

Worship on June 13, 2021 Elder Ordination (Outdoor worship)

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – Ephesians 3:14-19
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- Sermon: appointed me to his service
- Elder Ordination

We Respond

- Offering – The River is Here

We Serve

- Benediction

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us live right now and those who are worshipping God through this video. This is Sunday, June 13th, 2021. Every Sunday is special because we are celebrating the love of God together. But, today is even more special that we are going to recognize our new elders. There will be elder ordination and induction during the service.

. After worship, there will be Bible study. We will share our lives and thoughts and we will have time to pray for each other.

. Please welcome our new elders: Edwin Webster, Kevin Johnston, and Robert Revington.

. Worship volunteers are always welcome.

. Thank you for your support with your gifts. May God use us and our gifts for his kingdom.

As we come into the presence of our God, let us calm down our hearts and minds, and focus on our Lord.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: It is good to give God thanks, to sing praises to the Most High!

All: We will sing for joy to God who has made us glad.

One: Let us declare God's steadfast love in the morning,

All: and God's faithfulness by night.

One: So come to worship God with thankful, joyful hearts!

All: Let us praise God's holy name together.

Instead of Praise song – Ephesians 3:14-19

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 16 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, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. 18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Living God, from you comes vitality, love and joy. Your peace is our companion, your love is our strength, your Son is our hope. In even our darkest moments, your presence brings comfort. Hidden deep in the soil of life, your Spirit nurtures tiny seeds of purpose and potential to surprise us with new life. Like the earth beginning to bloom around us, so your kingdom unfolds to surprise us with new possibilities. We bring you our prayers and praise this day, trusting that your Spirit will bring us the gifts we need to serve you in faithfulness, renewed by your love, through Christ our Lord.

Living, and loving God, as we watch growth in our gardens and in the children around us, we confess we often resist growth and change as we grow older. We form ideas and opinions about many things—and cling to them. We think we already know what you desire from us and fear new insights and new directions. Forgive us for thinking we already know it all. Forgive us for blocking out the concerns and commitments of those who differ with us. Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts to signs of new life. Grant us faith like the mustard seed, so small and insignificant on its own, yet able to grow with your blessing to become a mighty sign of your lively kingdom among us.

This time, we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Andrew's, Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ—and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace! Rejoice in God's good gift.

Prayer for Illumination:

God of patience and persistence, scripture tells us your people have not always listened for your leading. So send your Spirit to open our minds and hearts to your Living Word. Speak through the scriptures, and inspire our growth and gratitude, so that we may be changed by what we hear. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12-17 (NRSV)

12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. 16 But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. 17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.
“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: appointed me to his service.

Today’s sermon title is “appointed me to his service.”

Today, good news, I will preach a short sermon. And another good news, this is the real one, we will ordain new elders we elected last year, and induct them finally. Because of Pandemic, many things are changed and delayed. But, as the Stay-home-order is lifted, we are able to gather outside the church for this special and meaningful event.

The books of the Bible, 1 and 2 Timothy are the letters from Paul to his disciple Timothy. Timothy was like a son to Paul, so he poured out all the good things to Timothy. Paul taught Timothy a lot about becoming a good leader. Today’s passage is one of them. And this is about Paul himself. Paul was a very passionate man. He was a Jew, scholar, and Roman citizen. In other words, he had everything he could have at that time. At the same time, he had a great passion for God as well. He loved God so much. So he was not able to accept this Jesus guy who claimed that he was the Son of God. Jesus was total blasphemy for Paul. Paul was on the way to Tarshish to persecute Jesus followers. That was his ministry. On the way, Jesus came to Paul in light and made him blind. Few days, he was not able to see, but Christ followers embraced him and taught him the gospel of Jesus. With this miraculous experience, his faith turned around toward Jesus. Today’s passage shows before and after Paul’s conversion.

I chose this passage not just for our new elders, but for all of us, too, Christ followers.

V12, **“I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service,”** This is right now. God appointed Paul to serve him. God gave power to do his ministries. Now, we know what Paul was like. He was about to kill Christ followers. So, we wonder why God called him?

The answer is in v16, **“But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.”**

Paul was an oppressor of Christ followers, but now he is an example to those who would come to believe in Jesus Christ for eternal life. Extreme opposite.

V12-16 explain how God changed an oppressor of Christ followers to Christian leader.

“12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. 16 But for that very reason I

received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.”

Our new elders, Ed, and Kevin, and returning elder, Robert, God claims you faithful and he appoints you to his services. And, the rest of us, we are the same. God judges us faithful and God appoints all of us to his services in our own ways. This is not from ourselves, but from Christ. We call Jesus Christ OUR LORD. We confess the LORDSHIP. Why? What does that mean? We are laying down our ownership of our lives to Jesus Christ, our life Giver. We are saying that Jesus is the Owner of our lives. This also means that we are the living sacrifices to God.

