

# Christ Church Gabriola

A Collaborative Anglican – United Church  
Open to All

*We gather on the ancestral lands the Snuneymuxw people.*



## Covenanting Service April 15, 2018

*Rev. Karen Hollis, Christ Church Gabriola,  
Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery, BC Conference*

*Presider: Andy Gilman*

*Musician: Marilyn Smith*

## **We Gather in Community**

### **Chair of Presbytery – Andy Gilman:**

A Service of Covenanting celebrates the new relationship between a local church, the Presbytery and the ordered minister newly called to serve. Like any other rite of passage, the United Church of Canada formally celebrates this new relationship by making promises to one another. Let us worship God together.

### **Chair of Council – Rob Brockley:**

*Welcome, Announcements, Introduction*

### **Hymn:**

***Come O Fount of Every Blessing***

**VU #559**

### **Call to Worship:**

One: In the presence of God, who has created and is creating

**All: we come with excitement and expectation.**

One: In the presence of God who has come in Jesus the Christ

**All: we come in hunger and hope**

One: In the presence of God, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

**All: we come with joy and amazement**

One: Let us worship God

### **Gathering Prayer:**

**There is a sense that you are here with us this afternoon, O God. In our seeking, in our finding, and in our brokenness, with a certain extravagance and amazement you enter our lives to bless, to heal, to refresh and to make new. Bless why we are here today and what we are about to do in this place, in Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

### **Passing the Peace of Christ**

## **Presentation of the New Minister**

**Andy:** Friends, we are gathered here in the presence of God to celebrate a new ministry and to covenant together for the service of God in this place.

### **Chair of the Ministry Profile Search Committee – Hilary Plowright:**

We present Rev. Karen Hollis, who has been called to the ministry of *Word, Sacrament and Spiritual Care/Education, Justice and Pastoral Care*, we believe that she is qualified according to our prayerful and diligent discernment.

## **Conference Minister – Gail Miller:**

*Rev. Karen Hollis*, seeing that you are called to ministry by the grace of God and that you are here in response to the call of *Pastoral Charge* and by the action of BC Conference, we now mark a new relationship among you, the Presbytery, BC Conference and the congregation. We believe that God who has given us the will to do these things, will give us the grace to preform them.

## **Disbanding the Ministry Profile Search Committee**

### **Gail:**

BC Conference, and the members of *Christ Church Gabriola* would like to express our gratitude to the Ministry Profile and Search Committee (Hillary Plowright, Gail Reed, Jean Rhodes and Sue Boulton) for your faithful service over the past months. Your commitment of time, faith and discernment has brought us all to this significant time and place. Thank you for the completion of this work.

## **We Engage the Story**

### **Scripture Readings – Betty Schultze:**

#### ***Psalm 14***

Translation by Elizabeth Carr

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God"  
while endlessly busy, too busy to stop,  
to breathe, to be silent, to savor the Good,  
to keep a Sabbath.

*And God says, "You are my Beloved"  
while gifting us with skies, stars, giraffes  
cactus, lilies, bison, trout, bees and people –  
each one precious in God's eyes.*

God looks at us, seeks us,  
wanting only our Love and Mercy shared.  
We are so busy, busy with war, oil, bottom lines,  
while glaciers melt and the ozone withers.

*You are devouring my people and for what?  
for hearts of stone? for ulcers? for war?  
for lonely comforts?  
You live in fear and never call on me.*

Come back to me. I who am your Mother,  
Father, Sister, Brother, Lover, Companion, Friend;  
the Peace you need, the Mystery that beckons,  
I live in the hearts of the just and I shelter the poor.

*I am your Living God and you my cherished ones.  
My mercy is yours. Seek me and  
your heart bursts with New Life.  
all together we dance.*

**Acts 2:43-47**

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**1 Corinthians 1:4-10**

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose.

**Anthem**

James Hollis

**Reflection**

Rev. Jim Holland

**Hymn:**

***We Are Pilgrims***

**VU #595**

## The Act of Covenanting

**Andy:** In Jesus the Christ, God came into the world not to be served, but to serve. By our baptism we are called to a ministry of worship, witness and reconciliation. As we prepare to make commitments to one another now, let us first stand and join in a statement of our communal faith.

