**Laying The Cornerstone**

The laying of the cornerstone normally occurs toward the conclusion of a regular service of public worship with the minister presiding. Although not required, it is custom to include the moderator of presbytery or other representative who will participate in the service. The people may process to the place appointed during the singing of a hymn such as "Christ is made the sure foundation."

An Order

**Opening Sentences**

*The leader and readers as appointed may read one or more of the following passages.*

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth. *Ps. 124:8*.

Unless the Lord builds the house,

those who build it labour in vain. *Ps. 127:1*.

Thus says the Lord God,

See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: "One who trusts will not panic."

*Isa. 28:16.*

We are no longer strangers and aliens, but we are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom we also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

*Eph. 2:19-21, adapted.*

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build upon it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

*I Cor. 3:10, 11*.

**Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, who laid the foundations of the earth, and whose Son, Jesus Christ, is the living cornerstone of the church, direct us now as we lay the cornerstone of this house of worship. May all that we do here today and in the months to come provide for you a house and a people that are built upon a sure foundation and continually glorify your name. **Amen.**

**The Laying Of The Stone**

*After documents and articles which are to be preserved are placed in the stone, the minister, assisted by an elder, a representative of presbytery, the builder or others as appointed shall lay the stone in place. Then the minister shall say:*

In the name of the Triune God, and by the authority of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, we lay this stone of the building to be erected on this site under the name of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Church and to be devoted to the worship of God and the ministry of Christ in the world.

**Prayer Of Dedication**

Almighty God, who built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone, confirm and bless the actions we have just carried out in your name. Establish this stone which we have laid. Prosper the work to which we have set our hands for the well-being of your church and the advancement of your kingdom.

Accept these offerings of your people. Bless those who have given of their talent, skills and substance. Empower and protect those who labour with their hands on this structure. And when the house stands completed, let your glory dwell in it forever, that within these walls the Word of the gospel may be heard and the grace of the sacraments held out to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Grant that your people in this place, devoted to you and united to one another in peace and good will, may always be found steadfast in faith and obedience to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.**

**Doxology**

*A brief doxology such as the last verse of "Christ is made the sure foundation" or other form of praise may be sung.*

**Benediction**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with all of you. **Amen.** *II Cor. 13:13.*