

COVENANTING SERVICE

**Calgary Presbytery
and Foothills United Church
with Bill Bruce, Part-time Minister**

Sunday, January 31, 2016

Representing Calgary Presbytery:
Hugh Johnson, Barb Lough

Council Chair, Lay Presider, & Lay Presbyter:
Helen Murray

Music Director: Bill Bradley

GATHERING

Prelude Music

*Music for reflection, from 10:15am
Worshippers may light prayer candles,
at the front of the church, as we gather*

Welcome, Introductions, & News

*Please come forward to the microphone,
to make any announcements*

Lighting the Christ Candle

*We light the Christ Candle
on the communion table.*

Call to Worship

Come! Sing! Celebrate!
We are here to experience good news.

**This is God's house
and we can meet God here.**

We gather as the Family of God.

Come, filled with anticipation and expectation.
Come prepared for worship. Come to discover life.
**We are here to remember the ministry of Jesus,
We come to be encouraged in our ministry.**

Hymn

Joyful Joyful
Voices United 232
Tune: Hymn to Joy

Gathering Prayer

We say, in unison, seated:

**It is in the security of your love
that we can come together,
O mighty God.**

**May our work and witness be fulfilling,
and may our relationships
be a reflection of your faithfulness.**

**We are here
seeking an extra measure
of reassurance,
the restoration
of our best selves,
and the clarification
of our responsibilities.
*(continued on next page...)***

Gathering Prayer (cont'd)

**Remind us again, O God,
that You are the builder
in whose hands
the church can become
a community of joy and fulfillment.**

**Bless us
and give us strength
to be the church
wherever we live and serve.**

**Help us to be
the reflection of Jesus,
your love among us.
Amen**

**Story Time for All Ages
*Symbols of Covenanting***

Passing the Peace of Christ
*All may stand, as able,
to greet one another:*
The Peace of Christ be with you
And also with you
until the hymn begins...

Hymn
In the Bulb There is a Flower
Voices United 703
Tune: Promise

LISTENING

Message Covenanting

*Barb Lough, Secretary of Calgary Presbytery,
Licensed Lay Worship Leader, speaks
As we all reflect on the texts:*

Jeremiah 1:4-10
The prophet's call...

Luke 4:21-30
*Response to Jesus reading from Isaiah
in his hometown synagogue in Nazareth...*

RESPONDING

Prayers of the People
Worshippers may light prayer candles

Offering
*Baskets are passed,
as we reflect on our intentions*

Offering Music
*We enjoy gifts of music
As we gather our own gifts*

Presentation & Dedication Prayer
*Our gifts are added
to covenanting symbols*

SERVICE OF COVENANTING

Creed

*All stand, as able, to say together
(See back of bulletin, or projected words)*

**A New Creed
Voices United 918**

Introduction

*All may be seated
Hugh Johnson,
Past Chair of Calgary Presbytery:*

In Jesus Christ,
God came into the world as servant of all.
By our baptism we are called to a ministry
of worship, witness and reconciliation.
Today we gather to celebrate the ministry
to which we are all called,
and we dedicate ourselves to the service of Christ
and the Church.
Let us ask God's grace
as we covenant together this day.

Prayer

All may pray, seated:
**Gracious God,
by our baptism
you have called us
to Christ's ministry.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
as we commit ourselves
to work together
in Christ's name.
Amen.**

Hymn

The Church is Wherever God's People
Voices United 579
Tune: Old Cornish Carol

Symbols of Covenanting

Helen Murray, Presbyter, presents symbols:
On the Communion Table are some symbols
that are important to our faith and to us:

The Bible

(The Word)

a Pitcher of Water

(Our Baptism),

a Bowl of Water and a Towel

(Servant Leadership & Commitment)

Bread and Wine

(Communion & Community)

Prayer

All may pray together, seated:

Gracious God

**Be among us
as one who teaches
and proclaims the Word;
as one who remembers our baptism covenant;
as one who serves.**

**Be among us
as one who remembers our brokenness
and who cares for those who hunger and thirst.
Be among us
as one who celebrates community,
and the amazing things we can do together
in your name. Amen.**

Presentation of the Minister

Barb Lough, Secretary of Calgary Presbytery

I present Bill Bruce,
Ordained Minister,
who has been called to a ministry
of Word and Sacrament,
Education, Service and Pastoral Care.

We believe he is qualified
and has been prayerfully and lawfully selected.

Questions of the Minister

Hugh Johnson

You are responding to a call
within Calgary Presbytery.

You have accepted as your vocation
the service of God through the service of people,
that they might become firm in faith,
confident in hope, and creative in love.

To achieve this will require on your part
the diligent exercise of Christian study,
meditation, prayer and action;
care of your body, mind and spirit; and
deep emotion, laughter and tears.

You are called to be a part
of a community of faith
within Foothills United Church, and
within the wider Church.

On behalf of Calgary Presbytery,
Alberta & Northwest Conference,
The United Church of Canada, I ask you:

Questions of the Minister (cont'd)

Hugh Johnson

Q: Do you commit yourself
to this trust and this responsibility?

A: I do, God being my helper.

Q: Will you accept
the discipline of Calgary Presbytery,
and together with its other members,
be responsible for the oversight
of the church's life?

A: I will, God being my helper.

Q: Will you accept
the support and encouragement
of your pastoral charge,
that is Foothills United Church,
and this Presbytery?

A: I will, God being my helper.

