



## A Taste of Newfoundland

### A Gathering\* Worship Resource Service

#### GATHER

**Prelude:** “My hope is built on nothing less” Edward Mote (*instrumental*)

**Welcome:** Welcome to this summer worship service to prepare the whole church for General Council 42 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, August 8–14, 2015. This morning, our focus is on the location of GC42—life and faith in Newfoundland.

#### Call to Worship

Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock (Isaiah 26:4). Come, let us worship God.

#### Opening Prayer

Living Water, may we be a reflection of you: gentle as a soft, trickling stream; nurturing as the cool, refreshing rain; yearning for justice to flow down like rivers. With love wider than the ocean, whose tides labour to smooth the jagged, rough places. Amen.

*James Martin-Carter, Northern Arm U.C., Northern Arm, Nfld./Lab.*

**Affirmation of Faith:** A New Creed (VU p. 918)

#### Lighting the Christ Candle & Passing the Peace of Christ

**Hymn:** “I feel the winds of God” (VU 625)

#### GROW

**Story Time:** Life and faith in Newfoundland—images and stories

**Hymn:** “Will your anchor hold” (VU 675)  
or “C’est un rempart que notre Dieu” (VU 261)

**Scripture:** Psalm of the sailor (Psalm 107:22–30)  
Walking on water (Matthew 14:22–33)

#### Sermon

**Hymn** “I, the Lord of sea and sky” (VU 509)  
or “Called by earth and sky/Du ciel et de la terre” (MV 135)

**Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer** (*sung* VU 960)

This morning we pray with our brothers and sisters from “the Rock.”

**Sung response: “On Christ, the solid rock I stand...”**

Refrain from “My hope is built” by W.B. Bradbury, *Songs of the Gospel* 154.

#### Minute for Mission

#### Offering Invitation

##### Presentation

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow” (VU 541)

##### Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them  
into compassion for others,  
into community for the lonely,  
and rock-solid hope for the church and the world. Amen.

#### GO

**Announcements:** Life and word of the community

**Hymn:** “Like a rock” (MV 92)

#### Commissioning & Blessing

May God’s love be our foundation, a rock that never moves.  
May the ways of Jesus move us to pull up anchor,  
and may the Spirit give us courage to sail new seas,  
trusting that we are never alone. Amen.

**Postlude:** “Rock of ages”  
(Tune: TOPLADY *The Hymnary* 267, third tune) (*instrumental*)

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\**Gathering* is a publication of The United Church of Canada.

Thanks to **Maya Landell**, General Council 42 Worship Team, for this service and background material.



## Bold, I Am Making All Things New

A Gathering\* Worship Resource Service

### GATHER

**Prelude:** (play “I need to wake up” by Melissa Etheridge from An Inconvenient Truth)

**Welcome:** Welcome to this summer worship service to prepare the whole church for General Council 42 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, August 8–14, 2015. This morning, our focus is on the theme of GC42: “Behold, I am making all things new!”

**Call to Worship:** If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17) Come, let us worship God.

### Opening Prayer

We are many, God’s great diversity

**Yet we are one in Christ.**

We are from different places (*call out your home towns*)

**Yet we are one in Christos.**

We are (*call out different occupations*)

**Yet we are one in Mashiach.**

We are (*call out your relationship identities, e.g., parent, friend*)

**Yet we are one in Christi.**

We are (*call out personal tastes and styles, e.g., hip hop, artsy*)

**Yet we are one in Kristi.**

We are (*call out cultural identities*)

**Yet we are one in Jesus.**

We are (*call out emotional identities, e.g., confused, happy*)

**Yet we are one in Yeshua.**

We are (*call out other identities that are relevant to your community*)

**Yet we are one in Isa.**

We are many, God’s great diversity,

And yet, by God’s grace, we sing in harmony, as one

**For we are one in Jesus.**

*Alydia Smith, Program Coordinator, Worship, Music, and Spirituality  
(inspired by engageworship.org)*

**Affirmation of Faith:** A New Creed (VU p. 918)

### Lighting the Christ Candle & Passing the Peace of Christ

**Hymn:** “Rise up, rise up” (MV 130)

or “This is the day” (VU 412)

or “Morning has broken” (VU 409)

or play “Rise up to a new day” by rEvolve

### GROW

**Story Time:** What comes to mind when you hear the word “new”?

**Hymn:** “One more step along the world I go” (VU 639)

**Scripture:** See I am making all things new! (Revelation 21:3–5a)  
A fanfare of new beginnings (Psalm 40:1–3 and Psalm 98)  
Parable of the wineskins (Mark 2:21–22)

