



O r d e r o f W o r s h i p

All Souls Protestant Church · St. Gallen



Christ the King Sunday
(Decommissioning Liturgy)

November 21st, 2021

† CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Pastor: For everything there is a season,

*People: **And a time for everything under heaven:***

Pastor: A time to be born, and a time to die;

People: A time to plant and a time to harvest;

Pastor: A time to hurt, and a time to heal;

People: A time to break down, and a time to build up;

Pastor: A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

People: A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

Pastor: A time to depart, and a time to gather;

People: A time to embrace, and a time to let go;

Pastor: A time to seek, and a time to lose;

People: A time to keep, and a time to throw away;

Pastor: A time to tear, and a time to mend;

People: A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

Pastor: A time to love, and a time to hate;

People: A time for struggle, and a time for peace;

† DECLARATION OF INTENT

Pastor: Brothers and Sisters, we are gathered here to celebrate the life of *All Souls Protestant Church*, to give thanks to God for the gifts that have come to us and to others through its ministry, to acknowledge our sadness at the dissolving of its Covenant, and to affirm again our faith in Jesus Christ. Let us be grateful for God's gifts, honest about our sorrows, open in our love, and trusting in Jesus Christ, Who is the Head of the Church.

The service today marks a passage for this congregation with the decommissioning of its ministry and service in East Switzerland. For six years we have fellowshiped through Sacraments, weddings, and other joys, and have felt the pains and griefs of life through funerals, disagreements, and other cares.

Truly a ministry is coming to an end this day, but new beginnings are coming about through the grace and love of Christ our King. He is calling and sending us out to new chapters of life and ministry, and to continue sharing His marvelous grace through works of love in new places and new communities.

Congregations are formed and Covenants are dissolved, but the King of kings, Who brought us together, reigns eternal as Lord of all.

**ALL: For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are His!
Forever and ever!
Amen!**

† THANKSGIVING FOR THE MINISTRY

Pastor: Throughout the years, God has blessed the community of *All Souls Protestant Church*, using the gifts of pastors, elders, and parishioners to bring help and healing and change lives with the Good News of Jesus. We now come to the time of closing its ministry, and giving it back to Christ our King Who called us into fellowship. Let us pray....

O Lord, receive our praise and gratitude for this ministry, and for six years of serving You together in St. Gallen. For every person who has shown the love of Christ to another;

People: We thank You Lord.

Pastor: For every quiet act of service which helped another,

People: We thank You Lord.

Pastor: For every song of praise offered to You from the depths of a grateful heart,

People: We thank You Lord.

Pastor: For every prayer uttered here which gave You honor and glory,

People: We thank You Lord.

Pastor: And for all the ways in which You have guided and directed these Your people,

People: We thank You Lord.

Pastor: For all these gifts of ministry,

People: We give You thanks and praise!

† OFFERING OF OLD SYMBOLS

Pastor: With the end of any ministry, the Lord always does something new. As our ministry together ends, let us welcome new beginnings with gifts of old. These gifts are the Communion set and Baptismal font that have served us, and reminded us of the grace of God and His perfect love that knows no end. Now we bequeath them for His work in other places, and may the joy of His Sacraments continue to be shown in their further use. To the French Reformed Church we give our pitcher, cup, and bowl, and may they find great blessing as they eat and drink in fellowship. And to the Roman Catholic Church we give our font of Baptism, and may they find great blessing as they welcome with blessed waters. We offer these gifts of old to them, our Brothers and Sisters in faith, to celebrate the new things that God will do among them.

(If representatives of the Churches are present,
they can be called forward to receive the gifts.)

† DISSOLVING OF THE COVENANT

Pastor: We now come to the final part of decommissioning this ministry, where we dissolve the Covenant that we have shared and end this bond of fellowship. For six years we have walked with Christ in this blessed community, and now we must go our separate ways to walk with Him in new places. Do you agree to end the Covenant that we have kept together; to FOLLOW, WORSHIP, PROCLAIM, FELLOWSHIP, SERVE, and RECONCILE as followers of Jesus? If so say, “We do”.

ALL: We do.

Pastor: With this agreement our Covenant is dissolved and this ministry is decommissioned. Therefore, I charge and encourage you to live out your calling wherever God may lead you. Though we are no longer members of All Souls, we are forever members of the Body of Christ our King, Who commands us to love the Lord with all of our being and to love all people as we love ourselves. Go forth and do likewise.