

Fletcher United Church

*Decommissioning Service
Sunday April 14th, 2024*



** Fletcher Presbyterian Church
1883 to 1925*

** Fletcher United Church
1925 to 2024*



Fletcher United Church

Final and
Decommissioning Service
April 14th, 2024 @ 2 pm

Celebration of the Ministry of Fletcher United Church

April 14th, 2024

Leaders: Rev Kim Gilliland, Eric Skillings,
Donna Pollard and Jim Stirling

Music: Betty Vince

Candle Lighters: Elwin Vince, Donna Pollard,
Rev Kim Gilliland, Betty Vince, Chris Kearns,
Steven Vince, John Lusina, Linda Vince,
Glenn & Marylynn

Bulletin Symbols: 🦿 - Stand, if you are able 🪕 - Please sit
Bold Lettering: Please read along.

Offering: "if you wish to make an offering today, the plate is
on the back table" Thank – you!

Prelude:

Welcome & Announcements:

Eric: We wish to extend our most deepest and sincere thanks for all of the support that you have given to Fletcher United Church over so many years. You and the generations gone before you, have helped to empower our work of Christ and ministry to our community. As we move forward into this new leg of our faith journey, we know that we can always count and trust in your support as we all work towards the kingdom of God.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Kim: In the name of God we welcome all who come to this place today to celebrate the more than 141 years of ministry here at Fletcher United Church.

People: We seek the God of righteousness and justice; who comes unfailing as the dawn, every morning

Kim: The Triune God who greets us in the morning, sustains us through the day and through the night, and into our certain future.

People: We seek to call on the name of God and to serve God with one accord and to journey with God into our future in a new space.

Opening Hymn: CH 3 “Holy, Holy, Holy. Lord God...”

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,

which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth
and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Opening Prayer:

People: Once more O God - we have come to find the quiet center in our life where we can be with you. You bring calm into our lives, when we still ourselves, to feel your Spirit's presence. In this time of reflection, may we know your presence with us; a presence which that in all moments of life reminds us that you are the light that walks with us. In Christ Jesus, we come to this time of celebrating and remembering. Amen

Lighting the Candles of our Journey:

Elwin Vince: From God, in Christ, through the action of the Holy Spirit, the ancestors of the Fletcher community came together to form the first Fletcher Presbyterian Church and in 1925, Fletcher United Church. We light the first candle to honour the Ancestors of Fletcher United Church.

Elwin Vince: (lights the first red candle)

Donna Pollard: We light the next Candle for the Word of God that has been proclaimed at Fletcher United Church over the past 141 years. We celebrate how the teachings of Christ have been illuminated and shared with those with ears to hear. We

remember those ministers, lay leaders and guests, who shared the Good News with the faithful of Fletcher United Church throughout the years.

Donna Pollard: (lights the second red candle)

Rev Kim Gilliland: We give thanks for all the times we have come to the table of the Lord to celebrate the blessed gift of the Sacrament of Communion. We remember the sacrament of Baptisms, where we celebrate the fullness of God - where we are claimed, called and commissioned. We celebrate the many marriages, our covenant with each other and with God. We light the next candle celebrating our sacraments, renewing our faith, knowing Christ's presence in a most sacred moment.

Rev Kim Gilliland: (lights the third red candle)

Betty Vince: We light the first white Candle to celebrate those who answered God's Call to the Ministry of Music at Fletcher United Church; for the organists, the pianists, the choirs – adult and children. We appreciate their gifts shared each Sunday, at special concerts, caroling, solos and special music, as well as those who played instruments and directed the ensembles. Their musical talents are the Ministry of Christ among us at Fletcher United Church. We offer our appreciation for the gifts of these ministries.

Betty Vince: (lights the first white candle)

Chris Kearns: We light the second white Candle to celebrate and rejoice with the many Adult Groups at Fletcher United Church over these many years. We remember the Women's Missionary Society, the United Church Women, the organized Bible Study groups, the AOTS ("As One Who Serves") Men's Group that meet together with the wider community. Thank you for those groups that enabled us to share our faith with one another.

