

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, July 4th, 2021
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Rev. Stephen G. Dunkin

I encourage you to make preparations for this special service. You will need bread. You don't need a whole loaf. A slice will do. If you don't have bread, then a bun or cracker will work just as well. For the cup you can use grape juice, red wine or cranberry juice. If you have none of these, then just use water.

Announcements

1. Today is Communion Sunday. All the Lord's people are welcome to come and feast at his table. If you are at home, make sure you are prepared for this service. You will need a piece of bread, a bun or a cracker, as well as grape juice, red wine or cranberry juice. If you have none of the above, just use water.
2. The Board of Managers is calling a Congregational Meeting to be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, July 11th after the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to lay before the congregation the renovations required for the Manse. The Board requires approval of the congregation before any work can proceed because of the amount the renovations will cost. A package outlining what is being proposed with costs will be sent to the congregation either by email or a printed copy so that you will be able to make an informed decision on the day of the meeting.
3. State of the Call to Mr. Gerald Gallant:
 On Sunday June 6th, after Mr. Gerald Gallant had preached for a Call to St. Andrew's, we held our Congregational Meeting where we voted to extend a call to Mr. Gallant. After the meeting I prepared the Call documents. Out of 71 professing members, 56 signed the Call along with 20 adherents. On Tuesday, I forwarded the complete call to the Clerk of the Presbytery of Lanark-Renfrew who in turn passed it onto the Ministry and Personnel Committee to be examined. The Committee found the Call to meet all the necessary requirements and to be in good order. At a meeting of the Presbytery by Zoom on Tuesday of this week the Call was received and heard by the Presbytery. Here is the note that appears in the Presbytery minutes:
On this day, June 15, 2021, in its regular meeting of the Presbytery of Lanark-Renfrew, the following motion was duly moved, seconded and carried: "that the guarantee of stipend be approved and the call for St. Andrew's, PERTH, ON to the Gerald L. Gallant be sustained."

The Call has now been forwarded on to the Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca for consideration. That meeting was supposed to be held on Tuesday, June 22nd. Unfortunately, their agenda was already full and another meeting will have to be held to deal with the Call. **That meeting will now be held on Tuesday, July 6th at 7 PM by Zoom.** In the meantime, the Presbytery of Lanark-Renfrew gave the Moderator of Presbytery and the Interim Moderator power to begin arrangements for an ordination service and an induction service for Mr. Gerry Gallant as the Minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Perth in September once the Call passes through the Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca.

Your Servant in Christ.
Rev. Stephen Dunkin
Interim Moderator

Introductory Music: "Sheep May Safely Graze" by J.S. Bach
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeFqHXdXQyw>

Call to Worship

We rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters,
And gives us refreshment of soul.
Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go,
So that the name of God will be glorified.
Though all manner of evil befall us, we will not be afraid,
For the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us.
We are never away from the love and mercy of the Lord,
And we shall be with him for ever and ever. Amen!

Prayer of Invocation

Loving Shepherd, you know our names;
you care for us.
When we face darkness and death, walk beside us.
When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.
When we are fearful, feed us at your table.
May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy
all the days of our lives. **Amen.**

Hymn: "Psalm 23" written and lead by Stuart Townend
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-elQQayhpak>

1. The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want
He makes me lie in pastures green
He leads me by the still still waters
His goodness restores my soul

Chorus

And I will trust in You alone
 And I will trust in You alone
 For Your endless mercy follows me
 Your goodness will lead me home

Descant

I will trust I will trust in You
 I will trust I will trust in You
 For your endless mercy follows me
 Goodness will lead me home

2. He guides my ways in righteousness
 And He anoints my head with oil
 And my cup it overflows with joy
 I feast on His pure delights

Chorus

And I will trust in You alone
 And I will trust in You alone
 For Your endless mercy follows me
 Your goodness will lead me home

Descant

I will trust I will trust in You
 I will trust I will trust in You
 For your endless mercy follows me
 Goodness will lead me home

3. And though I walk the darkest path
 I will not fear the evil one
 For You are with me
 And Your rod and staff
 Are the comfort I need to know

Chorus

And I will trust in You alone
 And I will trust in You alone
 For Your endless mercy follows me
 Your goodness will lead me home

Descant

I will trust I will trust in You
 I will trust I will trust in You
 For your endless mercy follows me
 Goodness will lead me home

Call To Confession

We know that nothing is able to separate us
 from the love of God in Jesus Christ.
 Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in your gracious presence
 we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
 Although Christ is among us as our peace,
 we are a people divided against ourselves
 as we cling to the values of a broken world.
 The profit and pleasures we pursue
 lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
 The fears and jealousies that we harbor
 set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.
 We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
 of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression.
 Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.
 Set us free to serve you in the world
 as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (1 Peter 2)

24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” **25** For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Lord’s Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,
 Forever and ever. Amen**

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3) We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer.