### Sermon

**Hymn** “Behold, behold, I make all things new” (MV 115)

**Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer** (*sung* VU 960)  
(*We pray with our brothers and sisters across the United Church.*)

### Minute for Mission

#### Offering Invitation

**Presentation** “Praise God from whom all blessings flow” (VU 541)

#### Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them  
into compassion for others,  
into community for the lonely,  
and new hope for the church and the world. Amen.

### GO

**Announcements:** Life and work of the community

**Hymn:** “We shall go out with hope of resurrection” (VU 586)

### Commissioning & Blessing

**Postlude:** (*play a recording*) “I let go” by rEvolve

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## We Are Pilgrims on a Journey

A Gathering\* Worship Resource Service

### GATHER

**Prelude:** “Hamba nathi – You are holy”(MV 45)  
(*instrumental or small group of singers*)

**Welcome:** Welcome to this summer worship service to prepare the whole church for General Council 42 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, August 8–14, 2015. This morning, our focus is on the theme of pilgrimage, praying for the commissioners who will make the pilgrimage to GC42.

**Call to Worship:** Asking...that you may lead lives [read: “travel paths”] worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to [God], as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10). Come, let us worship God.

**Opening Prayer:** “A prayer for the journey” (VU 648)

**Affirmation of Faith:** A New Creed (VU p. 918)

### Lighting the Christ Candle & Passing the Peace of Christ

**Hymn:** “We are pilgrims” (VU 595)  
*or* “Guide me, O thou great Jehovah” (VU 651)

### GROW

**Story Time:** Have you ever been on a journey that you would call a pilgrimage? What made it a pilgrimage?

**Hymn:** “Travel on, travel on” (VU 647)  
*or* “We are marching” (VU 646)

**Scripture:** Psalms for pilgrims (Psalm 120 and 121)  
A call to pilgrimage (Mark 1:16–20)  
Pilgrims on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35)

### Sermon

**Hymn** “One more step along the world I go” (VU 639)

**Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer** (*sung* VU 960)  
(*We pray with our brothers and sisters who will journey as commissioners to GC42.*)

### Minute for Mission

#### Offering Invitation

##### Presentation

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow” (VU 541)

##### Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them  
into compassion for others,  
into community for the lonely,  
and a movement of hope for the church and the world. Amen.

### GO

**Announcements:** Life and word of the community

**Hymn:** “Go, make a difference” (MV 209)  
*or* “Draw the circle wide” (MV 145)

#### Commissioning & Blessing

God’s love to guide our journey;  
Jesus’ life to show us the way;  
Spirit’s spark to light the path;  
Go in peace to love and serve others.

**Postlude:** “Lead on, O cloud of Presence” (VU 421) (*instrumental*)

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## Be Brave

A Gathering\* Worship Resource Service

### GATHER

**Prelude:** (*play a recording*) “Touch the Sky” (from the movie *Brave*)

**Welcome:** Welcome to this summer worship service to prepare the whole church for General Council 42 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, August 8–14, 2015. This morning, our focus is on the call to be brave in these changing times.

**Call to Worship:** Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! (Psalm 27:14) Come, let us worship God.

### Opening Prayer

Holy One, you call us to be brave,  
to stand up in the face of injustice,  
to speak out, yelling loudly, when a loud voice is what’s needed.  
In this moment, you present us with so many opportunities to be brave.  
And yet, you call us to be tender—open to listening to the voice of all others, and open to moments of profound transformation and true reconciliation.

So, we take a deep breath, in and out,  
connecting with you, our Source,  
Inspiring Spirit, wind of change,  
and we ask you to make us brave and keep us tender.

Bless us anew in this time together,  
for we know that surely you are here.

We pray this in the name of Jesus,  
your Mystery, your Wisdom, your Glory. Amen.

