

Ordination of Deacons

and
Holy Eucharist



PETERTIDE

Saturday 27 June 2026
2pm

Presiding and Preaching
The Rt Rev'd Helen Kennedy
XIII Bishop of Qu'Appelle



Welcome from Bishop Helen

It is a joy to welcome you to St Aidan's for this celebration of ordination, as Michelle and Nathan are ordained to the sacred order of deacons.

Today's ordination takes place in the season of **Petertide**, the time around the Feast of St Peter (and St Paul), which the Church keeps on June 29. In the Anglican tradition, Petertide has long been one of the principal times for ordinations. It reminds us that those ordained today are being drawn into the apostolic ministry of the Church: a ministry rooted in the witness of Peter and Paul, sustained by the Holy Spirit, and entrusted to the Church for the sake of the gospel.

The Anglican Church of Canada, as part of the worldwide family of the Anglican Communion, has inherited the three ancient forms of ordained ministry in the Church: **deacons, priests, and bishops**. Today Michelle and Nathan are ordained into the first order as *deacons*. The word *deacon* comes from the Greek word for servant (διάκονος). Deacons assist priests at the celebration of the Eucharist, and share in the ministry of preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and making Christ's love visible in the Church and in society. Michelle and Nathan are entering a **public and representative** ministry of the Church, and will take on the title "The Reverend." They will serve, in this initial phase (ahead of their ordination to the priesthood), both within and beyond St Aidan's over the next 12 months or so. This 'transitional' diaconal period is typical for those preparing for priestly ministry in the world-wide Anglican Church. All priests in the Anglican Church are ordained deacon first as they begin to inhabit more and more of a public ministry within and beyond their local church.

Today we gather in thanksgiving: for God's call, for the patient work of discernment and formation, for the communities that have nurtured Michelle and Nathan, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit who equips the Church for ministry and mission. The diaconate reminds us that *all Christian ministry* is rooted in loving service — in the love of Christ who came among us not to be served, but to serve.

I extend a very warm welcome to all who are visiting today: family, friends, parishioners, clergy, and guests from near and far. Your presence matters. You have been part of Michelle and Nathan's journey, to one degree or another. Today you share in the prayer and support of the whole Church as they take this next step in faith. I also want to encourage any who may feel a quiet nudge of the Holy Spirit in their own heart. Perhaps today stirs a question, a longing, or a sense that God may be inviting you to explore some form of ministry or service. Do not ignore that holy prompting. Pray with it, speak with someone you trust, and allow the Church to help you discern what God may be doing.

May this celebration deepen our shared commitment to follow Christ, to serve with humility, and to make the love of God and neighbour known in the world.

With every blessing,

+Helen Qu'Appelle:

In today's liturgy:

<i>Presider</i>	The Right Reverend Helen Kennedy, XIII Bishop of Qu'Appelle
<i>Preacher</i>	Bishop Helen
<i>Deacon</i>	The Reverend Arleen Champion, <i>Deacon</i>
<i>Chaplain to the Bishop</i>	The Venerable Dr Jonathan N Bauer

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Welcome to this place of worship where we acknowledge that Jesus, the Lord of all, has called His Church to be a Church of all nations.

With joy and in humility we gather on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota, Nakoda, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.



THE NECESSARY PRELIMINARIES

Canon Law requires that, before any person is ordained, he or she must make, in the presence of the bishop or the bishop's Commissary, the Oaths and Subscriptions as set out below

DECLARATION OF ASSENT

I, (NAME) do solemnly make the following declaration:

I assent to the Solemn Declaration adopted by the first General Synod in 1893 (as printed in the Book of Common Prayer), and to the Book of Common Prayer and of the ordering of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons; I believe the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Canada as therein set forth to be agreeable to the Word of God; and in Public Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments, I will use the form in the said book prescribed and none other, except so far as shall be ordered by lawful authority.

OATH OF CANONICAL OBEDIENCE

I, (NAME) do swear that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Bishop of Qu'Appelle in all things lawful and honest. So help me God.

DECLARATION OF SUBMISSION TO SYNODS

I, (NAME) do willingly subscribe to and declare that I assent to and abide by the Constitution and Canons of the General Synod, Provincial Synod, and the Synod of the Diocese of Qu'Appelle that are lawfully in force from time to time.

DECLARATION

I solemnly declare that I do believe the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do solemnly promise to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Anglican Church of Canada.

GATHERING

We *STAND* for the PROCESSIONAL HYMN ♦ I ♦ Holy, holy, holy

Bishop The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

All **and also with you.**

The Bishop may offer informal words of welcome, then says,

The Church is the Body of Christ,
the people of God and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.
In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love
and to work for the coming of God's kingdom.
God has given a variety of ministries.
Deacons are ordained so that the people of God may be better equipped
to make Christ known in the world. Theirs is a life of visible self-giving.
Christ is the pattern of their calling and their commission.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Deacon As we stand together before God, and trusting in God's grace alone,
let us join with those to be made deacon in confessing our sins.