Chris Kearns: (lights the second white candle)

Steven Vince: We offer praise and thanksgiving for times we have come together as a community of faith to witness and commit our support to children and adults as they begin and continue their faith journey through Sunday School, Young People's Union, Vacation Bible School, Christmas Pageants, and leading in worship. We light this candle for our children and youth and their faith throughout the years of Fletcher United Church.

Steven Vince: (lights the third white candle)

John Lusina: We remember and celebrate the many times we have gathered around the tables, sharing potlucks, Beef Dinners, Muffin Parties, Bake Sales, Strawberry Suppers, to name a few of the acts of serving and sharing meals. We give thanks for all the times we have been able to extend outreach into the community serving God.

John Lusina: (lights the fourth white candle)

Linda Vince: We light this Candle for all those moments we have been comforted in the dark moments of our grief. We are grateful that we as a community of faith have been able to gather to offer comfort for those whom are grieving. As a Rural Community of Faith, we gather with the community to offer support to the grieving families and friends. We offer the Church Sanctuary for the Funeral Service, followed by a Community Lunch in the basement, to share our love, support and faith to the family.

Linda Vince: (lights the fifth white candle)

Marylynn Mifflin: We give thanks for those times we have gathered to witness our faith with the wider Fletcher Community; offering Hay Rides, Baby and Wedding Showers, Weiner Roasts, and a Gathering Place for the community to meet. We give thanks that we have been able to share this building with the community for so many years. We are proud that so many people in our wider community considered this Church to be their faith community.

Glenn Drew: (lights the sixth white candle)

Eric: We offer these lights to honour and celebrate the 141 years of Ministry at Fletcher United Church. It is in the light of Christ, strengthened by God's love, inspired by the Holy Spirit that we can honour who we are; in faith, in community and as servants in Christ. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: CH 572: Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;*

*this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Declaration of Purpose:

Donna Pollard: Today we gather to celebrate the 141 years of Ministry here at Fletcher United Church. We also gather to say goodbye to this building known as Fletcher United Church, and we as the Congregation, will remain to be Fletcher United Church in a new space. Today we take leave of this building. It has been dedicated for the ministry of God's Word and Sacraments. It has provided refuge and comfort for God's people. It has served as our household of faith. It is fitting, therefore, that as we take our final leave of this worship space, we lift up our hearts in thanksgiving for the many years of future ministry in a new space.

Decommissioning:

Jim Stirling: (as ARW Region Rep) *This building, having been dedicated and named Fletcher United Church, together with the land on which it stands and all objects remaining in it, we now commend to other purposes. We declare that it is no longer the place of meeting of a congregation of The United Church of Canada, even as the Fletcher United Church Congregation continues to be the church in the wider community.*

Prayer of Going Forward:

People: **O God, in your great goodness, you have blessed the many ministries carried on by this congregation in this building. We pray that, now and in the days and years to come, you may greatly bless the many ministries in your Church. Bless those persons who have worshipped in this building, and will now be worshipping in their new space. As disciples of the risen Christ, may we be channels at all**

times of your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn: CH 429 “They’ll Know We Are...”

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
*And they’ll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land:
*And they’ll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we’ll guard each man’s dignity
and save each man’s pride:
*And they’ll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

All praise to the father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
*And they’ll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

Blessing:

**People: We are called towards the future as the
Congregation of Fletcher United Church.**

Kim: In life, in death, in life beyond death, we are not alone.

People: Thanks be to God

Honouring our Journey:

Kim: The Lord is with You.

People: And also with you

Kim: Take heart for you are not alone.

**People: Within our hearts we know we are not alone, and
we are able to set forward in faith.**

Eric: For all things, there is a time, a time for all things under
heaven. We also know that a grain of wheat must fall to the
ground in order to grow. So too must we answer the call the
Holy Spirit to plant us in our new space so that we may
continue to grow in new and different ways.

*(take the flame of each candle and add it to the Christ Candle as
you extinguish the Ministry Candle – representing taking the ministry
with us)*

**People: We take the light of the ancestors of Fletcher
United Church, and add it to the light of Christ. The light of
our ancestors can never be extinguished. Their light burns
within each of us and our collective memory.**

*Elwin Vince: (takes the light from the first red candle to the Christ Candle,
and extinguishes the first red candle).*

**People: We take the light of the Word of God preached at
Fletcher United Church, and add it to the light of Christ.
The light of the Word of God can never be extinguished.
The Word of God, and those whom shared it, burns within
each of us and our collective memories.**

*Donna Pollard: (takes the light from the second red candle to the Christ
Candle, and extinguishes the second red candle).*

People: We take the light of the Sacraments – shared and received at Fletcher United Church, and add it to the light of Christ. The light of the Sacraments can never be extinguished. The Sacraments and those sacred times, burns within each of us and our collective memories.

