

**Covenanting Service for Rev. Brian Colbourne,
St. James United Church and East District
December 3rd, 2017**

Hymn: *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)*

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The Act of Covenant

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.

Presentation of the Minister

We are gathered here in the presence of God to celebrate the ministry and to covenant together for the service of God in this place.

Clerk of Session: We present Rev. Brian Colbourne, who has been called to the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in the St. James Pastoral Charge. We believe he is qualified and has been prayerfully and lawfully selected.

Rev. Brian Colbourne, you are here in response to the need of the St. James Pastoral Charge, and by action of the Conference and East District. We come together to mark this new relationship among you, the District and the Pastoral Charge. May the God who has given us the will to do these things give us the power and the grace to perform them.

Covenanting Action

Statement of this New Ministry:

Rev. Brian Colbourne, you are about to undertake the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in this place. You, the members of this pastoral charge are called to join him in worship, study, prayer and action. We, the East District, will be responsible for the oversight of this ministry. Let us ask for God's grace as we covenant together this day.
Let us pray: Gracious God, by our baptism You have called us to Christ's ministry; pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us as we commit ourselves to work together for Christ's name. Amen.

Promises of the New Minister:

(Addressing Rev. Brian) Do you, in the presence of this congregation, commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility?

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship: (responsive)

L: Sisters and brothers, as we gather in the welcome of God's love, as we gather in the joy of our unity in Christ, as we gather in the power of the Spirit, let us listen for the voice of God.

All: Let us worship God, who has spoken and still speaks to those who attend to the roar or the whisper of the Holy One.

Prayer of Approach: (unison) Loving God, we cry aloud this day for Your guidance. You have called us into ministry as we follow the pathways that You set down for us. Grant us, we pray, strength to believe in Your gospel and courage to trust in Your Word. We pray that the ministry of this pastoral charge will be strengthened and nurtured by Your Holy Spirit. All glory and honor are Yours, God most high. Amen.

Hymn: *Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet*
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Prayer of Confession: (unison) Gracious God, as people called to be Your presence in the world, we search our hearts, and ask Your forgiveness: for opportunities not taken, for care not given, for sorrow not shared, for joy not celebrated, for love not extended, for those failings we cannot speak aloud, (Silent Prayer)
Gracious God, we seek Your healing grace and ask forgiveness in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness: As disciples, we no longer need to be burdened by guilt, no longer need to be bound by fear. Be renewed through God's forgiving love; be open to Christ's presence in our lives. Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go Dear Lord*

God's Word Proclaimed

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Gospel: John 21:4-19

Meditation: Rev. Lisa Potter (Chair of East District)

Declaration of Covenant

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the East District, I declare this covenant to be established. Thanks be to God! Let us all rejoice in the covenant we have made. Amen.

Halle, halle, halle – lujah, Halle, halle, halle - lujah

Halle, halle, halle – lujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Invitation to Offering: (The Offering collected this afternoon will go to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada for our mission to the whole people of God.)

Doxology : *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* 541

Prayer of Dedication: (Unison) Holy and Beloved God, we dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMN: *Come and Find the Quiet Centre* 374

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

For the world You have created, in all its complexity and wonder,

We thank You, Lord

For life itself, for the challenge and the hope,

We thank You, Lord

For Your Spirit in our lives, spurring us, rebuking us, encouraging us.

We praise and thank You, Lord.

For Jesus Christ, for the life He lived and the life He gives.

We praise You, Lord.

For the people of God who have kept the faith, for the church in our time which stands in truth, for the church of our children, which is nurtured by grace.

We praise You God. We praise and thank You.

Let us pray for the church and its varied ministries throughout the world. (*Silence*)

Let us pray for this ministry that we have together in this Pastoral Charge.

(*Silence*)

Let us pray for all the activities on this Pastoral Charge. (*Silence*)

Let us pray for all those who are impoverished, sick, sad, lonely and disturbed in body, mind or spirit that the love of God may fill all our hearts. (*Silence*)

Let us name before God any of whom we have a particular concern at this time.

(*Silence*)

Hear us, O God, in these prayers which we offer in Jesus' name, saying the prayer that He taught His disciples together. Our Father

Closing Hymn: *I Feel the Winds of God*

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Benediction and Postlude

I do.

Will you accept the discipline of East District and, together with its other members, be responsible for the oversight of the Church's life?

I will, by the grace of God.

Will you accept the support and encouragement of this Pastoral Charge and this District?

I will, by the grace of God.

Promises of the Pastoral Charge:

Members of the Pastoral Charge please stand as you are able.

Will you join with Rev. Brian Colbourne in a ministry of worship, study, prayer and action within this Pastoral Charge and the world?

Yes, we will by the grace of God.

Will you support him as he serves among you in this ministry?

Yes, we will, by the grace of God.

Promises of the East District:

Member of East District, please stand as you are able.

Will you, as members of East District, join with Rev. Brian Colbourne and the St. James Pastoral Charge in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

Yes, we will by the grace of God.

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

Yes, we will by the grace of God

Presentation of Symbols

(Bible) Presenter: Take this Bible. Be among us as one who teaches and proclaims the Word. Amen.

(Water) Presenter: Be among us as one who baptizes with water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Towel and Basin) Presenter: Be among us as one who serves, as Christ served. Amen.

(Bread and Grape Juice) Presenter: Be among us as one who breaks the bread and blesses the cup. Amen.

(Balloons) Presenter: Be among us as one who celebrates the ministry to all ages; through laughter, joy and celebration of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Keys)Presenter: We give you these keys as a symbol of your daily duties and the work of administration; and of this building, a witness to Christ's presence in this community. Amen.

Chair of East District: Rev. Brian Colbourne and St. James Pastoral Charge, let all these be signs of the ministry that is ours and yours in this place. Amen.