When ordaining elders, pastors put their hands on ordainees' heads. In the Old Testament, priests lay their hands on the head of the sacrificial animal as they transfer the sin of the people to the sacrificial animal. Laying hands came from there. This means, we are giving ourselves to God as sacrifice, as living sacrifices. In other words, we are now living for God, not for our own selves.

God called us and God appoints us for his ministries. With all our hearts and strength, love the Lord our God and serve the Lord and his people. May the presence and the guidance of God be upon the new and returning elders, as well as all of us, always.

Let us pray.

Gracious Father God, we thank you so much for this day. You turned around us and you called us for the service of yours. You entrusted your church to our hands. You shed your precious blood for your church, but you called us to steward your precious church. You appointed us to become your hands and feet taking care of your church. As new and returning elders commit themselves to you, pour out your blessings upon them and our church. So, we may display your awesomeness to this whole world starting from our communities. We thank you so much that you are our God. Accept our praise and worship to you. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Elder Ordination (Now, this is the time for Elder Ordination.)

One: There are varieties of gifts,

ALL: but the same Spirit;

One: There are varieties of services,

ALL: but the same Lord;

One: There are varieties of activities,

ALL: but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

One: To each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

ALL: to use it for the common good.

One: Together we are the body of Christ,

ALL: and individually members of it. *I Cor. 12: 4-7, 27, adapted.*

One: Though we have different gifts, together we are called to be the church with a ministry in the world which is led by the risen Christ.

A CREED Let us confess our faith together in the words of **The Apostles' Creed: (please stand if you are able.)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The congregation shall be seated.

NARRATION OF STEPS *(The clerk of session, after narrating briefly the events that have led up to this election and ordination)*

With the Session consisting of only 4 elders, with one retiring in June 2021, it was necessary to hold an election to increase this number. In September 2020, all professing members received a list of all members eligible for election with a request to name as many as 6. The result of the nominations provided a list of 36 members. Counting the votes for each of these and arranging the names in order of most votes to least. The top nominees were approached by our Moderator, Rev., Soong Huh, and three agreed to stand. Ed Webster and Kevin Johnston are to be ordained today and they, along with Robert Revington (Previously ordained) will be inducted on to Session. Due to the current pandemic, we have been unable to arrange an ordination/induction service until today.) *shall invite the elders-elect to come forward and stand before the moderator* (Ed and Kevin, will you please come forward and stand before our moderator, Rev. Soong Huh).

The elders of session will form a second semi-circle behind them. The clerk will present the elders-elect to the moderator, saying:

Moderator, on behalf of the Session and the people of this congregation, I present to you **Edwin Webster and Kevin Johnston, and request that you now proceed to ordain them as elders and admit them to the Session.**

The moderator shall say:

Listen to what The Presbyterian Church in Canada believes concerning the ministry of ruling elders.

PREAMBLE (Approved, 1971 Revised, 1992, 1998.)

All ministries of the Church proceed from and are sustained by the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Prophet, Priest and King, the Minister of the covenant of grace. By the operation of God's Word and Spirit, the Church is gathered, equipped, and sent out to participate in this ministry. All members of the Church are called to share the Gospel with the world, and to offer to the Father the worship and service that are due to the Creator from the creation, through Christ, the only Mediator, until he comes again. That the Church may be continually renewed and nurtured for ministry, Christ furnishes the Church with pastors and teachers. He requires and enables the Church to discern and to confirm by ordination those whom he calls to this pastoral and teaching office. The standards of his Church he entrusts in a special degree of responsibility to their care.

The Form of Presbyterian Church Government of the Westminster Assembly reminds us that Christ has furnished some in the Church, beside the Ministers of the Word, with gifts for government and with

commission to execute the same, when called thereunto, who are to join with the Minister in the government of the church, which officers reformed churches commonly call Elders.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is bound only to Jesus Christ, the Church's King and Head. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as the written Word of God, testifying to Christ the living Word, are the canon of all doctrine, by which Christ rules our faith and life. We acknowledge our historic continuity with the Holy Catholic Church and our doctrinal heritage in the ecumenical creeds, and the confessions of the Reformation. Our subordinate standards are the Westminster Confession of Faith as adopted in 1875 and 1889, the Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation of 1954, Living Faith (Foi Vivant) as adopted in 1998, and such doctrine as the Church, in obedience to Scripture and under the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit, may yet confess in the Church's continuing function of reformulating the faith.

(Here shall follow in the Service of Ordination a statement of duties of the elder.)