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only.
standrewspertloffering@gmail.com Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your

donation to go to a specific fund (eg Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Offertory Prayer

God of wind, word, and fire, we bless your name this day for sending the light and strength of your Holy Spirit.

We give you thanks for all the gifts, great and small, that have been poured out upon your children.

Accept us with our gifts to be living praise and witness to your love throughout all the earth, through Jesus Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. **Amen.**

Responsive Reading

Praise the LORD!

Praise the name of the LORD,
give praise, O servants of the LORD,

**who stand in the house of the LORD,
in the courts of the house of our God!**

Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;
sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

**For I know that the LORD is great,
and that our Lord is above all gods.**

Whatever the LORD pleases, he does,
in heaven and on earth,
in the seas and all deeps.

**He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth,
who makes lightnings for the rain
and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.**

Your name, O LORD, endures forever,
your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.

**For the LORD will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants.**

The idols of the nations are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.

**They have mouths, but do not speak;
they have eyes, but do not see;**

they have ears, but do not hear,
nor is there any breath in their mouths.

**Those who make them become like them,
so do all who trust in them.**

Psalm 135 Selected Verses

O house of Israel, bless the LORD!

You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD!

Blessed be the LORD from Zion,
he who dwells in Jerusalem!

Praise the LORD!

Ministry of Music:

“My Jesus I Love Thee”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqFOsOPj9uk>

1. My Jesus I love Thee I know Thou art mine
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign
My gracious Redeemer my Savior art Thou
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now
2. I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now
3. In mansions of glory and endless delight
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 4:10-13

10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

Lord God, help us to know your ways; teach us your paths.

Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation;
for you we wait all day long.

Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

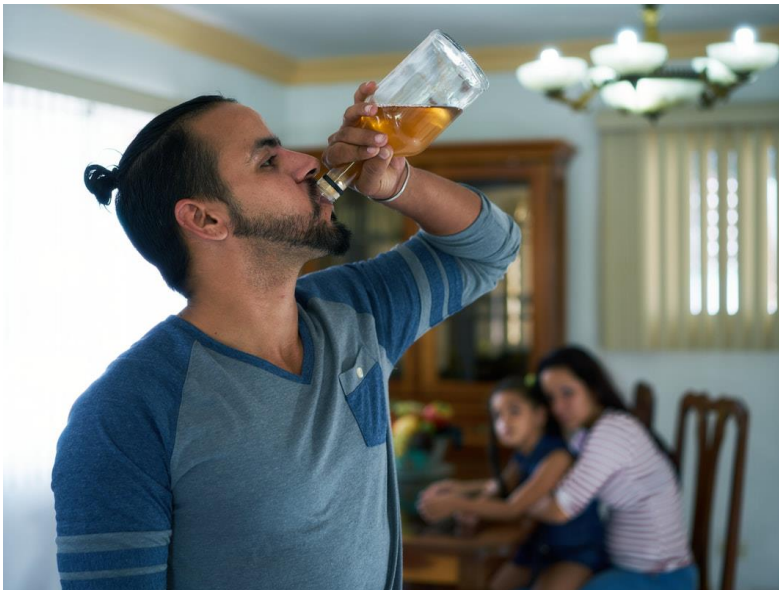
(Based on Psalm 25:4-5)

“The Best Kept Secret”

Philippians 4:10-13

I want to begin by taking a look at the word “secret”. According to my Oxford Encyclopedic Dictionary, when used as a noun, it means:

1. A thing kept or meant to be kept secret.
2. A thing known only to a few.
3. A mystery.
4. A valid but not commonly known or recognized method of achieving or maintaining something.



As a general principle I am not in favour of secrets, because oftentimes secrets are not good. Usual things done in secret are done in the darkness. I can think of many examples. In a home where alcoholism is present, usually it is an unwritten law within the family that they never speak or refer to Mom or Dad’s problem with alcohol. As a result, the abuse that occurs and the chaotic manner of family life are kept secret and children come to believe that this is normal. This is how every family lives.

