

**Celebration of a New Ministry:  
An Act of Covenanting for Trinity & Providence United Church**

**2020 September 20<sup>th</sup> Trinity & Providence Pastoral Charge**

**Gathering Music and Prelude - *Neeraj Prem & Henry Vandenberg***

(Celebrants assemble at the front of the sanctuary)

**Lighting of the Christ Candle & The Candle of Reconciliation & Peace**

**Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement *Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea*  
Minister at Manor Rd. United Church**

**Words of Welcome**

We joyfully gather to mark a new ministry relationship in Trinity & Providence Pastoral Charge, East Central Ontario Regional Council, and Rev. Andrew Macpherson. We welcome Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea, Rev. Dr. Bob Root, Neeraj Prem, Sitar Instructor, Imam Quraish Hussein and our guests from the community of Bobcaygeon. Today we commit to and celebrate how we are the church together.

**Acknowledgement of Territory-  
Creator,**

As we come together,  
gathered on this land,  
keep us mindful  
of the waves of change,  
help us to embrace our stories  
as we continue to build  
our community upon  
the foundation of Love  
Be with us as we strive  
to make right  
with all our relations.  
Amen. \*

**Call to Worship (responsive)**

***Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea***

**One:** We gather today in the name of the Holy One.  
We come into the presence of our common Humanity.  
We come seeking to be God's faithful community.

**All: We are sisters and brothers in Christ.  
We come to worship God together.  
We come open to the Spirit working within us and among us.**

**One:** All that we have and all that we are is God's good gift to us.  
God's breath gives life to us and to all of creation.  
The full mystery of God is a Blessing for us to be humble in front of.

**All: Let us worship God, the Maker of all that is.  
Let us come into God's presence with joy and praise.  
Let us be glad in this holy place!**

**One God Many Names (Song)**

***Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea***  
**Minister at Manor Rd. United Church**

***Prayer of Confession (responsive)***

***Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea***

**One:** For all we might have offered and chose not to:

**All: Loving God, we ask forgiveness.**

**One:** For all we might have risked and were afraid to:

**All: Loving God, we ask forgiveness.**

**One:** For all we might have loved and held back from:

**All: Loving God, we ask forgiveness.**

**One:** For all we might have nurtured and withdrew from:

**All: Loving God, we ask forgiveness.**

**Hebrew Scripture - Micah 6:8**

*Mary Justice*

**Micah 6:8** He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

**Hymn, Amazing Grace**

*Neeraj Prem*

**Gospel Lesson - Mark 12:28-31**

*Mary Tomlinson*

**Mark 12:28** One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?”

Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’

**Mark 12:31** The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

**Sermon - The Open Road**

*Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea*

**Hymn MV #148 - Hope of Abraham and Sarah**

*Cathy Bennett*

**Covenanting Action**

**Statement of Living Faith Story**

*Share or re-articulate the living faith story of Trinity & Providence Pastoral Charge and why Rev. Andrew Macpherson is a good fit. Share what gifts and skills the called minister brings to the new pastoral relationship. Ideally this would be done by members of the community of faith and/or search team.*

**Statement of This New Ministry**

*Rev. Andrew Macpherson comes forward at the invitation of Cathy Bennett.*

*Regional council liaison:*

***Rev. Dr. Bob Root***

We are here to join into a covenantal relationship with God and between Rev. Andrew Macpherson, & Trinity & Providence UC, and the wider United Church as represented by Rev. Dr. Bob Root East Central Ontario Regional

Council. Although God's covenant with us never changes, our covenants with one another evolve as we seek ways to faithfully deepen our commitment to Jesus and live into our call to embody God's love in the world.

*Member of Search Team:*

***Doug Pepper***

After prayerful discernment, and the approval of *Trinity & Providence Pastoral Charge*, we present *Rev. Andrew Macpherson*, who has been called to a ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care in *Trinity & Providence UC*. We believe that his skills and talents complement our faithful witness, ministry needs, and community context.

*Regional council liaison:*

***Rev. Dr. Bob Root***

*Rev. Andrew Macpherson*, you are here in response to the call of *Trinity & Providence Pastoral Charge* and East Central Ontario Regional Council. We come together to mark this new relationship within our regional council for the sake of our shared ministry.

*Rev. Andrew Macpherson*, you are about to undertake the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care in this place.

You, the members of this community of faith, are called to join

*Rev. Andrew Macpherson* in worship, study, prayer, and action.

We, *Trinity & Providence Pastoral Charge*, East Central Ontario Regional Council, will be responsible for supporting this ministry.

