

ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Presidential Installation

November 9, 2023

Atlantic School of Theology

660 Francklyn Street Halifax, Nova Scotia

Order of Service

Land Acknowledgement

Prelude

Toccata in F Major
Kevin Parks, University Musician

Deiterich Buxtehude

Processional Hymn: CP 575 Let Streams of Living Justice

Text: William Whitla

Music: Gustav Holst

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Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading
the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron power;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.

For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;

on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.

Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way--the path untried;
your truth--the heart of stranger;
your life--the Crucified.

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Linda Yates
Chair, AST Board of Governors

Call to Worship

Rosamond Luke, AST Student

One: Out of the waters of creation God spoke,
All: God spoke and the light became day and the chaos became no more.
One: Out of the stillness of the stable God spoke,
All: God spoke and a life of saving love was born to each of us.
One: Out of the fire in the upper room God spoke,
All: God spoke and the Spirit breathed new life into the world.
One: Whether it is out of the stillness or out of the chaos, God speaks,
**All: God speaks to each of us in ways that we all might hear in our time
and in our place.**

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 4:1-16

Read by Linda Moxsom-Skinner

Chief Administrative Officer, AST

At the conclusion, the reader says, "Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people."
And all respond, **"Thanks be to God."**

Responsive Psalm 99

Led by Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray

President, St. Mary's University

*(The sung refrain is sung once by the cantor, then repeated by the people before the psalm begins: **You rule with justice in delight, and faithfulness maintain.**)*

One: You reign, O God, and the peoples tremble;
you sit enthroned upon the cherubim, and the earth is quaking.

**All: You, O God, are great in Zion,
you are exalted over all the nations.**

Let them praise your great and awesome name:
holy are you and mighty, a ruler who delights in justice.

**You have determined what is fair,
you have done in Jacob what is just and right. (sung refrain)**

Moses and Aaron were among your priests,
Miriam among those who called on your name;
they called to you, God, and you answered.

**In the pillar of cloud you spoke to them,
they kept your teachings and the law that you gave them.**

O God, our God, you answered them;
to them you were a forgiving God,
though you punished their offences.

**Proclaim the greatness of God
and worship on God's holy hill;
for God, our God, is the Holy One. (sung refrain)**

Gospel Reading

John 4:31-38

Julee Pauling

AST Student Union

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

At the conclusion, the reader says, "Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people."

And all respond, "Thanks be to God."

Sung Response: VU 115 Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New

Words and Music John L. Bell

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Behold, behold, I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold, I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way. (Sung 3x)

Installation of the President

The Rev. Thomas W. L. Nisbett

Chair of Presidential Welcome and Integration Task Force

At this time, I would like to invite the Chair of the Board of Governors, The Reverend Dr. Linda Yates, and the President Elect of the Atlantic School of Theology, The Reverend Dr. Heather McCance, to join me.

May it please the Chair of the Board of Governors of Atlantic School of Theology to receive a request that the Reverend Dr. Heather Kathleen McCance, duly elected by the Board of Governors, be installed as President of this School.

Chair of the AST Board of Governors:
Let the Record of Election be read.

Task Force Chair:

At a meeting of the Board of Governors held in Halifax on the 19th day of June, 2023 the following motion was duly moved, seconded and carried: "that the Atlantic School of Theology Board of Governors appoint The Rev. Dr. Heather McCance as President of the Atlantic School of Theology...."
Madam Chair, we present to you The Reverend Dr. Heather McCance, whose election has been duly attested, to be installed as President of the School.

Chair of the Board: Are you willing to undertake the charge and care of the office of President?

President-Elect: I am.

Chair of the Board: Will you ensure that the operation of the University shall be in accordance with the terms of the founding agreement?

President-Elect: I will.

Chair of the Board: Will you endeavour to promote the welfare of this School, to guide its counsels and to strengthen its efforts in the education of those seeking theological training and in the pursuit of sound learning?

President-Elect: I will.

Chair of the Board: Will you steward the whole community of the Atlantic School of Theology, caring for students, staff, faculty, and alumni, and seek to build and strengthen the relationships that enable the carrying out of the University's mission?

President-Elect: I will endeavor to do all this with the help of God.

The President-Elect repeats after the Chair of the Board.

I, Heather Kathleen McCance, do solemnly swear that I will perform faithfully the duties of the office of President, and that I will strive to promote the honour and welfare of Atlantic School of Theology, the Lord being my helper.

Representatives of the founding churches are invited to come forward.

Chair of the Board: Members of the founding churches of the Atlantic School of Theology; to the Anglican Church of Canada, Diocese of Fredericton, Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island; to the Roman Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth; and to the Eastern Regions of the United Church of Canada, I present to you our new President, the Reverend Dr. Heather McCance.

The new president greets the representatives. She then exchanges the academic regalia of her alma mater for the presidential robes of the Atlantic School of Theology.

The community is invited to stand.

I present to you, members and friends of the Atlantic School of Theology, our new President, the Reverend Dr. Heather McCance, duly installed, and ask you to keep her in your prayers and support her in her presidency.

President's Homily

The Rev. Dr. Heather McCance

Hymn: VU Christ Has No Body Now but Yours

Words: Adapted by Stephen C. Warner from St. Teresa of Avila

Music: Rick Gunn (AST 2020)

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Refrain:

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work,

to serve with the joy of compassion.

1. No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
No hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
No touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God.
2. No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
To find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.
3. No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
to walk this world with mercy and justice.
yours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the children of God.
4. Through every gift, give back to those in need:
As Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
with every gift as benediction, be to the people of God.

Prayers of the People

*The Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis
Acting Academic Dean*

Blessing by AST President

The Rev. Dr. Heather McCance

Sending Forth

*Dr. David Deane
Associate Professor of Theology*

Almighty God, by your grace alone we are accepted and called to your service.
Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being.
Guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit,
that in all the cares and occupations of our life
we may not forget you,
but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

Words: Samuel John Stone, adapt. Laurence Hull Stookry

Music: AURELIA Samuel Sebastian Wesley

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The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the Word;
from heaven he came and sought us that we might always be
his living servant people, by his own death set free.

Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
our charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own spirit led.

'Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore,
'til with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest in won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Postlude

Concerto del Sigr Torelli
Kevin Parks, University Musician

J. G. Walther

Reception to follow

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