A moment of silent prayer for personal reflection

Deacon Praying together:

All **Most merciful God, we confess
that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Bishop Almighty God have mercy upon you,
✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Bishop Let us pray.
O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery.
By the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation.
Let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up,
and things which had grown old are being made new,
and that all things are being brought to their perfection
by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

We SIT for the OLD TESTAMENT READING

Lector A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah:
Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
 ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
 and before you were born I consecrated you;
 I appointed you a prophet to the nations.’
Then I said,
 ‘Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.’
But the Lord said to me,
 ‘Do not say, “I am only a boy”;
 for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
 and you shall speak whatever I command you.
 Do not be afraid of them,
 for I am with you to deliver you,
 says the Lord.’
Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,
 ‘Now I have put my words in your mouth. *Jeremiah 1: 4-9*

All The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

We remain SEATED for the PSALM

Psalm 117

Leader We praise God, saying together:

All **Go out to the whole world; proclaim the good news!**

Leader Praise the Lord, all you nations; *

All **laud him, all you peoples.**

Leader For his loving-kindness toward us is great, *

All **and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever. Hallelujah!
Go out to the whole world; proclaim the good news!**

Leader Let us pray:

All **Faithful God, your loving kindness for all people is revealed in Jesus Christ.
Let your kingdom come now in peace and justice in all the world.
We ask this in his name. Amen.**

We remain SEATED for the NEW TESTAMENT READING

Lector A reading from the first letter of Peter:
Be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. *1 Peter 4:7b-11*

All The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We *STAND* for the GRADUAL HYMN ♦ **Yet not I, but through Christ in me**

1

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

2

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

3

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

4

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus (repeat to end)
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

*Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren
CityAlight, CCLI# 325760*

GOSPEL

Deacon The Lord be with you
All **And also with you**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke
All **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Deacon ✕ The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

Luke 10: 1-9

All The Gospel of Christ
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON

We STAND for the NICENE CREED

Bishop Let us confess our faith, as we say,
All **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the ✕resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

We SIT for the PRESENTATION

Those presenting the ordinands stand before the Bishop and say,
Helen, bishop in the Church of God,
on behalf of the clergy and people of the diocese of Qu'Appelle,
we present to you Nathan and Michelle
to be ordained deacon in Christ's holy catholic Church.

Bishop Have they been selected in accordance with the canons and customs of this Church?
And do you believe their manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

Answer We certify to you that they have been duly selected,
and we believe them to be qualified for this order.

The Bishop says to the ordinands,

Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ
as this Church has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this Church,
obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?

The ordinands answer,

I am willing and ready to do so;
and I solemnly declare that I do believe the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
to be the word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation;
and I do solemnly promise to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship
of the Anglican Church of Canada.
I have signed, in your presence, the necessary Declarations and Oaths.

All STAND

Bishop Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of this ministry,
and the weight of your responsibility in presenting Michelle and Nathan
for ordination to the sacred order of deacons.
Therefore, if any of you know any impediment or crime for which we should not proceed,
come forward now and make it known.

If no objection is made, the Bishop continues,

Is it your will that Michelle and Nathan be ordained as deacons?

All It is.

Bishop Will you uphold them in this ministry?

All We will.

EXAMINATION

All SIT

The ordinands stand before the Bishop.

The Bishop addresses the ordinands,

Nathan and Michelle, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ,
serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood,
directly under the authority of your bishop.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people,
particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.
As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the holy scriptures,
to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them.
You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example,
to those among whom you live and work and worship.

You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world.
You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship,
and in the ministration of God's word and sacraments,
and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time.
At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people
that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

Bishop Do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church
to the life and work of a deacon?

Answer I believe I am so called.

Bishop Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

Answer I do.

Bishop Will you be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the reading and study of the holy scriptures?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you look for Christ in all others, being ready to help and serve those in need?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you do your best to pattern your life (and that of your family)
in accordance with the teachings of Christ,
so that you may be a wholesome example to your people?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you in all things seek not your glory but the glory of the Lord Christ?

Answer I will.

Bishop May the Lord by his grace uphold you in the service to which you are called.

All Amen.

CONSECRATION OF THE DEACONS

The ordinands kneel, facing the Bishop.

The Bishop calls the people to prayer, saying,
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

The people sit or kneel to pray.

LITANY

God the Father,
Have mercy on us.

God the Son,
Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God,
Have mercy on us.

We pray to you, O Lord
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love,
and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all members of your Church in their vocation and ministry,
that they may serve you in a true and godly life, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For Helen, our bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, that they may be filled with your love,
may hunger for truth, and may thirst after righteousness, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For Nathan and Michelle, chosen deacons in your Church, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may faithfully fulfil the duties of this ministry, build up your Church, and glorify your name,
we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

That by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit he/she may be sustained and encouraged
to persevere to the end, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease
and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the mission of the Church,
that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord hear our prayer.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith,
that they may receive the light of the gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves: for the forgiveness of our sins,
and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died in the communion of the Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone,
that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief,
but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of St Aidan, the blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord.

The Bishop prays,

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We sing together,

**Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:**

**Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight:**

**Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace:
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art guide no ill can come.**

**Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song,**

**Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Author (attributed to): Rabanus Maurus; Translator: John Cosin (1627)

Tune: VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS (Plainsong)

A period of silent prayer follows.