THE VOWS *(The moderator shall address the elders-elect, saying:)*

Edwin Webster and Kevin Johnston, that your faith in God and your integrity of purpose may be declared before God and all people, you are required in terms of this preamble to answer the questions appointed for all who would enter the office of the Ruling Elder.

1. Do you believe in God the Father, made known in his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom the Holy Spirit witnesses in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

I do

2. Do you accept the subordinate standards of this Church, promising to uphold its doctrine under the continual illumination and correction of the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scriptures and to be guided thereby in fostering Christian belief, worship and service among the people?

I do.

3. Do you accept the government of this Church by sessions, presbyteries, synods, and general assemblies, and do you promise to share in and submit yourself to all lawful oversight therein, and to follow no divisive course, but to seek the peace and unity of Christ among your people and throughout the Holy Catholic Church?

I do.

4. In accepting the office of Elder, do you promise to perform your duties in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, striving to build up his Church and to strengthen its mission in the world?

I do.

May the Lord bless you and give you grace to keep these vows.

The congregation shall stand, and the minister shall say:

The ordination of elders in a congregation, if their leadership and ministry are to be fruitful, involves responsibilities for both the elders and the people of the church. These questions therefore I direct to you, the members and adherents of this congregation, so that you may renew your obligations to this shared ministry.

1. Do you confess your faith in God as creator and ruler of the world, in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your inspiration and strength?

We do.

2. Do you receive **Edwin Webster and Kevin Johnston**, as elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead you in the way of Christ?

We do.

3. Do you agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions as they guide you, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the church?

We do.

May the Lord bless you and give you grace to keep these promises. **Amen.**

ORDINATION PRAYER *The elder-elect kneel and the moderator leads in prayer, saying:*

We praise and glorify you, Lord God Almighty,
for you have created us and called us to yourself;
you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ your Son;
you sustain our lives and our works
through the presence and power of your Holy Spirit.

Almighty God:

in every age you have chosen servants
to speak your word and lead your people.

We thank you for these men and women whom you have called to serve you as ruling elders.

By the power of your Spirit,
develop in them the gifts of ministry;
may they have the same mind that was in Christ,
serving you in the world as long as they shall live;
through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The minister places a hand on the head of each in turn, calling each by his or her Christian name.

The congregation shall say the following prayer, in unison: (the first for Ed and the second for Kevin)

**God of Grace, who baptized us into a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ;
who called us to be a priesthood of all believers;
who entrusted to us the message of reconciliation;
we pray for courage and discipline to follow where your elders rightly lead us, that together
we may declare your mighty acts and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ who
is ruler of all. **Amen.****

DECLARATION

The newly ordained elders stand. The minister says:

In the name of Jesus Christ, the only king and head of the church, and by the authority invested in me by the Presbytery of Oak Ridges, I now declare **Edwin Webster**, and **Kevin Johnston** to have been ordained as ruling elders and admit you, along with **Robert Revington** (*Robert comes forward and stands with new elders*), previously ordained, to the session of this congregation. Whatever you do, in word or action, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God through him. **Amen.**

THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

*The minister and other members of the session shall give the newly ordained elders the right hand of fellowship.
All may be seated, and the service of worship shall continue. ELBOW GREETINGS? OR BOW?*

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. The parable of the mustard seed reminds us that God's kingdom grows from small beginnings with surprising results. So give to God as you are able, and trust that God will honour your generosity for the purposes of God's Spirit at work among us and beyond us. Let us pray.

Offering prayer:

God of small seeds and secret growth, we bring our gifts to you, trusting that you will bless them. Use them as seeds of new life in our community and in your world. Grow results we cannot even imagine—within us, among us, because of us and beyond us, for the sake of Christ, our Living Lord. Amen.

Lyrics of Praise song (The River is Here)

Chorus	Verse 1	Verse 2	Verse 3
The river of God Sets our feet to dancing The river of God Fills our hearts with cheer The river of God Fills our mouths with laughter And we rejoice For the river is here	Down the mountain The river flows And it brings refreshing Wherever it goes Through the valleys And over the fields The river is rushing And the river is here	The river of God Is teeming with life And all who touch it Can be revived And all who linger On this river's shore Will come back thirsting For more of the Lord	Up to the mountain We love to go To find the presence Of the Lord Along the banks Of the river we run We dance with laughter Giving praise to the Son

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God calls us, all of us. Let us respond to him with our whole hearts and whole lives. Let us be hands and feet of God and take good care of what we are entrusted by God, so the River of God's joy flow in us all the time.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.

Ponder Upon Questions:

1. How I do show my gratitude to God?
2. What areas of church ministries I want to serve?
3. What kind of church leader do I want to be?