*Lauren Hodgson, St. Matthew’s U.C., Toronto, Ont.*

**Affirmation of Faith:** A New Creed (VU p. 918)

### Lighting the Christ Candle & Passing the Peace of Christ

**Hymn:** “Holy Spirit, hear us” (VU 377)  
or “This is the day” (VU 412)  
or “Come, O Holy Spirit” (MV 23)

### GROW

**Story Time:** When was a time when you had to be brave? What helped you be brave? How does your faith help you to be brave?

**Hymn:** “I danced in the morning” (VU 352)  
or “Be thou my vision” (VU 642)

**Scripture:** Take courage, God is with us (Isaiah 41:6–10)  
Speak with boldness (Acts 4:29–31)  
Approach with boldness (Hebrews 4:16)

### Sermon

**Hymn:** “Don’t be afraid” (MV 90)

**Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer** (*sung* VU 960)  
(*We join our brothers and sisters across the church in praying for the future of our world and church.*)

### Minute for Mission

#### Offering Invitation

**Presentation** “Praise God from whom all blessings flow” (VU 541)

#### Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them  
into compassion for others,  
into community for the lonely,  
and into brave hope for the church and the world. Amen.

### GO

**Announcements:** Life and word of the community

**Hymn:** “We shall go out with hope of resurrection” (VU 586)  
or “Come, O Holy Spirit” (MV 23)

### Commissioning & Blessing

May the God who is present with us at all times  
give us courage to walk in the way of Christ,  
and may the Spirit empower us each to be brave! Amen.

**Postlude:** (*play a recording*) “Into the open air” (from the movie *Brave*)

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## 5. A Taste of Newfoundland (unnumbered page 60)

### Affirmation of Faith

For each of the four General Council services, you may wish to sing A New Creed to the tune composed by Andrew Aitchison (page 43).

### Sermon and Service Ideas

- Check the Moderator’s blog for his experiences in Newfoundland ([www.garypaterson.ca](http://www.garypaterson.ca)).
- Explore statistics of Newfoundland and Labrador Conference.
- Hold a moment of silence and prayer for those who work at sea.
- Play Paul Rumbolt’s song “Did I Build a Boat” found at [www.sonicbids.com/band/paulrumbolt/audio/](http://www.sonicbids.com/band/paulrumbolt/audio/) (*use with permission*).
- Invite a soloist to sing: “Out of the depths, O God, we call to you” (VU 611).
- Join in a rousing rendition of “You never saw old Galilee” (VU 673) (See article about this hymn on page 71.)

### Minutes for Mission

Look for the three selections in the 2015 Minute for Mission resource that lift up ministries in Newfoundland:

- Feb. 15, 2015 the Ministry of the Dead in Newfoundland: A Place of Our Own
- March 8, 2015 Emmanuel House of Stella’s Circle: Second Chances (also in video)
- September 20, 2015 Bridges to Hope (also in video)

These resources are available in RTF and PDF; three photos each on Flickr.

### Prayers of the People

Eternal God, we have learned of our faith through those who have devoted their lives to serving you: Abraham and Sarah for their willingness to trust when life was desperate; Moses and Miriam for their commitment to salvation for your people; Mary Magdalene and Simon Peter who followed Jesus even though they were aware of their shortcomings.

#### All sing

“On Christ, the solid Rock I stand...”  
(refrain of “My hope is built” by W.B. Bradbury,

#### Songs of the Gospel 154)

Your people, Guiding God, have been led to this place, which we call “the Rock,” and we give thanks for their stubborn determination and fortitude as they eked out a livelihood through times of hardship and peril. Their trust and faith in your purposes steadied them and gave them the hope that they needed to withstand the pressures of their demanding lives.

#### All sing

“On Christ, the solid Rock I stand...”

For 90 years, The United Church of Canada has been journeying to serve Jesus with faithfulness. Your Spirit, O God, has challenged and provoked our church to move in new paths. We admit it is not always easy to follow in your ways and we sometimes stumble. We thank you that you lift us up and hold us. We remember those who have comforted and confronted us in our journeys. As we continue to dare to be your people in the days to come, may we lift up the ministry of those who have led us here and help us to continue to be faithful servants.

#### All sing

“On Christ, the solid Rock I stand...”

We, too, wish to continue in their ways. Lead us on. Help us to accept the mission that you set before us for Christ is indeed the Rock of our Salvation who leads us into life. This we pray in Jesus’ name, who taught us to pray together saying, Our Father...