An adult or an older sibling touches a child or young person in a sexual way. We know this to be sexual abuse, but the abuser says to the child, “You are very special. Don’t tell anyone about this. Let’s keep this our little secret.”



Now, there are secrets that I approve of. I personally see nothing wrong with keeping it a secret when we want to give a loved one a special gift and we want it to be a surprise. I have done this many times, but the truth is, in the end I want this secret to be revealed but on a special day.

It is when we do something that we never want to see the light of day or for anyone to ever know anything about that there is a problem. If something must be kept a secret – if it cannot be shared with other people, then it is usually bad. Besides, most

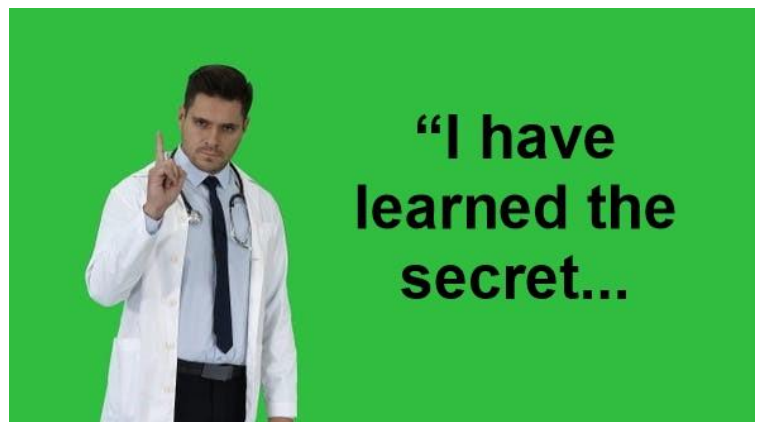


secrets come out sooner or later to our embarrassment. As Jesus says in Luke 12: [2](#) **There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.** [3](#) **What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.**

The Bible makes only a few exceptions to the rule that secrets are bad. Giving to the needy is one example. In Matthew 6 we read: [3](#) **But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,** [4](#) **so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.** For the most part the same can be said about prayer and fasting. Jesus also spoke of **the secret of the Kingdom of God** (Mark 4). However, the Kingdom of God was a secret, not in the sense that Jesus kept it to himself. No, he spoke openly about the Kingdom but people did not understand what he was talking about. When Jesus was questioned by the High Priest about his teaching in John 18: [20](#) **“I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret.** [21](#) **Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.”**

However, there is another meaning of the word secret that we have not yet examined. A secret is not always something which is purposely kept hidden from all but a select few. *A valid but not commonly known or recognized method of achieving or maintaining something.* This is the sense in which Paul uses the word “secret” in Philippians 4. [12](#).... **I have learned the secret of ...** He had learned a valid but not commonly known method of achieving or maintaining something.

Before we examine Paul’s secret, let’s look at what he had learned to



achieve or maintain. Listen to what Paul says. **11 ...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.** This is an incredible statement. It is an incredible achievement. This is something very few people in our society ever discover or achieve. You see, the vast majority of us are discontented. We are discontented with our marriages. We are discontented with our homes. We are not satisfied with our cars. We want something which is newer, bigger, flashier, faster and more luxurious. We are not satisfied with our jobs. We are not satisfied with our position in life. We are not satisfied with our personal situation. We may be discontent with our church or our pastor.

In western society, discontentment is a way of life. Merchants grow rich by making people discontent with what they have – whether it is a bigger TV, a faster computer, the latest iPhone or their career choice. So, it is quite incredible when one man comes along and says: **12 I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.** You would think that this is a secret that could be marketed!

What caused Paul to write these words is that he has received a gift from the congregation in Philippi. They showed concern for him by sending some monetary support. He includes a thank you letter. Unlike most Christian organizations, this letter is not designed to solicit more funds. You know how it goes. You send money to a Christian ministry and then suddenly you are on their solicitation list! Now you get a letter every month if not more frequently soliciting a monetary gift. Direct mail is a cash cow that has become the lifeblood of many organizations. While Paul rejoices in their gift, he makes it very plain that this is not a fund raising letter. **11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content**



whatever the circumstances. When it comes to learning contentment, Paul is not alone. Some people who have very stoical natures can also be content in less than desirable circumstances, but very, very few can say with Paul that they are content **whatever the circumstances.** And almost no one can say: **I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.** The reason is that our society

doesn't know the secret.

