



Retirement Service

A Ritual to Honor Retirees and Pass the Mantle Saturday,
November 14, 2020 at 4:30pm  

Opening Prayer — Eliza Gatz and Paul Lee

For everything there is a season, and a time for every action under heaven. In this time set apart for transition, we ask God to be with us. Though we are physically distant, we are together in spirit. We rejoice in the chance to worship to hear from and to bless these ministers moving into the next season of their working and resting lives. May our hearts be turned to God. Amen.

Hymn — A Mighty Fortress - Luther

A Mighty Fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;
Dost ask who that might be? Christ Jesus it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

Scripture — 1 Peter 3:15b (NIV) - Will Green and Uziel Hernandez

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

Presenting the Retirees — Bishop Sally Dyck

Our siblings in Christ, you began this journey with the Spirit of the Lord upon you; and you were charged to preach to the brokenhearted, to visit the captive, to anoint those who were bruised. Even as our world looks very different now, you have done these things.

When you were ordained, you received authority to live out your calling and serve the church and the world. By God's grace, you did many things that were beyond your own power.

We are thankful for your ministry, for the communities of the faithful where you have served together with so many others. We know that your path has not always been easy. We know that by grace you have served, and live, and will continue to serve and live in new ways.

Never think lightly of the great good that God has done with you. Continue to have an answer for any who asks why you have hope. May God's love and power be with you always.

Retirement Service (*continued*)

Retiring Class of 2020 (Years of Service)

Rev. Frederick Bartels (12)

Rev. Rosalee T. Blake (11)

Rev. Richard T. Carlson (33.5)

Rev. Jan Parsons Comerford (31)

Rev. Raney K. Good (19.5)

Rev. Anne Cowick Hampson (19.5)

Rev. Cecelia L. Harris (26)

Rev. Thomas Hay (10)

Rev. Charlette J. Hoffmann (24)

Rev. Kolleen Klemmedson (23.75)

Rev. Gladys Lucas-King (4)

Pastor Jerry L. Martz (6)

Rev. Linda A. Misewicz-Perconte (33.25)

Rev. Sung-Ja Lee Moon (32)

Rev. Lawrence Alan Paris (6)

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr (18)

Pastor Mary H. Steinwandt (6.75)

Rev. Irene Taylor (23)

Rev. C. Kay Turner (23)

Rev. Christina Louise Vosteen (17)

Rev. Gary Waters (26.85)

Pastor Donald Wright (16)

Retirees Reflection

Blessing of the Retires — Bishop Dyck



Retirement Service (*continued*)

Passing the Mantle — Fritz Bartels (newly retired) and Tammy Scott (ordination candidate)

Newly retired: 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 new,
indicating thereby
that the responsibilities and dedication of my generation
will be caught up and carried on by the next,
and the spirit of today's Elijahs will rest upon today's Elishas.

Candidate: We who come after you take up the mantle which falls upon us.
May we inherit a double share of your spirit,
and be faithful in our responsibilities and dedication.

Closing Song - Higher Ground - Gabriel/Oatman Jr., chorus adapted by Rubietta

Chorus 1:

Lord, lift me up and let me stand
By faith on heaven's Table land
A higher plane than I have found
Lord plant my feet on higher ground

I'm pressing on the upward way
New heights I'm gaining every day
Still praying as I'm onward bound
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground

Chorus 2:

Lord, lift me up and let me stand
Be faithful ever in this land
A higher plane than I have found
Lord plant my feet on higher ground

I want to live above the world
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled
For faith has caught the joyful sound
The song of saints on higher ground



Retirement Service (*continued*)

Chorus 1:

Lord, lift me up and let me stand
By faith on heaven's Table land
A higher plane than I have found
Lord plant my feet on higher ground

O, keep me on the upward way
No compromise along the way
May I be true and faithful found
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground

Chorus 2:

Lord, lift me up and let me stand
Be faithful ever in this land
A higher plane than I have found
Lord plant my feet on higher ground *Repeat*

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Mighty Fortress - words and music by Martin Luther. trans. by Frederick H. Hedge. *United Methodist Hymnal # 110, copyright 1983, The United Methodist Publishing House.*

Higher Ground - words: Johnson Oatman, Jr.; music, Charles H. Gabriel. Chorus II adapted and 3rd verse written by Rich Rubietta. *Songs of Zion #39, copyright 1981, Abingdon Press.*

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