### Offering Invitation

God’s love calms the stormy recesses of our souls and sends Jesus Christ to be the rock on which we anchor our faith. In gratitude to God, we now present our gifts of faith; may they provide mooring for those in need of safety, shelter, and a firm foundation. Our offerings will now be received.

## 6. Behold, I Am Making All Things New (unnumbered page 61)

### Call to Worship

Before you begin, point out the varying names of Christ that are used in this call to worship. Invite people to call out the variety of identities they represent for each topic.

Examples:

We are from different places (*name regions where those gathered are from*)

We are (*name occupational identities present*)

We are (*name personal identities, e.g., parents, friends, siblings*)

We are (*name tastes and styles, e.g., hip hop, new age, trendy, artsy*)

We are (*name cultural identities, e.g., Caribbean, Hispanic*)

We are (*name emotional identities, e.g., confused, happy, rejected*)

We are (*name other identities relevant to your community*)

### **Sermon Ideas from the Moderator's Blog**

- The theme for General Council 42—"Behold" ([www.garypaterson.ca](http://www.garypaterson.ca))
- Planting Seeds for New Ministries ([www.garypaterson.ca/2014/05/30/planting-seeds-for-new-ministries/](http://www.garypaterson.ca/2014/05/30/planting-seeds-for-new-ministries/))
- An Exciting Church Meeting... Who Knew? ([www.garypaterson.ca/2014/07/02/an-exciting-church-meetingwho-knew/](http://www.garypaterson.ca/2014/07/02/an-exciting-church-meetingwho-knew/))
- Permissive of Joy ([www.garypaterson.ca/2013/05/15/permissive-of-joy/](http://www.garypaterson.ca/2013/05/15/permissive-of-joy/))

### **Minute for Mission**

Choose a Minute for Mission about relationships with First Nations peoples.

### **Prayers of the People**

O Sacred One, let us scream and rally in the chaos of uncertainty within which we hear your call. We cry out in pain because things are not all right and we are tired of this fight. We are tired of the disappointment with you and one another, tired of the aching and the grieving, tired of the struggle to keep our head above the water, tired of the statistics, the red budget lines, and the dusty pews, and tired of trying to be faithful in the midst of all this.

Let us blow off some steam. Let us scream and rally in the midst of the chaos of our uncertainty. (*a time of personal prayer*)

And if this is the place where you are calling us to be, then listen to our voices becoming hoarse and feel our hearts ache with grief. Let us be angry for a while with you and with one another. Let us scream and rally in the midst of the chaos of our uncertainty. (*a time of personal prayer*)

And if this is where you call us, then be Creator for us again. Draw in our aching and our disappointments, our brokenness and our failures.

Draw in our longing and our faltering, our tired-out and our dead places; draw in the whole of our being and lift us with your clay-caked hands.

(*a time of personal prayer*)

If this is where you call us, then be Creator for us again.

Set your ancient, passionate lips upon ours and breathe your Spirit into us to renew our lives and your church. Let your breath ignite the flames in our hearts, our passion and our creativity, our sense of adventure and our daring, our visioning and journeying, our commitment to strive toward you and toward one another. If this is where you call us, then be Creator for us once again, lifting us, shaping us, renewing us, and sending us forth so that we take this bold adventure with you to be the church anew. We ask this as followers of the Way of Jesus, and pray as he taught us, Our Father...

*Micol Cottrell, Allenford-Park Head P.C., Allenford, Ont.*

### **Offering Invitation**

Generosity leaves space for new things to emerge; let us now offer our tithes and gifts with open hearts.

## **7. We Are Pilgrims on a Journey** (unnumbered page 62)

### **Sermon Ideas**

- The GC42 Teen Pilgrimage across Canada (GC42 website).
- Share the Moderator's blog for "Greenbelt: Pilgrimage Happened" ([www.garypaterson.ca/2013/09/09/greenbelt-pilgrimage-happened/](http://www.garypaterson.ca/2013/09/09/greenbelt-pilgrimage-happened/)).
- Play "I need to move" by rEvolve (album on [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com); use with their permission).
- Resources from WCC Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace ([www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/pilgrimage-of-justice-and-peace](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/pilgrimage-of-justice-and-peace))

### **Prayers of the People**

Holy One, our voices rise together in thanksgiving for all the beauty that surrounds us.

