

Celebration of Ministry Worship
Canadian Shield Regional Council Annual General Meeting September 25th
St. Andrew's United Church, Sudbury

Prelude: *Arioso from Sonate II* by C.P.E. Bach

Welcome and Announcements (*Dave Le Grand*)

Processional Hymn: VU 333 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver; let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory (*Barbara Nott*)

"The lands where we gather today have been places of gathering for First Nations people as they camped and travelled across the land for generations beyond our knowing. Before people arrived from across the seas, these Nations lived, loved, raised children and made a living. They lived in harmony with all that the Creator had made. As we gather today, we recognize those traditional sojourners in this land. We give thanks for them and for the lands on which we meet. We acknowledge that our history has come at a great cost to the aboriginal community and we commit ourselves to be partners in healing and reconciliation with understanding and intention."

(Adapted – Acknowledging the Land, 2016)

CSRC Safe Space Statement (*Barbara Nott*)

The Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive seeks to be a safe place for all people to gather and participate in the life and work of the Regional Council regardless of age, ability, race, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender identity. In this space, all are welcome.

Call to Worship (*Dave Le Grand*)

It feels like it has been too long since we last gathered,
seeing one another face-to-face;

But here we are, together, embraced by Spirit and Love.

We give thanks to our Creator, we have weathered storms -
pandemic, communities of faith struggling, sometimes closing.

We gather, worshipping, praying, and singing.

So let us praise God, who restores and reconciles us.

Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Holy One, these are indeed strange times, yet together as a Body of Christ, by your Grace, we have been brought together, in person.

Your Spirit has guided our deliberations, now bind us by your Love as we worship.

Open our minds to your wisdom,

and fill our hearts with boldness, to listen to, and to share, Good News in an often bad news world.

We now pray together as we say together this modern paraphrase of the beloved prayer taught to us by Jesus:

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, We pray that your good will be done, Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need, Give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, From each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence Beyond the evil of our days — Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One. Amen.

Scripture Reading (*Peter Hartmans*)

Matthew 4:18-23 (NRSVUE)

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers.

And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Children’s Hymn: MV 145 *Draw the Circle Wide, R, v1, R*

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.**

**God the still-point of the circle,
‘round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God’s gracious arms.**

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.**

Time Up Front (*Dave Le Grand*) – Orange Shirt Day & National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Dave reads from “Phyllis’s Orange Shirt” by Phyllis Webstad

Illustrator: Brock Nicol

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www.orangeshirtbook.com

Children’s Hymn: MV 145 *Draw the Circle Wide, R, v3, R*

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.**

**Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we’ve ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.**

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.**

Scripture Reading – Ephesians 3:14-21 (NRSVUE)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Sermon: “We Have this Ministry” – The Rev. Michael Blair

Affirmation of Faith – 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.**

Theme Hymn: *Always in Our Boat* by Jane Best

Tending what we have, mending what needs care...

Readying, perfecting, and so often redirecting,

You are there—

Always in our boat, always on love’s shore

With us as you call us into more.

Tending our own lives, hopes and needs and cares...

See our flaws, the tough ones! As we spend our time with loved ones,

You are there—

Always in our boat, always on love’s shore

With us as you lead us into more.

God, you call your church. Make us menders, too!

Guiding and protecting this new fam’ly you’re connecting,

You are there—

Always in our boat, always on love’s shore

With us as you send us into more.

Call us! Lead us! Send us into more!

Celebration of Ministry

Presentation of the Minister to be Admitted to the United Church of Canada – The Rev. Mastard Sakala.

Office of Vocation (Jane Graham): Today it is our privilege to admit to the United Church of Canada the Rev. Mastard Sakala whom the *Office of Vocation* has determined is qualified and called to ordained ministry, and whom the Office of Vocation is assured is in a covenantal relationship of ministry. The United Church believes that all of God's people are called into ministry as followers of Jesus. God calls specific people to particular ministries for the purposes of celebrating worship, nurturing faith, and inspiring the church to live in justice and peace.

Regional Council Chair (Barb Nott): Jesus Christ came into the world to be the servant of God and all people. Jesus calls the church to a ministry of faithful witness, daring discipleship and healing reconciliation. In baptism, we are received as members of the church and at confirmation we commit 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, to those whom God has called.

Office of Vocation: I present to you, the Rev. Mastard Sakala, who is already ordained in another denomination and who now wishes to exercise ministry within The United Church of Canada.

Regional Council Chair: You have heard your name called. Do you believe that God is calling you to the ordained ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care within The United Church of Canada, and do you accept this call?

