

INSTALLATION OF REV. NATHAN ACHTERHOF  
A SERVICE OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

———— GATHERING ————

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ADAM DELEZENNE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us worship God.

Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
**shout to God with loud songs of joy.**

*Ps. 47:1–2*

For the Most High is awesome,  
**a great sovereign over all the earth.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
**to sing praises to your name, O Most High.**

*Ps. 92:1*

**HYMN #450**

*Be Thou My Vision*

**CONFESSION AND PARDON**

**REV. JASMINE SMART**

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say that we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

*1 John 1:8, 9*

But if we confess our sins,  
God who is faithful and just  
will forgive us our sins  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
In humility and faith  
let us confess our sin to God.

CONFESSION OF SIN

**Almighty God,**  
**by water and your Holy Spirit**  
**you baptized us to be your own**  
**and called the church into being.**  
**We confess that we hold back**  
**the love of your Spirit among us.**  
**We do not listen for your word of grace,**  
**speak the good news of your love,**  
**or live as a people made one in Christ.**

**Have mercy on us, O God.  
Transform our lives by the power of your Holy Spirit  
and make strong our common witness  
to the one Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God, who is rich in mercy,  
out of the great love with which God loved us,  
even when we were dead through our sin,  
made us alive together with Christ  
and raised us up with him.  
For by grace you have been saved through faith,  
and this is not your own doing;  
it is the gift of God. **Amen.**

*Eph. 2:4, 5a, 6a, 8*

**Responsive Chorus #240 ~ “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (Refrain)  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to  
his name.**

**THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ,  
let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

———— THE WORD ————

**JAN LAPENTA**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Lord God of Heaven, We come to receive from you  
your instruction and guidance. Holy Spirit be present  
in this place and in us so that we would hear  
your instruction and call for us today. May we your  
people respond with faithfulness and love. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**                      **Philippians 2: 5-11**

**NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE**                      **John 13:1-15**

**SERMON**                      **“THE MINISTRY OF THE TOWEL”**  
**REV. MARK PHILLIPS**

**HYMN #819**                      *Be Still, My Soul*

**INSTALLATION**

Stephanie Lewis

A LITANY OF GIFTS

As in one body we have many parts  
and each part has its own function,  
so all of us together with Christ are one body,  
and we all belong to each other.

**We have different gifts  
according to the grace God has given us.**

If your gift is to hear God's Word,

**speak it out in faith.**

If your gift is service,

**live to serve others.**

If your gift is the heart of a teacher,

**teach what is true.**

Let preachers preach with conviction,

and givers give freely;

**let officers work diligently for the people,  
and let those who serve the poor, serve gladly.**

Let us not lack for enthusiasm,

but be ardent in spirit,

**serving the Lord,**

**rejoicing in hope,**

**patient in suffering,**

**constant in prayer,**

**supporting one another,**

**and welcoming all.**

*Based on Rom. 12:4–8, 11–13*

DAVE BUNCH- MODERATOR OF DETROIT PRESBYTERY

STATEMENT ON THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance  
to the life and work of the Church.

In Christ, the Church participates in God's mission  
for the transformation of creation and humanity  
by proclaiming to all people the good news of God's love,  
offering to all people the grace of God at font and table,  
and calling all people to discipleship in Christ.

Human beings have no higher goal in life  
than to glorify and enjoy God now and forever,  
living in covenant fellowship with God  
and participating in God's mission.

Today we reclaim our historic calling  
and remember the great ends of the church:

*Book of Order F-1.01*

**The proclamation of the gospel  
for the salvation of humankind;**

*Book of Order F-1.0304*

**the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship  
of the children of God;  
the maintenance of divine worship;  
the preservation of the truth;  
the promotion of social righteousness;  
and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven  
to the world.**

The ministry of the church is shared by pastor and people,  
so that all together may fulfill the mission  
to which we are called in Jesus Christ.

The particular responsibility  
of the ministry of a teaching elder  
is to build up the church and serve the people of God,  
so that the Word may be rightly proclaimed  
and the sacraments rightly celebrated.

The call to this ministry has been  
extended by the congregation,  
accepted by the candidate,  
and approved by the presbytery.  
Therefore the Presbytery of Detroit,  
by means of this commission,  
now installs Nathan as *pastor*  
of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

**The teaching elder to be installed, the moderator, commission members, and other  
worship leaders gather at the front of the place of worship.**

**The moderator addresses all present saying:**

In *his* baptism, Nathan was clothed with Christ.