In the next verse Paul goes on to say, **12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in**

any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. The word “need” appears in both verses 11 and 12 in the New International Version. While it is a possible translation in verse 11, it is a poor translation in verse 12. First, verse 11. **11 I am not saying this because I am in need.** In other words, he is not saying this because he is in poverty or because he lacks anything. The next verse, **12 I know what it is to be in need.** Here the Greek word means “to be humble, brought low, to be in need”. So here Paul is saying, “I know what it is to be humbled (to be brought low) and I know what it is to have plenty.” Let me tell you that it is one thing to be poor or needy. It is quite different to be humbled or brought low. Jesus was dirt poor, but he was also humbled. He was brought to the lowest of the low through his death on the cross. Paul is content with a life that follows that of his Master. He too knows what it is to be humbled or brought low. Humanly speaking, you don’t get much lower than a jail cell.

Now we move on to the secret. **12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.** There are two aspects to this secret. I believe that any Christian by employing these secrets can live a life of victory and contentment. The first aspect is found in verse 13. **13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.**

I have lost count of the number of times over the years that I have shared these words with a Christian facing overwhelming grief. One that stands out clearly in my mind is when I was called to the Intensive Care Unit of Niagara General Hospital by a desperate wife and mother. Her husband had been driving their youngest son home from a hockey practice when he had a stroke. He was taken to the hospital but never regained consciousness. I was there when they pulled the plug. He was in his mid 40’s. When the committal service was finished at the cemetery, I knelt in front of the widow. I took her hands in mine and I looked her in the eye. I said to her, “Gloria, the Bible says, **‘I can do, I can face, I can cope with all things in Christ who strengthens me.’**”(Altered from the RSV.) Later, I wrote those words out on a 3 inch by 5 inch index card for her. She took that card and pinned it on a bulletin board in her kitchen. Whenever she would feel desperate, she would read that card. Christ became her strength. The first secret of contentment is in knowing that there is nothing we can’t cope with **in Christ who gives us strength.**

The second aspect of the secret is found in the closing verses of Philippians. Paul writes, **19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.** One of our major problems as Christians – one of my major problems – is that we do not believe that God has the power to supply all our needs.

We repeat that old piece of unbiblical advice that “God helps those who help themselves.” And then we set out to supply our own needs. Despite all our possessions, despite all we have – which by the way is far more than we will ever need – we live impoverished lives. It is because we have never discovered the secret that God himself will supply all our needs out of the inexhaustible supply of his glorious riches which he has entrusted to the care of his Son Jesus.



It is like Jesus is the army quartermaster – the One in charge of the all the regimental stores and rations. In this Quartermaster’s Store is to be found every item to supply every need that any Christian will ever have. It doesn’t matter whether that need is physical, spiritual, or emotional. There is an inexhaustible supply to be found in the Quartermaster’s Store. All of his glorious riches God makes freely available to us, his children, through his Son Jesus, who is our Quartermaster.

When was the last time you went to Jesus and said, “Lord, here are my needs. I have come to get my rations which you have prepared for me. I have come to receive all that is mine as a child of the King.” Learn the secret of being content in any and every circumstance of your life. Go to Jesus and by faith say to Him:

I can do, I can face, I can cope with all things in Christ who strengthens me.

My God will supply all my needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

The secret of the contented life is in knowing that in Christ you can face anything – and in knowing that He will supply all your needs.

Hymn: “Behold, The Lamb”, Keith & Kristen Getty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JY-Lmt0K1LM>

1. Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away
Slain for us and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross

So we share in this Bread of Life
 And we drink of His sacrifice
 As a sign of our bonds of peace
 Around the table of the King

2. The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ
 Torn for you eat and remember
 The wounds that heal the death that brings us life
 Paid the price to make us one
 So we share in this Bread of Life
 And we drink of His sacrifice
 As a sign of our bonds of love
 Around the table of the King
3. The blood that cleanses every stain of sin
 Shed for you drink and remember
 He drained death's cup that all may enter in
 To receive the life of God
 So we share in this Bread of Life
 And we drink of His sacrifice
 As a sign of our bonds of grace
 Around the table of the King
4. And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
 To respond and to remember
 Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
 As His body here on earth
 As we share in His suffering
 We proclaim Christ will come again
 And we'll join in the feast of heaven
 Around the table of the King

Let us confess our common faith in the words of The Apostles Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 again 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 Invitation to Communion