Minister Being Admitted (The Rev. Mastard Sakala): I do by the grace of God.

Regional Council Chair: Mastard, we recognize your ordination and we are pleased that you have chosen to join us in our particular life within God's church. We also recognize that you have completed your program of study and have satisfied the requirements of the Admission Board. Therefore, we welcome you into the ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care within The United Church of Canada. Let us pray. By your Spirit, O God, sustain Mastard and strengthen him in the gifts of ministry which you so generously bestow. Amen.

Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive Minister (Peter Hartmans): Receive this Bible; proclaim in word and action the gospel of Christ with diligence and love.

Regional Council Chair: Do you, the members of the Canadian Shield Regional Council of the United Church of Canada, welcome the Rev. Mastard Sakala as a colleague in ministry and do you promise to uphold him in prayer?

We do by the Grace of God.

Regional Council Chair: I declare that Mastard has been received into The United Church of Canada and recognized as ordained to the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care within The United Church of Canada.

Sung Acclamation of Praise: VU 958 *Halle, Halle, Halle*

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Covenant with New CSRC Staff Member: Diane Matheson-Jimenez

Regional Council Chair: *Diane Matheson-Jimenez*, do you, in the presence of this community of faith, take on the new trust and responsibility of serving the Canadian Shield Regional Council as a Support to Communities of Faith Minister?

Diane: I do by the Grace of God.

Regional council Chair: Will you accept the guidance of the Canadian Shield regional council and, together with your staff colleagues, seek to support the work of the Canadian Regional Council?

Diane: I will by the Grace of God.

Regional Council Chair: Will you accept the support and encouragement of this regional council?

Diane: I will.

Regional Council Chair: Do you the members of the Canadian Shield Regional Council of the United Church of Canada welcome and support Diane Matheson-Jimenez as a colleague in ministry and do you promise to uphold her in prayer.

We do by the Grace of God.

Regional Council Chair: Let us welcome our newest staff member.

Sung Acclamation of Praise: VU 958 *Halle, Halle, Halle*

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Offering Invitation (*Dave Le Grand*)

In gratitude for the love that we have received, we offer our lives and our living to carry God's message of love into the world and our communities. Let us present our treasures, and God's greatest treasures, ourselves.

Dedication Hymn: VU 540 *Grant Us, God, the Grace*

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,

with a spirit large and free,

that ourselves and all our living

we may offer faithfully.

Prayer of Dedication

Creator, Sustainer, and Spirit, we offer ourselves with our treasures towards your healing, loving, reconciling. Call us anew to this work in the far reaches of this Regional Council. Bless these gifts, first given by you, and empower us to help you usher in your new reign, your kin-dom. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Gathered at table, we give you thanks and praise with all of Creation. The journey to today, as communities of faith across this Regional Council, as your children, has been challenging, to say the least. This world has faced great adversity, but you have journeyed with us, Creator God.

We recognize brokenness in us, and around us. We offer in care your children with frayed hearts and minds from crisis, isolation, fear, uncertainty. We name the grief among us, losses of many sorts: economic, health, from broken relationships, the loss of a sense of safety. Hold them - hold us - in your love.

As we see a world often gripped by chaos, we, called by you to seek justice and resist evil, yearn for your kin-dom coming on earth as it is in heaven. We pray that your protective love will guide the most vulnerable in our neighbourhoods, our world. We pray for our leaders, of institutions, that they might gain the wisdom to navigate through the storms of life, compassion also to understand the impact of their decisions on people, on this fragile ecosystem of earth. Hold them – hold us – in your love.

We pray for all who suffer, all who are exhausted, all who face uncertainty that they will see another sunrise. Creator, in this silent moment we offer to you within our hearts the people and situations that are of concern... [silent moment]. Amen.

Communion Hymn: VU 469 *We Gather Here*

**1. We gather here in Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving son God fashions us as one:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.**

**No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs;
finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.**

**He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the One who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the One we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.**

**We are now a family of which Christ is the head;
though unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.**

**We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.**

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table (*Rob Smith*)

May God be with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

Loving God, we give you thanks for your presence with us as we gather around this table of abundant love and amazing grace. Help each of us to find our place at the table and help us to welcome each other to this table. May this always be a table where there is room for all, the stranger and the ones who live on the margins of our society.

Loving God, you have walked with us through these long years of being apart because of COVID and you have taught us new ways of being the church. Loving God you have walked with us through these last few days that we have been together once again renewing us in being the church. Loving God you will continue to walk with us wherever our journey from here will take us as the church.