Rev Kim Gilliland: (takes the light from the third red candle to the Christ Candle, and extinguishes the third red candle).

People: We take the light of the music of Fletcher United Church, and add it to the light of Christ. The light of the music can never be extinguished. The music and those musical gifts offered, burns within each of us and our collective memories.

Betty Vince: (takes the light from the first white candle to the Christ Candle, and extinguishes the first white candle).

People: We take the light of the Adult Groups of Fletcher United Church, and add it to the light of Christ. The light of the Adult Groups and their purpose can never be extinguished. The purposes of the Adult Groups, burns within each of us and our collective memories.

Chris Kearns: (takes the light from the second white candle to the Christ Candle, and extinguishes the second white candle).

People: We take the light of the Children and Youth of Fletcher United Church, and add it to the light of Christ. The light of the Children and Youth and their faith can never be extinguished. The faith of the Children and Youth, burns within each of us and our collective memories.

Steven Vince: (takes the light from the third white candle to the Christ Candle, and extinguishes the third white candle).

People: We take the light of the Fellowship and Outreach of Fletcher United Church, and add it to the light of Christ. The light of the Fellowship and Outreach can never be extinguished. The Fellowship and Outreach, burns within each of us and our collective memories.

John Lusina: (takes the light from the fourth white candle to the Christ Candle, and extinguishes the fourth white candle).

People: We take the light of the Comfort and Compassion of Fletcher United Church, and add it to the light of Christ. The light of the Comfort and Compassion can never be extinguished. The Comfort and Compassion, burns within each of us and our collective memories.

Linda Vince: (takes the light from the fifth white candle to the Christ Candle, and extinguishes the fifth white candle).

People: We take the light of the Community Actions of Fletcher United Church, and add it to the light of Christ. The light of the Community Actions can never be extinguished. The Community Actions, burns within each of us and our collective memories.

Glenn Drew: (takes the light from the sixth white candle to the Christ Candle, and extinguishes the sixth white candle).

Kim: Who we have been, and will be, as a community of faith, will continue to shine in us, as a community of faith that loves and honours God as we work towards the coming of God's Kingdom.

People: May God guide our way.

Eric: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him, not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