The Bishop stands, with the ordinands still kneeling before her.

She stretches out her hands toward the ordinands and begins this Prayer of Consecration.

We praise and glorify you, most merciful Father,
because in your great love of our human race you sent your only Son Jesus Christ
to take the form of a servant; he came to serve and not to be served;
and to teach us that he who would be great among us must be the servant of all;
he humbled himself for our sake, and in obedience accepted death, even death on a cross;
therefore you highly exalted him and gave him the name which is above every name.

And now we give you thanks that you have called these, your servants,
to share this ministry entrusted to your Church.

The Bishop alone lays her hands on the head of each ordinand, saying,
Send down your Holy Spirit upon your servant *Michelle*,
whom we now consecrate in your name to the office and work of a deacon in the Church.

AND

Send down your Holy Spirit upon your servant *Nathan*,
whom we now consecrate in your name to the office and work of a deacon in the Church.

The Bishop continues,

Almighty Father, give to these your servants grace and power to fulfil their ministry.
Make them faithful to serve, ready to teach, and constant to advance your gospel;
and grant that always having full assurance of faith, abounding in hope,
and being rooted and grounded in love, they may continue strong and steadfast
in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and your Holy Spirit,
belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The new deacons are given their stoles.

The bishop gives a Bible to each of the newly ordained deacons, saying,
Receive this Book as a sign of the authority given you this day
to speak God's word and build up God's people in truth and serve them in God's name.

The Bishop presents the new deacons to the congregation

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

We STAND for THE PEACE

Bishop We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY HYMN ♦ 435 ♦ **Take my life, and let it be**

The Offering is gathered and presented. The Table is prepared, and the bread and wine placed upon it.

TABLE PRAYER

Bishop Loving God, your Son was anointed by the Holy Spirit not to be served but to serve.
Receive all we offer you this day, that we who are called to serve you in the world
may be effective ministers of your love; this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We remain STANDING for the EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Bishop The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Bishop Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.
He calls his faithful servants to lead your holy people in love,
nourishing them by your word and sacraments.
Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

All say **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
✠Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Bishop We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.
For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.
On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, and said,

“Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, and said,

“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

All say **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bishop As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All say **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 for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Bishop We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **We, being many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

COMMUNION RITE

Bishop The gifts of God for the People of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Everyone is invited to the Lord's Table to make their Communion or receive a blessing.

We STAND for the PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bishop Let us pray:

Almighty Father, we thank you for feeding us
with the holy food of the body and blood of your Son,
and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit.
We thank you for raising up among us
faithful servants for the ministry of your word and sacraments.
We pray that Nathan and Michelle may be to us godly examples
in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life.
Grant that we, with them, may serve you now,
and always rejoice in your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

BLESSING

Bishop God who has called you is faithful.

May the Father,
whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness and send you to proclaim his word.

All **Amen.**

Bishop May Christ, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

All **Amen.**

Bishop May the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.
All **Amen.**

Bishop And the blessing of God almighty,
the ✠Father, the ✠Son, and the ✠Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN ♦ **Great is Thy faithfulness**

During the hymn, the procession leaves

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided:
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness....

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness....

*Public domain.
Words by Thomas Obediah Chisholm;
Music by William Marion Runyan.*

Deacon Go in the joy and peace of Christ, to love and serve the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The Church of God has two new deacons!

The Reverend Michelle Josefson, Deacon

Michelle was born into a free church pastor's family in Quebec where she lived for the first 20 years of her life. She was blessed to observe and participate in the humble and generous pastoring style of her parents. After moving to Saskatchewan for college, she was employed at Briercrest College and Seminary for 15 years which provided a breadth of experience. It brought her great joy to spend a few seasons tending creatures on small farms/ranches and living with family and friends with babies and young children.



She moved to Moose Jaw in 2017 and has served as parish administrator at St. Aidan since then. Early in that time, she trained as a spiritual director and worked for a local business. Regardless of the context, inviting people to experience the grace of God through the gospel of Jesus remains her primary interest. She looks forward to the opportunities ordained life will offer for that.



The Reverend Nathan McLean, Deacon

Nathan grew up as a farm kid in Eston, Saskatchewan. He learned many things from this small-town life: the ebbs and flows of the seasons, an innate respect and connection to place and land, the importance of friendships and family, and the slow and steady ways of faith. In many ways, it cultivated in him “a long obedience in the same direction.” But he also spent time in metro Vancouver; doing outreach on the streets of the Downtown Eastside and studying in the academic halls of Regent College.



In either place, he's always loved people and wrestled with what one might call a “pastoral curiosity.” As he begins his diaconate, he has lots of mixed feelings: joy and relief, fear and trepidation, uncertainty and hope. But, reflecting on the deacon's role to serve, meet the needs of the world, and help the church turn outward towards those who are vulnerable and marginalized, he realizes he has been formed in the crucible of diaconal work his entire life. Today, is simply naming/blessing that vocational reality. As his friend, Steve Davis, has poetically put it, “Adam named the animals that already were. Today, you have named each other beloved, you who always were so.”