Loving God, thank you for this community of faith gather here and how you continue to renew us as your church by the gift of your Holy Spirit. May our love genuine. May we hold fast to what is good. May we love one another with mutual affection and outdo one another in showing respect for all people. Let us not lag in zeal, but be ardent in the spirit as we follow Jesus into the world walking in his footsteps by practicing radical hospitality and justice to all people. Let us rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering and persevere in prayer. Let us as your church contribute to the needs of the saints and extend hospitality to strangers.

Loving God, we give you thanks for your faithfulness to us and steadfast love. You call us beloved and you always welcome us home no matter how far we have wandered or how long we have been away. We are never alone and we are never outside of your love.

Loving God, for all these many blessings that you have graciously bestowed upon us we give thanks and we join with all our ancestors who have gathered around this table long before us and all who will gather long after us and together we sing our praise:

Sung Response: MV 206 *Holy, Holy, Holy*
Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One, who comes,
Who comes in God's name.
Hosanna in the Highest.

(Dave Le Grand and Mastard Sakala)

On the night that Jesus was betrayed he gathered around a simple table with his closest friends – his companions on the journey. He took some bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them saying; “Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

May this broken bread become for us bread for our journey.

In the same way, Jesus took the wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his friends, saying, “Take and drink this. This cup is the cup of God's love poured out for you and for all. Do this in remembrance of me.”

May this shared cup become for us drink for our journey.

May all those we meet in this sacred circle, past, present and future become a community of support for our journey reminding us that we are not alone. The family is waiting. We have a place at the table to return to. We sing of our shared faith:

Sung Response: MV 207 *Memorial Acclamation*

Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

(Dave Le Grand)

O God of Mystery and Wonder, come and find us here at this sacred table and may we hear your voice of love and feel your presence renewing us and making us whole as we share in this ancient ritual. Infuse these simple gifts of bread and grape juice and all that we do here with your Holy Spirit.

Let us rise from this table renewed, refreshed and recreated into the people you have called us and gifted us to be with hearts wide open and hands ready to live out your radical welcome to our community and our world. In the name of Jesus, the centre of sacred circle we pray.

Sung Response: MV 208 *Great Amen*

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

Come, for all is prepared. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer after Communion

Christ, you have gathered us at your table to bear witness to our unity in you. Fed and nourished, may we leave from here ready to be peace-keepers, God-bearers, and kin-dom builders. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 510 *We Have This Ministry*

We have this ministry and we are not discouraged;
it is by God's own power that we may live and serve.
Openly we share God's word, speaking truth as we believe,
praying that the shadowed world may healing light receive.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.

O Christ, the tree of life, our end and our beginning,
we grow to fullest flower when rooted in your love.
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay, called to service by your grace,

different cultures, different gifts, the young and old a place.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our giving.

The yoke of Christ is ours, the whole world is our parish;
we daily take the cross, the burden and the joy.
Bearing hurts of those we serve,
wounded, bruised and bowed with pain,

Holy Spirit, bread and wine, we die and rise again.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our loving.

Commissioning and Benediction (*Mastard Sakala*)

Creator-sent, we know that we are not at all alone;

North Star God, guide us.

Christ-presence, connect us as one Body, whose individual parts feel each other's pain.

Christ, friend, journey with us.

Spirit-flame, energize us to do justice, resist evil, whatever storms that life might present;

Holy Spirit, set your church on fire – seeking justice, resisting evil, and loving all unconditionally. Amen.

Choral Benediction: MV 212 *Sent Out in Jesus' Name*

**Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now
to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.**

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is ours to do, to set it really free.

O, help us to obey, and carry out your will. *(sing this verse twice)*

**Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now
to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.**

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is ours to do, to set it really free.

O, help us to obey, and carry out your will. *(sing this verse twice)*

Postlude: *Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid* by Ludwig Lenel

Worship Leadership:

Canadian Shield RC Executive Minister – Rev. Peter Hartmans

Canadian Shield RC Executive Chair – Barbara Nott

Leaders: Rev. Rob Smith, Rev. Dave LeGrand

Minister Being Admitted – Rev. Mastard Sakala

UCC General Secretary/Preacher – Rev. Michael Blair

Music Team: Susan Marrier & Faye Moffatt

Administrative Team:

CSRC Pastoral Relations Minister – Rev. Rob Smith

Representing the Office of Vocation – Jane Graham

PowerPoint Presentation – Susan Whitehead & Alison Warner-Smith

Projection – Roger Pile & Mallon Appianing

Coordinator – CSRC Staff – Susan Whitehead