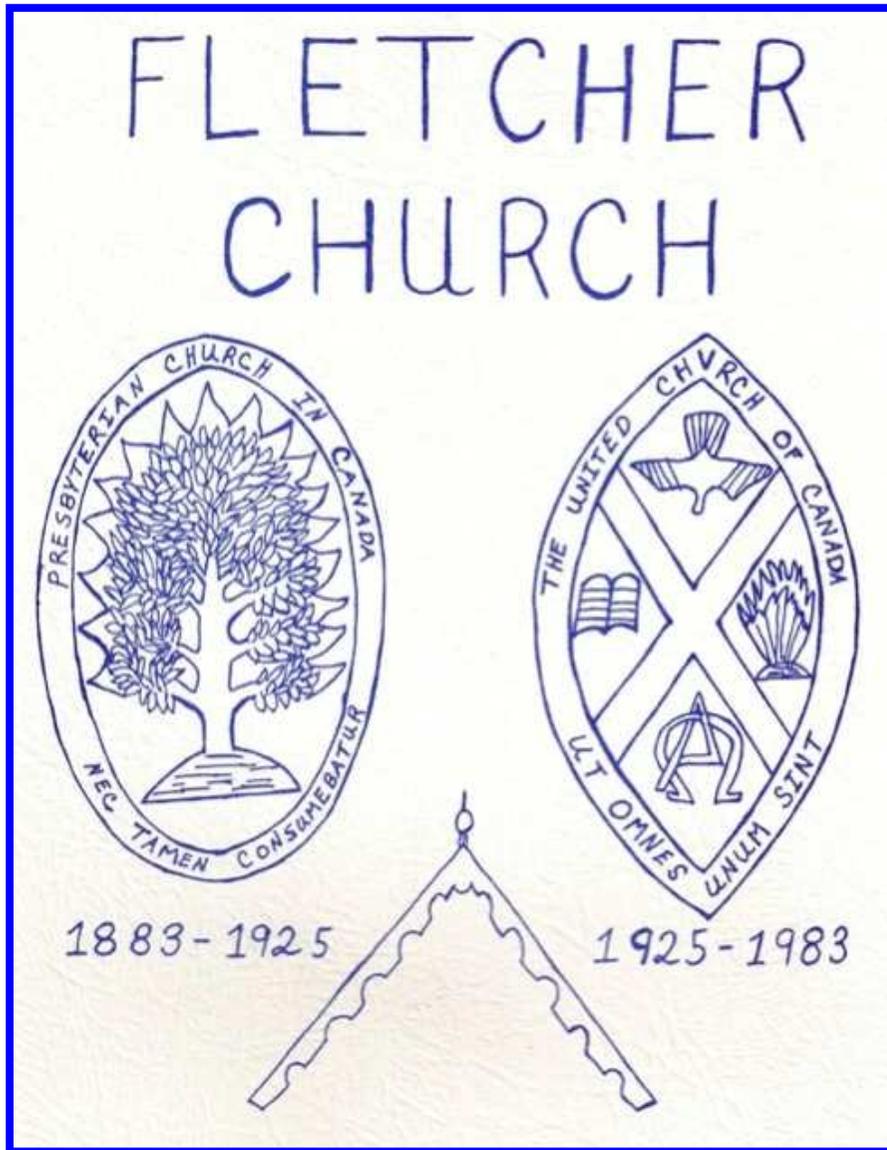
People: We have lit the Ministry Candles from the Christ Candle, and have placed the Christ Candle into the lantern to take out of this space - into our new space as the Fletcher United Church Congregation. (Betty Vince (as Clerk of Session) picks up the lantern)

People: With this light, we take the Cross; the sign of our salvation and promise of life beyond life. *(Elwin Vince (as Chair of the Board) picks up the cross)*

People: With the light and the Cross, we take our sacred text, as it is the Word of God - our living story to be shared with all those that we meet. *(Rev Kim Gilliland (as the present Minister) picks up the Bible)*

Eric: May the Lord Bless and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and strengthen you, as you begin the next leg of our journey of faith. May the Holy Trinity be your guide, inspire your imagination and enliven your faith - to be Easter People in the world. Thanks be to God.

The Lantern, Cross and Bible are carried out, followed by the people.



100th Anniversary Bulletin Cover

List of Past Ministers

Rev. John Logie	1879 – 1887
Rev. A. L. Manson	1888 – 1899
Rev. J. P. McQuarrie	1899 – 1920
Rev. John Galloway	1921 – 1923
Rev J. B. Townend	1923 – 1925
Rev. Sidney Davison	1925 – 1927
Rev. Joseph Jones	1927 – 1931
Rev. George C. Mitchell	1931 – 1935
Rev. Harry B. Parnaby	1935 – 1941
Rev. Arthur E. Doan	1941 – 1949
Rev. W. Gray Rivers	1949 – 1951
Rev A. S. Trueblood	1951 – 1958
Rev. E.A. Poulter	1958 – 1959
Rev. L. H. Turner	1959 – 1963
Rev. Colin B. Grassie	1963 – 1967
Rev. O. R. Flindall	1967 – 1968
Rev. W. E. Aldworth	1968 – 1972
Rev. H. E. J. Moorhouse	1972 – 1979
Rev. Bruce Guy	1979 – 1983
Rev. Harley Moore	1983 – 1988
Rev. J. L. Vernon Bell	1988 – 1990
Rev. Lloyd Coates	1990 – 1996
Rev Dr. Henry Marissen	1996 – 2006
Rev. Lloyd Brown	2006 – 2007
Rev. Bruce Fraser	2007 – 2013
Rev. Jim Haupt	2014 – 2019
Rev. Colin Swan	2019 – 2023
Rev. Kim Gilliland	2023 – 2024