Jesus said: **28** “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11). As we come to Communion today, I want to stress to you that this is an open and not a closed Table. It is open to all who know and love Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and desire to walk with him in obedience. It does not matter what church you belong to. This is the Lord’s Table and all of his children are welcome to come and share in this feast. **8** **O taste and see that the LORD is good.** (Psalm 34)

Prayer Before Communion

Lord Jesus, as we come to your Table today, we may come with a sense of our unworthiness to take part in such a sacred meal. Thank you that when we come to you in repentance for our sin, we do not have to worry about our worthiness or goodness. You make us worthy through what you accomplished for us in your death on the Cross. Lord, these elements of Bread and Wine are symbolic of your body and blood. We now set them aside from all common uses to this one holy use. Draw near to us in a special way as we share together in this time of Communion. Through Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen**

The Communion

Take the Bread, and say after me:

The Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and said: “This is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

The body of Christ broken for me.

You may partake of the bread.

Take the cup and say after me:

In the same way, he took the cup after supper, saying: “This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Whenever you do it, do it in remembrance of me.”

The blood of Christ shed for me.

You may drink of the cup.

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Lord, that I did not choose you, but that you chose me, and appointed

- that I should go and bear fruit;
- that my fruit should endure; that whatever I ask of the Father in your Name, he will give me.

Lord, I am convinced that all things I ask in believing prayer I shall receive in the Name of Jesus Christ.

In the Name of Jesus Christ and by the power of his Cross and Blood, I bind all the spirits, powers and forces of darkness. I bind any satanic or demonic forces that roam the face of the earth and that are not of Jesus. I break any curses, contracts, covenants, spells, seals or pacts and I send them to Jesus to deal with.

I bind the working of any demonic force that is at work in the life of every member of this congregation and everyone that we love. I claim the protection of the shed Blood of Jesus Christ, who's Supper we have just celebrated, to be upon each person here and all of our loved ones.

I pray, for archangels and their armies of angels to protect us and to drive Satan away.

In Jesus Name and Authority, I call upon you Holy Spirit, to heal every of instance of abuse and disease; those who suffer from a broken spirit and those who feel cut off and lonely.

In Jesus' Name, I bind the body, soul and spirit of each person here to the will and purpose of God for his or her life. Bind each person's mind, will and emotions to the will of God. Bind each one to the Truth and to the Blood of Jesus. Bind each of our minds to the mind of Christ so that the very thoughts, feelings and purposes of our hearts would be one with Christ. Bind our feet to the paths of righteousness so that our footsteps would be steady and secure. Bind each one of us to the work of the Cross of Jesus with all its mercy, grace, love, forgiveness and dying to self.

I loose the Holy Spirit to bring health and healing, cleansing and forgiveness into every heart, every life, and every family in this church.

I bind and loose these things in Jesus' Name, who himself became a curse and took upon himself every curse meant for us in order that we might receive the Blessing of Almighty God. We pray in this way because Jesus has given us authority in his Name. Lord, we thank you for your Truth and what you have accomplished in our lives today. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "Crown Him With Many Crowns", Grace Community Church
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf-svStcvS8>

1. Crown Him with many crowns
 The Lamb upon His throne
 Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns
 All music but its own
 Awake my soul and sing
 Of Him who died for thee
 And hail Him as thy matchless King
 Through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Son of God
 Before the worlds began,
 And ye, who tread where he hath trod,
 Crown him the Son of Man;
 Who every grief hath known
 That wrings the human breast,
 And takes and bears them for his own,
 That all in him may rest.

3. Crown Him the Lord of love
 Behold His hands and side
 Rich wounds yet visible above
 In beauty glorified
 No angel in the sky
 Can fully bear that sight
 But downward bends his wondering eye
 At mysteries so bright

4. Crown Him the Lord of life
 Who triumphed o'er the grave
 And rose victorious in the strife
 For those He came to save
 His glories now we sing
 Who died and rose on high
 Who died eternal life to bring
 And lives that death may die

5. Crown him the Lord of lords

Who over all doth reign
Who once on earth, the Incarnate Word,
For ransomed sinners slain,
Now lives in realms of light,
Where saints with angels sing
Their songs before him day and night,
Their God, Redeemer, King.

Benediction

Go out into the world and live in peace.
Bear witness to the God of love and peace,
and make disciples of all nations,
teaching them to obey all that Christ has taught us.

And may God look upon you and take delight in you;
May Christ Jesus be with you always, to the end of the age;
And may the Holy Spirit lead you into the dance of love
that is the life of the Trinity.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Postlude:

"O Canada"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwDvF0NtgdU>