**Dedication of a Church Building**

The Service of Dedication of a church building is conducted by the presbytery with the moderator presiding. The planning and the preparation of the building has been under the oversight of presbytery from the beginning and the building will be kept by the trustees of the congregation in the name of the presbytery and The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The ministers of the congregation, elders, members and possibly builders may share in leading the people in the worship of God.

As with the other services related to the building of a church, the service of dedication is primarily one of thanksgiving to God for all the gifts given to the people and which they in turn return to God with joyful and grateful hearts. It is a time to rejoice in the goodness of God, to look to the future as God's people, and to pray that they will remain faithful to the life and purposes they have offered to God. The mood of the day and the tone of the prayers are well exemplified in David's prayer of praise, dedication and intercession in I Chronicles 29.

An Order

*Presbytery shall stand outside the main door of the church. The session shall assemble at the front of the church around the communion table. The session shall process to the door of the church, the Clerk of Session carrying the keys.*

*The Moderator of Presbytery, having knocked on the door three times, calls out:*

Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord.

*The door shall then be opened from within by the Clerk of Session, who shall deliver the keys of the church to the Moderator of Presbytery saying:*

This building has been erected as a place for the people to worship God, and for the work and the witness of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, in token of which I deliver to you the keys and ask you to dedicate this place to the glory of God.

*The Moderator replies saying:*

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, we accept these keys and shall now proceed to the service of worship for the dedication of this building.

**Processional Hymn**

*The session, followed by members of the presbytery and finally the Moderator, process to their places during the singing of the hymn. The keys may be placed on the communion table or other place in full view of the people during the service.*

**Call To Worship**

Worship the Lord in holy splendor;

tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

Honor and majesty are before God;

strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary. *Ps. 96:9, 6.*

**OR**

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints

for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy

to the living God.

O Lord of hosts,

happy is everyone who trusts in you. *Ps. 84:1, 2, 12.*

**OR**

Unless the Lord builds the house,

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

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

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

**Prayer**

O Lord our God,

the heaven of heavens cannot contain your glory,

and yet you have graciously promised to be present

wherever your people meet in your name.

Be present with us now, O Lord, as we offer to you

this house made with human hands

and as we dedicate it to the honour of your name.

Loving God, may this place be for all who seek you within its walls the dwelling place of the most high.

**O Jesus Christ our Saviour, may the good news proclaimed in this place through word and song and sacraments bring new life to all who worship here.**

**O Holy Spirit, fill this place with such wisdom, justice and love that all who worship here will receive the gifts of your power.**

**Blessed are you, Lord God Almighty,**

**who makes the heart to sing your praises;**

**perfect in us who gather here the gifts of truth and grace**

**that we may worship and glorify you now and forever. Amen.**

**First Reading**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

*A Psalm may be read or sung.*

**Gospel**

**Sermon**

**A Creed**

**In response to the Word, let us confess our faith in the words of The Apostles' Creed.**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**The Covenant And Dedication**

*The congregation remains standing. The Moderator shall say:*

Beloved in Christ,

for as much as God has put it into your hearts to build this house of worship, let us now fulfil the purpose for which we are assembled and dedicate this church to the honour of God's most holy name.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,**

**and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now,**

**and will be for ever. Amen.**

For the worship of God in prayer and praise;

for the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen and exalted;

for the celebration of new life in baptism;

for the gift of grace received at the Table of our Lord;

**We dedicate this house.**

For comfort to all who mourn;

for strength to all who are tempted;

for light to all who seek the way;

**We dedicate this house.**

For the hallowing of marriage and family life;

for the teaching and guiding of the young;

for the perfecting of the saints;

**We dedicate this house.**

For the sharing of Christ with our neighbours;

for the increase of justice in our public life;

for the healing of the nations;

**We dedicate this house.**

And now, as a people within the household of God,

in the unity of the faith;

in the communion of saints;

in love and goodwill to all;

in gratitude for the gift of this house;

we dedicate ourselves to the worship of Almighty God

who creates us,

who redeems us,

and who sustains us,

in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

And now, gathering all our prayers into one, let us pray as our Lord taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**The Declaration**

*The Moderator shall say:*

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the only cornerstone of the church and our life together,

and by the authority of the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I declare this building to be dedicated to the worship of Almighty God and the service of the people who live in this community.

*Taking the keys from the table and handing them to the minister of the congregation* and/or *the clerk of session, the Moderator shall say:*

In the name of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, I give you these keys charging you to use this Church solely for the glory of God and the service of the people who come to this place in need.

Here may pure worship be offered.

Here may the Word be proclaimed and heard.

Here may newness of life be found through baptism

with water and Spirit.

Here may people be nurtured at the Table of our Lord.

Here may the good ordering of the church be maintained.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the only head of the church, to whom be all honour and glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN

**The Benediction**

**Suggested Scripture Readings**

**Old Testament**

*I Kings 8:22-23, 27-30*

*I Chronicles 29:10-22*

**Psalms**

A Psalm may be read or sung with refrains.

Consider *Psalms 24, 27, 65, 84, 150*

**New Testament**

*I Corinthians 3:9-23*

*Ephesians 2:13-22*

*Matthew 16:13-20*

*Matthew 21:12-16*