

Retirement Recognition

Thursday Morning

Great is Thy Faithfulness

© Hope Publishing, 1951
CCLI #848539

Great is thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;
there is no shadow
of turning with thee;

Thou changest not,
thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been,
thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
new mercies I see;

All I have needed
thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter
and springtime and harvest
sun, moon, and stars
in their courses above

Join with all nature
in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness,
mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
new mercies I see;

All I have needed
thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin
and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence
to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
new mercies I see;

All I have needed
thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

Celebrating the Faithful Use of Spiritual Gifts

Rev. Mike Luzinski

REV. MIKE LUZINSKI:

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

CONGREGATION:

There are varieties of services, but the same Lord.

There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Today we remember, honor, and celebrate the faithfulness of these elders, deacons, and local pastors whom God called into ministry.

**And we remember, honor, and
celebrate the faithfulness of their
congregations who have been
committed to loving and serving
God and the world around them.**

We are grateful that as individuals, congregations, and the united body of Christ, we have been called, equipped, and deployed for the ministry of the kingdom.

We honor the past, celebrate today, and eagerly anticipate the new chapters of ministry that God has for us.

At the Beginning of Retirement

Rev. Stacey Spence

Eternal God, you hold the times and seasons, endings and beginnings, in your hands.

Bless these friends, who now enter a new time of life.

We give you thanks for tasks accomplished, for the joys and pains woven into the fabric of their years.

Give them the guidance of your Holy Spirit.

May days no longer filled with old obligations be free for new activities and associations.

May fears and uncertainties about the future be transformed into quiet confidence.

May each new day be received as a
sacred trust and lived to your glory,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

Rev. Perri Martin

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best,

so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:3-11

Presentation of Retiring Servants

Rev. Mike Luzinski, Rev. Stacey Spence

Barbara Awoniyi

Fred Ball

Gustavo Betancourt

Paul Chilcote

Danny Chronister

Ann Davis

Kenneth Davison

Connie Di Leo

Patrick Elmore

William Finnin

Mary Gestrich

Anne Godbold

Dale Golden

Pam Hall

Diogenes Hernandez

John Hicks

John Hill

Rachel Hollingsworth

Andrew Howell

LeeAnn Inman

James Alan Jefferson

Harold Lewis

Ronald E. Martin

Jeffrey McClendon

Tom McCloskey

Arden C. Myers

Alan Patz

Gordon Pike

Ted Sauter

Gary Spencer

Gary Tarleton

Carolyn Thomas

Thomas Tift

Thomas Toussaint

Doug Townley

Miguel Velez

James Walker

Eugene Yotka

BISHOP KEN CARTER:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, you
came to us from congregations where
the Spirit of the Lord was upon you;

And you were charged to love, serve and pray for all the people among whom you worked, caring for the young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. These things you have done.

CONGREGATION:

**We give thanks to God for the lives
that have been changed through
your faithful witness and service.**

At your licensing or ordination, you received authority to read the Holy Scriptures in the church of God, to preach the Word, to celebrate the Sacraments, and to Order the life of the Church.

At your commissioning, you received authority to equip the people of God, and to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

There were times that the road was rough and the way unclear, but God's goodness and guidance has seen you through.

**We give thanks to God for the light
you have shone and the seeds you
have sown.**

Never think lightly of the great good that God has wrought through you. And continue to be true to your calling.

This is a transition, not a finale.

This is an opening to new horizons of service, not the end of the road. May God's love and power be with you always.

Let us pray together.

**God of grace, you fill your servants
with vision. You empower your
servants with your Spirit.**

We give thanks for the ministry of these women and men, and for the ways in which you have ministered to us through them as they built connections and built your Kingdom.

Give them a sense of your abiding presence that they may continue to love and serve you, and ever grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Passing of the Mantle

*Bishop Ken Carter,
Rev. Gustavo A. Betancourt, retiring class
Rev. Perri Martin, ordination class*

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RETIRING CLASS:

In the book of Kings we read of the Prophet Elijah's ministry. The mantle, symbolic of submission to God, fell upon the younger prophet, Elisha, and the spirit of Elijah rested upon Elisha.

I transfer this mantle from our generation to the young, indicating thereby that the responsibilities and dedication of the older generation will be caught up and carried on by the young, and the spirit of today's Elijahs will rest upon today's Elishas.

*REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
ORDINATION CLASS:*

We who come after you take up the mantle, which falls upon us. May we inherit a double share of your spirit.

The Charge

Bishop Ken Carter

BISHOP KEN CARTER:

For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven.

So, too, there is a time for movement, new adventure, fields of service not yet touched.

With love, we send you forth in the spirit of John Wesley: May the world be your parish.

CONGREGATION:

Go into the world and respond to the love of Christ in all you do. Live out the vision God has given you. May God's mercy, grace, and peace be with you.

**May you be channels for God's
mercy, grace, and peace to the
world wherever you may be!**

My Hope is Built

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood
supports me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come
with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne!

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.