide for us now

and in the days and years of ministry that lay ahead of us all.

In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray AMEN

Hymn: **The First Nowell (91)**

1.

WE HEAR THE WORD

Epistle: **Ephesians 3:1-12**, read by Austin, Adam and Stephanie Matthews

Psalm: **Psalm 72**, (VU, pg. 790, Part One), Ruth Davidge

Hymn: **What Child Is This (74)**

Gospel: **Matthew 2:1-12**, read by Paul & John Ross Gillespie

Special Singing - Harmony : *Jesus, You Have Come to The Lakeshore*

Sermon Wherever the Son Abounds

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Call to the Offering: With thankfulness, let us ponder the opportunities God gives us to make a difference in love; to create with joy so that smiles are born out of frowns, hope is begun where helplessness once prevailed and justice is no longer cried for, but celebrated. God calls us to share faith through our talents, time and treasure. Let us respond to God's call as we share all of what we have and all of who we are.

Hymn: Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

- 1 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above, streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love,
dwells in the heart of the Father above.
- 2 Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.
- 3 Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget; home, weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.
- 4 Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

Offertory Prayer:

In hope, we bring our gifts, that we and they might be used,
in ways beyond our understanding, to extend Christ's mission.
In humility, we bring our gifts, that we and they might be accepted,
for reasons beyond our comprehension, as offerings of Christ's love.
In trust, we bring our gifts, that we and they might become
joint offerings to one another in this community and beyond,
and, thereby, to you, our God. **Amen.**

2.

Senior Choir Anthem: Go Ye Into The World

Closing of a Ministerial Covenant

President of Conference: Since the Church lives by the power of the Word, it is assured that God has never failed to provide a witness to that Word. On July 1st, 2002, the East District of the Newfoundland and Labrador Conference covenanted with you, Bethany Congregation and with Rev. Beverly and Rev. Stephen. We witnessed promises to take part in the public worship of God, to contribute to the work of God, and to make a Christian witness in the community by word and action.

Rev. Stephen and Rev. Beverly believe that God has called them to minister in another place. The East District has affirmed this call. The time has come to mark the end of their ministerial responsibilities in this congregation and to send them with God's blessing to this new ministry.

Rev. Beverly & Rev. Stephen: Brothers and sisters in Christ, you called us to minister with you, and charged us to preach the Word, preside at the sacraments and to oversee the pastoral life of the congregation. In the near future, you will call other clergy to minister in our places and we must lay down the tasks you committed to us.

Rev. Beverly: I hand this towel and basin to you, symbols of service and ask that you continue to share in service with your new clergy. (Chair &/or Reps. of Outreach/Social Action receives towel and basin)

Rev. Stephen: I hand this pastoral list to you with the of names of the people for whom your clergy team have cared, and ask you to continue to care for these people, and in due time, to share it with our successor. (Chair or Rep. of Membership receives list)

Rev. Beverly: I hand you this basket of crayons as a symbol of ministry with children and youth as members of this family and ask that you continue with your new clergy to strive for creative and faithful ways to support and empower ministry by and with youth. (Chair of CD receives basket of crayons)

Rev. Stephen: We give you these Bibles, that all who come to share in its reading and in preaching may be led by God's Spirit and always be committed to impart God's Word. (The Co-chairs/Rep of Bethany Council receives Pulpit Bible and Children's Bible)

Rev. Stephen & Rev. Beverly: We pass the Cup and the Bread, signs of God's grace already present. As other clergy come to share with you at table, may God's grace continue to abound. (Worship and Sacraments Committee Reps. receives Cup and Bread)

3.

President of Conference: On behalf of the East District, I thank you, Rev. Beverly and Rev. Stephen, for your ministry of God's grace in this congregation. We release you from this ministry, and commend you to the continued pastoral care of the East District of The United Church of Canada and also to Sydney Presbytery of The Uniting Church in Australia. I assure you, the Bethany Congregation, the continued support of East District as you continue to live in God's grace and as you continue to strive to serve and live out ever more fully, the Ministry of Jesus Christ. Let us pray together.

ALL: O God, be with those who leave, and with those who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of saints; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Special Singing

(Rev. Stephen and Rev. Beverly place a symbol of the conclusion of their term of ministry with Bethany Congregation & are seated)

THE WORD LIVES IN US - WE LIVE OUT THE WORD

Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory (686)

Commissioning and Benediction

L: Mysterious God, confounding our expectations, meeting us where we least expect to find you,

P: Stay with us now.

L: Child of the manger, healing our pain, sharing our weakness,

P: Stay with us now.

L: Spirit of hope, birth of God within our lives,

P: Stay with us now.

L: Stay with us in our frailty, stay with us on our journey,

P: Walk beside us, live within us, Lead us to glory, lead us

home.

L: The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself; the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service; the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; and the blessing of Triune God be upon you and remain with you always.

CHORAL AMEN

WELCOME

Our **Bulletins** today have been donated to the glory of God and in loving memory of our cousin **Yvonne Davis** from Louise & Vicki.

Sunday, January 10th - 11:00am: Worship with Rev. Jacintha Penney

- 2:00pm: Interfaith Senior's Home at 2:00pm

Sunday, January 17th - 11:00am: Worship with Rev. Harry Whitehorne

Rev. Whitehorne will begin on January 15th. From January 8-15,

Rev. Russell Small will be covering

CUP OF TEA FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

4.

Mailing Address for

Stephen and Beverly Matthews and Family:

3 Malvern Ave., Croydon, New South Wales, Australia, 2132

Saying 'farewell' is never an easy thing, especially when people have worked together for many years and helped and trusted one another. As we have shared in your baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals and times of joy and struggle, you have left an indelible mark upon us. Yet, saying a farewell is a part of our lives and we leave with you all in our hearts.

As we say a farewell to you, we pray that you continue to keep us in your prayers. We also pray that you have found our time together in ministry a good thing. As we reflect upon the past 7½ years, we also look forward with great interest not only upon the adventure in ministry that awaits us, but also the adventures in ministry that are before you. Our joy will be much fuller when we hear good news about your new ministry endeavours that you share between you and your new clergy. Even as we prepare to conclude our time in ministry with you and being your clergy, we know that with faith, God has much in store for you and your new clergy.

We will hold you in our prayers always - in times when we hear of some of our friends passing, we will be saddened and pray for them, you and your clergy. Though we will not be your ministers after January 15th, we will still care and hold you all in our prayers

with much love & thankfulness.

-peace and love,

Rev. Beverly and Rev. Stephen

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