Let us pray for God's grace as we covenant together:

***Rev. Dr. Bob Root***

We will now invite Imam Quraish Hussein who will recite a verse from the Holy Qur'an. An English translation is available on the last page of this Sunday's bulletin. *Rev. Andrew Macpherson* graduated from three different streams at seminary (Christian, Muslim, & Buddhist) and the following recitation is an example of Affirming Church. (We welcome in our house of worship all of God's children - regardless of age, colour, sex, creed, sexual orientation, economic circumstance and religious or secular identification)

**Recitation from the Holy Qur'an**

***Imam Quraish Hussein***

**Sura (Chapter) 49. Al-Hujurat: The Chambers**

## **Prayer of Faith**

### **Uniting God,**

**you call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship:  
to celebrate your presence,  
to live with respect in creation,  
to be your servants in the service of others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,  
to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**Send your Holy Spirit to bind us in full communion  
so that we may be a uniting church  
embodying your love for the world.**

**As one, we proclaim:  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
you are with us,  
we are not alone,  
all glory and power be unto you.  
Amen.**

### **Hymn VU #288 Great is Thy Faithfulness**

*Sue Zilke & Pat Ward*

### **Promises of the New Minister**

*Rev. Dr. Bob Root*

*Rev. Andrew Macpherson, do you, in the presence of this community of faith, take on the new trust and responsibility of ministering with Trinity & Providence Pastoral Charge?*

*Rev. Andrew Macpherson: I do.*

*Regional council liaison:*

*Rev. Dr. Bob Root*

*Will you accept the guidance of East Central Ontario Regional Council and, together with its other members, be responsible for the health of Trinity & Providence Pastoral Charge?*

*Rev. Andrew Macpherson: I will.*

*Regional council liaison:*

***Rev. Dr. Bob Root***

Will you share in the ministry goals and faith story of this community of faith?

*Rev. Andrew Macpherson:* I will.

*Regional council liaison:*

Will you accept the support and encouragement of this community of faith and this regional council?

*Rev. Andrew Macpherson:* I will.

*Regional council liaison:*

Will you work cooperatively with the wider church and wider community to embody God's love in the world?

*Rev. Andrew Macpherson:* I will.

### **Promises of the Community of Faith**

*Regional council liaison:*

***Rev. Dr. Bob Root***

Will you join with *Rev. Andrew Macpherson* in a ministry of worship, study, prayer, and action within Trinity & Providence Pastoral Charge, East Central Ontario Regional Council and within the wider church?

*Members of the community of faith:* We will.

*Presider:*

***Cathy Bennett***

Will you support them as they serve among you in this ministry?

*Members of the community of faith:* We will.

### **Promises of Regional Council, Wider Church and Community**

*Members of the wider church and community come forward [this could include community partners, members of other faith traditions, United Church of Canada members, affiliated partners, as well as members of any other United Church body].*

*Regional council liaison:*

***Rev. Dr. Bob Root***

Will you, as members of East Central Ontario Regional Council and members of the wider community, join with *Rev. Andrew Macpherson* and Trinity & Providence Pastoral Charge in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

*Wider community members:* We will.

*Regional council liaison:*

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

*Wider community members:* We will.

### **Presentation of Symbols**

*Symbols of ministerial function will vary, depending on the people involved in the covenant, but they may include the following:*

#### **A BIBLE**

***Steve Oliver***

Steve Oliver places the Bible on the Altar

*Presenter:*

***Steve Oliver***

Take this Bible. Be with us as one who teaches and proclaims the Word.

*People:* **Amen.**

Rev. Macpherson *affirms by saying Yes.*

#### **WATER**

***Mary Tomlinson***

*A member of the community carries a pitcher of water to Rev. Macpherson.*

*Presenter:*

***Mary Tomlinson***

Be with us as one who baptizes in the name of Christ.

*People:* **Amen.**

Rev. Macpherson *affirms by saying Yes.*

#### **BREAD AND WINE**

Communion will be celebrated by Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea. *People are welcome to take bread and wine in safety of their homes.*

*Celebration of Holy Communion*

***Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea***

**Rev. Andrew Macpherson Prayer**

***The Lord's Prayer /The Prayer of Jesus  
(Urdu/English)***

***Rev. Andrew Macpherson***

**Response to Covenant**

*Regional council liaison:*

***Rev. Dr. Bob Root***

Let us rejoice in the covenant we have made.

*The people may express their joy with applause*

**Commissioning and Benediction**

***Rev. Andrew Macpherson***

As you leave this place today,  
go with love,  
knowing Passion  
the Passion of Jesus Christ that  
Continues to be revealed in the world.  
Go with reverence for all Creation  
Go with the confidence and contentment  
that we can unite in our common humanity  
Bless all whom you encounter —  
With respect and peace. Namaste.

*You May go in Peace*

***Postlude - Our Father in Heaven***

***Neeraj Prem***



## Translation of Sura (Chapter) 49. al-Hujurat: The Chambers

Translation - Muhammad M. Pickthall, trans., *The Glorious Qur'an*. (Noida, India: Goodword books, ND, 1930).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَنْتُمْ إِذَا أَنْتُمْ إِذَا اللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٣﴾

### Chapter 49 Verse 13 - The Holy Qur'an Traditional Translation (1930)

#### al-Hujurat: The Chambers

**49.13** O mankind! Lo! We have created you male and female, and have made you nations and tribes that ye may know one another. Lo! the noblest of you, in the sight of Allah, is the best in conduct. Lo! Allah is Knower, Aware.

### Chapter 49 Verse 13 - The Holy Qur'an Modern Translation (2007)

The Sublime Quran: Translations by Laleh Bakhtiar  
2020 Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought, Amman, Jordan  
(<http://www.aalalbayt.org>)

#### The Private Apartments

**49.13** O humanity! Truly, We created you from a male and a female and made you into peoples and types that you recognize one another. Truly, the most generous of you with God is the most devout. Truly, God is Knowing, Aware.