# Celebration of Ministry Service Living Skies Regional Council

September 25, 2022

Aurora Espenant, Kent Mohn, and Jim Wolff

St. Andrew's United Church



#### Processional Music – Alma Friesen



#### Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ's presence with us in this time and place. Of all the things this flame represents to us, individually, it also reminds us of our collective call to create community, which we animate together, through worship and service.

#### All:

May this flame unite us in these moments.

May it shine upon this community of faith,

Illuminating the face of Christ in all who gather here.

**Amen** 

## Welcome and Land Acknowledgement



#### Call to Worship

As a gathered community of the Living Skies Regional Council, we sing our praises to God.

We come knowing we will sing, pray, listen, and celebrate new ministry within our midst.

We know that God is with us, for wherever love is, God is present.

May this time together be filled with God's love for all of God's people. Let us worship.

### Opening Prayer

Creator, Holy Mystery, Source of Love,

we gather in this place, at this time,

to worship you with praise and thanksgiving.

Be in our midst, O God,

as together with the people of St. Andrew's United Church,

and the Living Skies Regional Council,

we celebrate the ordination of Aurora Espenant and Kent Mohn, and the recognition of James Wolff into our United Church of Canada.

May this time fill us with gratitude and hope. Creator, Holy Mystery, Source of Love, hear our prayer. Amen.

#### Prayer for Transformation

Today we wear orange to remember and honour all the Indigenous children who went to residential schools.

Today we wear orange and we pray for the residential school and intergenerational survivors who are still struggling.

Today we wear orange and we are thankful for those who speak the truth, and who work to shine a light on injustice.

Today we wear orange in the name of compassion and the spirit of truth and reconciliation.

Help us, God, to remember and act on this every day. \*

And so, we pray for the willingness and courage to be transformed, to meet these challenges faithfully. We pray that our transformation

will inspire us to live with humility and kindness... We pray that our transformation will allow us to be guided by Christ's examples of compassion and justice... We pray that our transformation will allow the Spirit's encouragement to shape our living and strengthen our faith... We pray that our transformation will help us to reflect your generosity and grace... Creator God, hear our prayer...

\*This prayer was inspired by Honarine Scott's Orange Shirt Day blog.

## Music: I Feel the Winds of God (VU 625)



Words: Jessie Adams 1907 Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1906

I feel the winds of God today; Today my sail I lift, Though heavy off with drenching spray And torn with many a rift; If hope but light the water's crest, And Christ my bark will use, I'll seek the seas at his behest, And brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries My vain regretful tears, Until with braver thoughts shall rise The purer, brighter years; If cast on shores of selfish ease Or pleasure I should be, O let me feel your freshening breeze, And I'll put back to sea.

If ever I forget your love And how that love was shown, Lift high the blood-red flag above; It bears your name alone. Great pilot of my onward way, You will not let me drift. I feel the winds of God today; Today my sail I lift.

## Scripture

■ 1 Timothy 4: 11-16 (Jason Richards)



## Scripture

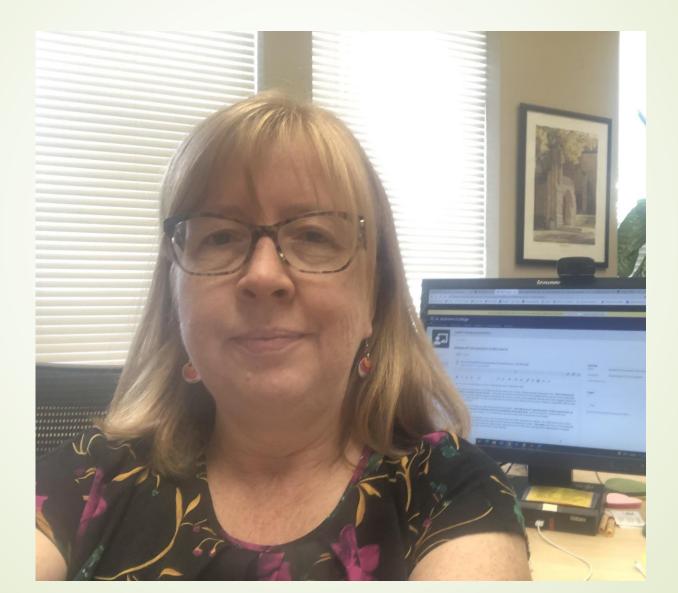
■ 1 Corinthians 12: 27-31 (Dale Worrall)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

#### Thanks be to God!



## Sermon: Lynn Caldwell



## Music: I Have Called you by your name (MV#161)



Words and music: Daniel Charles Damon, 1995

I have called you by your name, you are mine;

I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you;

All my promises are true.

You are gifted, called, and chosen, you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
Read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
Speak the word your soul can claim,
Offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
Feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
Choosing faith in spite of doubt,
Hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
Make my wounded children whole;
Go and tell my precious people they are mine.

#### 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.

#### Celebration of New Ministries

#### **Promises of the Congregation**

Siblings in Christ, on behalf of the whole Regional Council, are you ready to support them in the ministry to which God has called them and for which they have offered themselves?

#### **Congregation:**

We are, God being our guide.

Will you offer your ministry to these people, and receive ministry from them?

#### **Congregation:**

We will, God being our guide.