**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.**

**Andy:** Will *Rev. Karen Hollis* please come forward. *Karen*, you have answered the call of God and *Pastoral Charge* to minister here in Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care. You, the people of this congregation, are called together with *Karen*, as a Christ-centered community, to worship, study, prayer and action. We, the Presbytery will be responsible for the encouragement, and support of this congregation/pastoral charge. BC Conference will be responsible for oversight and discipline of *Karen*. Let us ask for God's grace as we covenant together this day. Let us pray

**Andy:** Gracious God, at our baptism you called each of us to Christ's ministry; pour out your Holy Spirit upon us as we commit ourselves to work together in Jesus' name. Amen

**Gail:** *Karen*, do you, in the presence of this congregation, commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility?

**Karen:** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**Gail:** Will you accept the support and encouragement of this pastoral charge and presbytery?

**Karen:** I will, by the grace of God.

**Gail:** Will you accept the discipline of BC Conference and together with its other members, be responsible for the oversight of the life of God's church here and in the world?

**Karen:** I will, by the grace of God

**Promises of the Pastoral Charge Members:**

*(Congregation please stand).*

**Andy:** Will you join together with *Karen* in ministry of worship, study, hospitality, prayer, and action within this congregation and the world?

**Members of Congregation:** We will, by the grace of God.

**Andy** Will you, as members of *Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery of the United Church of Canada in BC Conference and members of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia*, join with *Karen* and with this congregation in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

**Presbytery & Diocese Members:** We will, by the grace of God.

**Andy:** Will you witness their work, and support and encourage them in ministry?

**Presbytery & Diocese Members:** We will, by the grace of God  
*(Presbytery members please be seated)*

**The Right Reverend Dr. Logan McMenamie:** In celebration of this covenant we, as a diocese, offer our support and prayers to *Karen* and *Christ Church Gabriola*. As a shared ministry, they will have available to them clergy support and all the resources of the Anglican church in this diocese. Thanks be to God for this covenant made here today.

## Presentation of Symbols

**Hilary (Bible):** *Be among us as one who shares the Word of God*

**Karen:** *I invite you all to join with me in proclaiming the Gospel of hope and life.*

**Rob B (Chalice):** *Be among us as one who breaks the bread and lifts the cup.*

**Karen:** *I invite you all to join with me in celebrating the Feast and communing together, in company with the church in every age.*

**Paddy (Pitcher of Water):** *Be among us one who baptizes in the name of the Triune God.*

**Karen:** *I invite you to join with me in rejoicing in our baptismal life and in nurturing the community of faith.*

**Betty (Driftwood):** *Be among us one who makes a home on Gabriola.*

**Karen:** *I invite you all to join with me in serving Gabriola Island and the community here in the name of Christ.*

**Andy:** *Karen, members of Christ Church Gabriola, presbyters, and members of BC Conference, let all these be signs of the ministry that is ours and yours in this presbytery.*

### **Declaration and Response:**

**Andy:** *In the name of Jesus, and on behalf of Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery of the BC Conference of The United Church of Canada, I declare you, Rev. Karen Hollis, duly covenanted as minister of the congregation of Christ Church Gabriola, and that the covenant has been duly witnessed. God bless the ministry of Karen, of the members the congregation, and of all who have gathered here today.*

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Special Music:**            *Take My Life And Let It Be*     Arr. by Stan Pethel  
   Charlie Blackburn & Lisa Griffith

Take my life and let it be consecrated, all for thee;  
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

## **Naming Ceremony with The Right Reverend Dr. Logan McMenamie**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (Paddy)**

**VU #959**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil  
for the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and forever.**

**Offering** (*goes to support Presbytery students for ministry*)

**Doxology: Praise God the Source of life and birth,  
Praise God the Word, who came to earth.  
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.  
All glory, honour to God's name.**

**CP #669**

**Hymn: *Jesus Calls Us***

**VU #562**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Postlude**

