

**Worship on June 4, 2023** (CCLI: License Number #3156883)  
(Welcoming Elder: Kevin Johnston)

**Sunday Order of worship (Elder Ordination & Induction)**

**We Gather**

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 637 Take my life, and let it be consecrated
- Prayer for worship + Lord’s Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – 374 Oh for a thousand tongues to sing

**We Listen**

- Prayer for illumination
- First reading: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
- Second reading: Psalm 50:7-15 (refrain 1)
- Third reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- Sermon: Jesus Christ appointed me to his service
- Elder Ordination

**We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 425 We praise you, O God vs. 1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 634 Will you come and follow me

**We Serve**

- Benediction

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

**Responsive Call to Worship**

Rejoice in the Lord, you people of God!

**We will sing songs old and new to praise our God.**

God loves righteousness and justice;

**We will do our best to serve God faithfully.**

The earth is full of God’s steadfast love.

**We come to worship with glad hearts, to offer our love and loyalty**

**Praise song – BOP 637 Take my life, and let it be consecrated**

**Prayer For Adoration and Confession**

God of wisdom and creation, you are overflowing with love, infinite in kindness, incomparable in glory. You are the source of all good things. In you, all things work together for good.

Your presence breaks into our lives in many ways and you touch us with wonder. In this time of worship, we offer you thanks with our prayers, praise with our hearts, and honor with our lives, this day and every day, now and always.

God of all our journeys, you lead us day by day. Sometimes the going is smooth and we follow gladly. But sometimes the going gets tough. We face obstacles and choices. We're unsure which way to turn. Forgive us when we hesitate, and give us the courage to take a step into your future.

**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**

Friends in Christ, God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

**May the peace of the Lord be with you.** Let us take few moments to greet each other and share this joy of our Risen Lord.

### **Prayer for children and youth**

God of grace and love, we thank you for this opportunity to gather our hearts in prayer for our next generations. We offer them up to your hands. Receive them and make them yours. Give them wisdom and protect them safely. They will have to face more Pandemic, natural disasters like wild fires. Help us stand up and become faithful steward of your creation, so we can hand down better world. Grant wisdom and courage upon our next generations. Let them seek your presence all through their lives. Help them form relationships where they can be supported and loved. Surround them with your people and shine your light from them. Bless them and guide them. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

### **Praise Song: BOP 374 Oh for a thousand tongues to sing**

### **Prayer for Illumination:**

Amid the distractions of these days, give us undivided hearts and attentive minds, O God. Settle us with your Holy Spirit so that we might listen for your truth, and discern your guiding Word. We come to your presence with our humble hearts. Lead us. We are yours. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

First reading: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Second reading: Psalm 50:7-15 (refrain 1)

Third reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

**"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."**

### **SERMON: Jesus Christ appointed me to his service**

Today's sermon title is **"Jesus Christ 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 and induct them today. **Christine Tian and Deborah Simmerson** will be our new elders. I prepared today's message for them and for the whole church to remind

ourselves that we are the hands and feet of our Creator God just like I preached last week about us being the co-creator with God.

1 and 2 Timothy are the letters from Paul to his disciple, Timothy. **Timothy was like a son to Paul**, so Paul poured out all the good lessons to Timothy. Paul taught Timothy a lot about becoming a good leader.

Today's passage is one of them. Paul gives himself as an example. Paul was a very passionate man. He was a Jew, a scholar, and a 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. That's how he loved God. 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 of Paul's conversion.**

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, **Christine Tian and Deborah Simmers, 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 elders, as well as all of us, always.

**Let us pray.**

Gracious God the Father, 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 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 community. 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: (BOP539)**  
**(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, narrates, briefly, the events that have led up to this election and ordination)*

*With the Session consisting of only 4 elders, with 2 elders resigning in Spring 2022, it was deemed necessary to hold an election to increase this number. In September 2022, all professing member 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. A list was*

*created with ordered by most votes to least. The top nominees were approached by Anne Neuman and Ed Webster with two, Christine Tian and Deborah Simmerson, agreeing to stand. These two are to be ordained today and then inducted to Session. Due to various reasons, the ordination/induction service could not be arranged until today.*

*Christine and Debora are invited to come forward at this time and stand before the moderator with all other elders, active or retired, following to stand in a semi-circle behind them. Rev. Soong will then proceed with the ordination and induction followed by which the other elders will offer the band of friendship to them.*

*Moderator, on behalf of the Session and the people of this congregation, I present to you Christine Tian and Deborah Simmerson, and request that you now proceed to ordain them as elders and admit them to the Session.*

*(The moderator, Rev. Soong now proceeds with the ordination/induction and the elders all take their seats)*

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

*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:)*

**Christine Tian and Deborah Simmerson** 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 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 Christine Tian and Deborah Simmerson, 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 Christine Tian and Deborah Simmerson 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 Christian Tian and the second for Deborah Simmerson)*

**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 the Ruler of all. Amen.**

**DECLARATION**

*The newly ordained elders stand. The minister says:*

**RECOGNITION:** The Elder Emeritus  
Trevor Preston.

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 **Christine Tian**, and **Deborah Simmerson** to have been ordained as ruling elders and admit you to the session of this congregation. As well as, our long time serving, Elder Emeritus, **Trevor Preston**. On behalf of St. Andrew's Aurora and the session, thank you very much for your faithful service for our church. Whatever you do, in word or action, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God through him. **Amen.**

**Thanks to the Rev. Robert Hayashi – Congratulating letter**

**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.*

**Invitation to the offering:** This is the time for offering. God offers us a future in Christ Jesus, sometimes through comfort and sometimes through challenge. We present our gifts to God in gratitude for God's faithfulness to us in every situation. As we offer our gifts, let us praise God and glorify him.

**The Doxology (BOP 425)**

**Offering prayer:**

God of healing and hope, you offer us what we need in Christ Jesus, not always what we want. Bless our gifts and use them to meet the needs in lives touched by the outreach of our church. Give each of us courage to reach out in Jesus' name whenever you call. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 634 Will you come and follow me**

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God called us to be with him. When we are filled with his love and restored and gain our energy with his power, it is our turn to work for

him. Christine, Deborah, and church, we are God's hands and feet. Let us work for him. Let us share God's love to our surroundings. Let us build up our church for the Lord.

**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.