## Act of Ordination – Aurora Espenant



#### Act of Ordination – Kent Mohn



## Act of Recognition – James Wolff



#### Music: I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (VU #509)



Words: Daniel L. Schutte 1981

Music: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981, harm Michael Pope and John Weissrock 1983

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,

I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

#### Refrain:

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord,

If you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them;
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,

Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

#### Refrain:

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord,

If you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them; My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

#### Refrain:

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord,

If you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

Offering: for the Mission and Service Fund

■ To donate to the Mission and Service Fund, please go to:

www.united-church.ca/donate

## **Dedication of Offering**

Ever-present God, with this offering, we present also ourselves: all that we have been, all that we are, all that we shall become, and our resolve to walk in your way. Accept us and our offering, we pray for Jesus' sake. Amen.

#### Sacrament of Communion

#### Invitation:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

#### for they shall be filled.

The God who promises life, and that in abundance, invites us to the table.

# Where we share in the abundance of life, where we practise living in the light of God.

This table is God's table. This table is open to all who seek to follow God's Way, to live as people of the Promise.

# Here we meet friend and stranger and recognize all as family.

Come and taste the grace eternal, come, and see that God is good.

#### **Call to Give Thanks:**

Great Spirit, Parent of us all,

We give you thanks and praise for all things good.

For the goodness of your creative world,

For the forgiveness of the things, we have done or not done, we offer you our praise.

Knowing that we share the breath of the Spirit with one another of every time and place, we join our voices together to offer our praise and thanksgiving:

More Voices #203

O Holy, holy God, O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!

#### Remembering Jesus at Table:

Great Spirit, you have gifted us with grain for the bread, grapes for the wine and loving hands to make these elements. It is because Jesus, a child of yours, showed us a grace-filled way of justice and love and therefore you have joined yourself to us, uniting us together on earth and in the heavens.

So, we remember Jesus, in his birth like our own, in his baptism in the Jordan River, his compassion and justice for the marginalized, and rising from the grip of death.

On the night before he died, Jesus was with his friends in a rented room. There he took the bread, blessed it, and then broke it, saying to his friends, "Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember me." Then he took the cup, saying, "

This is the new covenant, remember me."

More Voices #204

Sing Christ has died, and Christ is Risen, Christ will come again!

Sing Christ has died, and Christ is Risen, Christ will come again!

### **Prayer for Transformation:**

Great Spirit, in this time of celebration of new ministries, we seek our Spirit to come and bless these simple but meaningful gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us symbol of Christ, making us one with Christ, today and always.

More Voices #205

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen! Amen, amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen!

#### Prayers of the people (Piotr Strzelecki):

Holy one, we come before you ... And we continue to pray:

Our mother and 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.

Forever and ever, amen.

# Breaking the Bread Filling the cup



# Music: Soil of God, You and I (MV 174)



Words and music: jim hannah © 1995 Arr. David Melhorn-Boe © 2006 Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear Seeds of faith nourished, by God's tender care. Growing in everyone for here God is found. All stand together, we are...Holy ground. Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be Part of God's promise, for others to see.

Open to everyone for here God is found.

All stand together, we are...Holy ground.

## Covenanting

We are here to join into a covenantal relationship...

Let us pray for God's grace as we covenant together:

O Great Spirit, you call us into relationships with one another, inviting us to share in the ministry of your church.

As we covenant together with Aurora, St. Andrew's United Church and the Living Skies Regional Council, may we remind ourselves that we are your church, a place of welcome and love, a place that offers hope and seeks justice, and a place that worships, learns, and plays together in your Holy Spirit.

As a uniting church, may what we do here today give glory to your name. Amen

# Promises and Symbols



### Prayer

May God bless the covenant we have made in this place, in this company.

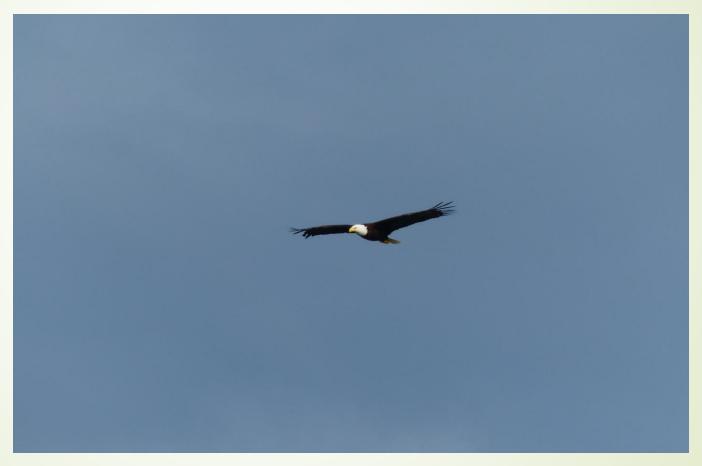
May the words, the actions, and the symbols we have shared in this time, serve to remind us of our interconnected relationships.

May we live into this covenant with a spirit of unity and grace. Amen.

# Commissioning and Blessing: Rev. Aurora Espenant



# Music – May God's Sheltering Wings (MV 214)



Words and music: Judith Snowdon © 2004

May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.

May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you,

And hold you in her love,

And hold you in her love.

# Participants in this worship service:

Acting Executive Minister – Tracy Murton

Presider - Darrell Reine, Convenor of Regional Council Executive

Preacher – Lynn Caldwell, Professor of Theological Ethics

Office of Vocation Minister – Laura Fouhse

Candidates – Aurora Espenant, Kent Mohn, and James Wolff

Laying on hands:

Jared Espenant and Tanya Coulthard (Aurora)

Elizabeth Sinclair and Lindsay, Emmett, and Maggie-Rae Mohn (Kent)

Marlene Willoughby, Madeline Dunn and Jessica Wolff (Jim)

Regional Council Liaison – Dale Worrall

Musician – Alma Friesen

Members of the Community of Faith of St. Andrew's United Church

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