Questions of Foothills Congregation

All may stand, as able.

You have called Bill Bruce
to serve as your Minister.

He will need your support,
love and encouragement.

You will worship together,
study together,
teach together,
minister together.

(continued, next page...)

Questions of Foothills Congregation (cont'd)

God invites us into communities of faith
where we can work and pray together
with openness and integrity,
where we can experience
grace and forgiveness,
where gifts are able
to be offered and received,
and where in spite of differences,
we gather around the table
Christ sets in our midst.

On behalf of Calgary Presbytery,
Alberta & Northwest Conference,
The United Church of Canada,
I ask you:

Q: Will you respond with him to God's call
in a ministry of worship, study, prayer and action
within the Church and in the world?

A: We will, God being our helper.
All may be seated

Promises of the Presbytery

Members of Calgary Presbytery stand as able.

Q: Will you, as members of Calgary Presbytery,
join with this minister
and this congregation

in a ministry that is both theirs and ours?

A: We will, God being our helper.

Promises of the Presbytery(cont'd)

Q: Will you exercise oversight
for their work and witness,
and support and encourage them
in this ministry?

A: We will, God being our helper.

*The entire gathered congregation
may stand as able,
to pray together:*

Lord's Prayer

All may say, seated, as in VU914:

**As children turn to a mother
Who watches over them,
Let us turn to God, saying:**

**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 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,
And the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

Laying on of Hands

*Representatives
from the congregation
may come forward
and surround Bill
with their physical
and spiritual presence,
placing a hand gently
on Bill's shoulder,
back or head.*

Prayer of Consecration

Good and gracious God,
in every age
you have chosen servants
to speak your word
and serve your people.

We thank you
for this minister
whom you have called
to serve.

Give him special gifts
to do his work.

Fill him with the Holy Spirit
so he may be strengthened
and worthy of his call,
and a faithful disciple of Jesus
so long as he shall live.

All: **Amen!**

Declaration

On behalf of Calgary Presbytery,
Alberta & Northwest Conference, and
The United Church of Canada,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
the Head of the Church,
we recognize and affirm you
in your ministry.
Thanks be to God.

All: **Amen!**

Celebration of the Covenant

Let us celebrate the Covenant
we have made this day.

All: **We rejoice in the Covenant
we have made this day,
and give thanks
for all God's people.
Hallelujah!**

(Time for any celebratory applause)

Benediction

Hugh Johnson

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you.

All: **And also with you.
Amen.**

Hymn

*All may stand, as able, to sing
As a round – 3X*

**Go Now in Peace
Voices United 964**

1.

Go now in peace, go now in peace

2.

May the love of God surround you

3.

Everywhere, everywhere,
You may go

Organ Postlude

*All are invited to stay
and visit over coffee*

Stepping Up in 2016

Pick up flyers today, along with annual reports:
Nominations, donations, volunteering –
How might you be 'stepping up' in 2016?



Stepping Up, In 2016



Foothills United Church

***Where do your gifts fit,
In our 2016 plans?***

***Covenanting, Sunday January 31, 2016
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday February 7, 2016***

People Have Stepped Up

For 70 years, and again in 2015

**Thank God for those we lost over the past year,
and for those we welcomed!**

- ✓ We said goodbye to pianist Val Hudson in 2014 and for 2015 welcomed Bill Bradley, 'Bill One'
- ✓ We said goodbye to Dan Funnell in the pulpit after 3 years, and welcomed Bill Bruce, 'Bill Two'
- ✓ We mourned the deaths of members, friends, and neighbours in church and community
- ✓ We greeted friends we hadn't met yet, and still don't know well enough yet
- ✓ We re-viewed our lists of members, non-resident and inactive members, adherents, donors....
- ✓ We celebrated renewal of over 70 members, and over 90 friends on our member and mailing lists

Thank God for those who celebrated, served & shared over the past year, leaders & participants:

- ✓ We worshiped, led not only by staff but also by volunteer lay leadership weekly
- ✓ We shared food & clothing onsite at Foothills, & M&S & presbytery gifts to wider church missions
- ✓ We studied on /Thursdays and Sundays, & shared UCW, Men's group, fellowship & care
- ✓ We welcomed a new organ – and a mic & stand, and countless other gifts 'in kind', time & 'stuff'
- ✓ We balanced our books, with operating budget over \$100K, and a tithe in reaching beyond us
- ✓ We shared time, talent, treasure & tears with members, friends, neighbours, & wider worlds

Stepping Up in 2016

**Financial statements & budgets tell a story –
including receipts issued by our church!**

- ✓ 2015's tax receipts, coming soon, will be close to 2014's, despite 'mobility, morbidity, & mortality'!
- ✓ Analysis of those 2014 receipts shows a pattern in over 100 receipts, for under \$100,000:
 - 107 yearend receipts totaling \$89,200: 59 'envelope', averaging \$1,159, and 48 'non-envelope', averaging \$457
 - The 26 (1/4) smallest receipts (\$0 to \$50) averaged \$31, and totaling \$775
 - The next 27 larger receipts (\$50-\$220) averaged \$117, totaling \$3,168
 - The next 27 larger receipts (\$225-\$830) averaged \$439, totaling \$11,851
 - The 27 largest receipts (\$860-\$16,200) averaged \$2,719, totaling \$73,406



**When you get your 2015 tax receipt,
see which of these four steps you are on,
& where you stand, relative to that average gift;
could you be 'stepping up', in 2016?**