*He* was ordained as a teaching elder  
by the Presbytery of Lackawanna  
and is now called by God through the voice of the church  
to serve as *pastor* of this congregation.

**We remember with joy  
our common calling to serve Christ,  
and we celebrate God's call to our *brother*  
to serve among us as pastor.**

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

W-4.4003

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior,  
acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church,  
and through him believe in one God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments  
to be, by the Holy Spirit,  
the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal,

and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt  
the essential tenets of the Reformed faith  
as expressed in the confessions of our church  
as authentic and reliable expositions  
of what Scripture leads us to believe and do,  
and will you be instructed and led by those confessions  
as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ,  
under the authority of Scripture,  
and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity,  
and will you abide by its discipline?

Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry,  
working with them,  
subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life  
seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ,  
love your neighbors,  
and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity,  
and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people  
with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

Will you be a faithful teaching elder,  
proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament,  
teaching faith and caring for people?

Will you be active in government and discipline,  
serving in the councils of the church;  
and in your ministry will you try to show  
the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

**Jan Lapenta addresses the congregation:**

Do we, the members of the church, accept Nathan  
as our *pastor*

chosen by God through the voice of this congregation  
to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for *him*/  
encourage *him*/

to respect *his* decisions,

and to follow as *he* guides us,

serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Do we promise to pay *him* fairly

and provide for *his* welfare as *he* works among us;

to stand by *him* in trouble and share *his* joys?

Will we listen to the word *he* preaches,

welcome *his* pastoral care,  
and honor *his* authority  
as *he* seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord? **We do and we will.**

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

**Rev. Issac Chung**

We praise you, gracious Lord,  
for you alone are God.  
You have made us,  
and we are your people, the sheep of your pasture.  
You have led us to green meadows by cool waters,  
satisfying our every need with your love.  
You have shown us paths that are right.  
Through shadowed valleys of despair,  
you have been our comfort and our hope.  
Over long generations,  
your presence has sustained your people.  
In your good time,  
you sent Jesus, your only Beloved, to be our shepherd.  
He knew and loved your own,  
calling all who would hear to follow him.  
The Good Shepherd laid down his life for us,  
risking the cross for the hope of resurrection.  
By the power of the risen Christ  
you gathered the church together  
to live for you in newness of life,  
a holy nation, a priestly family,  
a people chosen as your own  
and called to proclaim your marvelous love.  
Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us,  
that we may be faithful as your people  
and fruitful in the ministries you have given us.  
Grant diligence to those who lead,  
faith to those who teach,  
truth to all who speak,  
compassion to all who heal,  
wisdom to those who counsel,  
generosity to those who give,  
and cheerfulness to all who serve.  
To your servant Nathan  
and to all who tend your flock as pastors among your people,  
give vision and strength, hospitality, humility, and peace.  
Bless the common ministry of this pastor and people  
with joy and power in the gospel.  
Strengthen us to live out the grace of our baptism  
and to serve you with the gifts of your Holy Spirit;

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only shepherd and Lord. **Amen.**

#### DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION

**Dave Bunch addresses the newly installed teaching elder:**

Nathan, as a teaching elder in the church of Jesus Christ,  
you are now installed as *Pastor*  
of this congregation.

Be faithful and true in your ministry  
so that your whole life will bear witness  
to the crucified and risen Christ.

**The newly installed teaching elder responds:**

Amen.

#### WELCOME

**Members of the presbytery and others as appropriate welcome the newly installed teaching elder.**

#### CHARGE TO THE NEWLY INSTALLED PASTOR

**Rev. Jasmine Smart**

*John 21:15–19*

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

#### CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

**Stephanie Lewis**

*1 Peter 4:8–11*

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

#### PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS OF MINISTRY

**Symbols appropriate to the new relationship between the teaching elder and congregation may be presented.**

———— THE EUCHARIST ————

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**Rev. Nate Achterhof**

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! *See Luke 13:29 and Luke 24:30, 31*

They will come from east and west,  
and from north and south,  
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke,  
when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,  
he took the bread, and blessed and broke it,  
and gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened  
and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's table.

Our Savior invites those who trust him  
to share the feast which he has prepared.

**Communion together at the Lord's Table**

**CLOSING HYMN #625**

*How Great Thou Art*