For the beauty of space to pause in the summer, at work, at study, or at play, alone, with family, with friends, with creation, with pets, with community, with other pilgrims, all time to proclaim the sacredness of the spiritual practice of prayer.

For the beauty of your creation: the mountains,

the prairies, the birds, the forests, the oceans, the tundra, the rivers, and the animals all proclaim the miracle of your handiwork around us.

For the beauty of your people throughout the world: communities gathered in homes, in sanctuaries, in tents, in gymnasiums, in chapels, in cabins, and in sacred spaces, all proclaiming the mystery of faith that draws us ever closer to you. For the beauty of this United Church of Canada: the struggling, the celebrating, the discerning, the laughing, the wondering, the crying, and the praying, all yearning for the wisdom and integrity to be your hands and feet in our communities, struggling for justice and peace.

And finally, for the beauty of the pilgrims preparing for the 42nd General Council, 2015: the youth, the volunteers, the children, the staff, the commissioners, the families, the Moderator, all hoping for a glimpse of your presence and for clarity, wisdom, patience, and faithfulness as they gather on behalf of the United Church in Corner Brook.

Help us on this journey together to be ever mindful of the abundance and the beauty in our lives, in our church, in our communities, and all around us. We ask this in the name of the Christ who walks with us on every path as our companion and our guide, and pray together in the words he taught us, Our Father...

*Tracy Murton, Saskatoon, Sask.*

### Offering Invitation

Recognizing that we are all pilgrims on a journey, we respond to this connection by sharing what we have with others. The offering of our gifts will now be received.

## 8. Be Brave (unnumbered page 63)

### Sermon Ideas

- Show the YouTube version of Sara Bareilles's song "Brave" before exploring these questions:  
When was a time when you had to be brave?  
What helped you be brave?
- Offer an update on the Comprehensive Task Group Process.
- TRC Vancouver: Walking Together ([www.garypaterson.ca/2013/10/03/trc-vancouver-walking-together/](http://www.garypaterson.ca/2013/10/03/trc-vancouver-walking-together/))
- A Resurrection Story ([www.garypaterson.ca/](http://www.garypaterson.ca/))

[2013/03/28/a-resurrection-story/](http://www.garypaterson.ca/2013/03/28/a-resurrection-story/))

- I Want Change ([www.garypaterson.ca/2014/05/13/i-want-change/](http://www.garypaterson.ca/2014/05/13/i-want-change/)) Note especially the Lazarus story in the middle of the post.
- Off to Sochi ([www.garypaterson.ca/2014/01/23/off-to-sochi/](http://www.garypaterson.ca/2014/01/23/off-to-sochi/))
- TRC Vancouver: Expressions of Reconciliation ([www.garypaterson.ca/2013/10/02/trc-vancouver-expressions-of-reconciliation/](http://www.garypaterson.ca/2013/10/02/trc-vancouver-expressions-of-reconciliation/))
- Be Brave ([www.garypaterson.ca/2013/04/22/the-garden-remains/](http://www.garypaterson.ca/2013/04/22/the-garden-remains/))

### Prayers of the People

We seek a vision from the brave prophets, an interpreter who will teach us how to sing songs of praise in strange lands.

#### **Blessed are we who seek God's word.**

We seek the wisdom of great Sophia, eldest and most radiant, she teaches self-discipline, justice, and courage to all who pursue her.

#### **Blessed are we who seek God's wisdom.**

We seek healing and forgiveness for all the ways we have failed to be your church.

#### **Blessed are we who seek God's mercy.**

We seek peace and search for ways to actively pursue it.

#### **Blessed are we who seek God's peace.**

We seek the face of Christ in all our relations.

#### **Blessed are we who seek the risen Christ.**

We seek the way of the Spirit's bravery, the way of seeking justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.

**Blessed are we who seek the Spirit's bravery,** and we continue our prayer together using the words that Jesus, our brave brother, taught us: Our Father...

*Alydia Smith, Program Coordinator, Worship, Music, and Spirituality*

### Minute for Mission

If we are to be brave we need hope, and hope encourages us to be brave. Use one of the Stories of Hope gathered by Trish Elliot, found at [www.hopecollection.ca](http://www.hopecollection.ca).

### Offering Invitation

This morning, let us give to the ministry and mission of Jesus, our brother, with a generosity that requires bravery and hope. Our offering will now be received.