

WORSHIP SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF THE ATLANTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Photo of church building up on screen / photos of members to follow

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (Jeff Richards as Presbytery Moderator)

We gather in the midst of our business as a presbytery, to acknowledge with solemn joy God's gift of this building (on the screen), that for 129 years housed the congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Atlanta.

We remember with gratitude all who have worshiped within its walls,
The faith professed at its font,
The gospel proclaimed from its pulpit,
The assurance received at its table.

Let us also reaffirm our faith in our sojourning God.

As this building has been made ready and has passed legally and with the authority of Presbytery into the hands of the Redefined Church of Wayland, New York, we rejoice that God's Word continues to be proclaimed and God's people continue to find here a place to worship and work in Jesus' name.

That which we have received from God
let us now return to God with thanksgiving.

We gather also to acknowledge with joy all who have shared in the life and ministry of the congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Atlanta as members and as pastors.

[show slides if not shown earlier]

In particular, we acknowledge the remaining members: [LIST], whose membership is now in care of the Presbytery.

And we acknowledge the congregation's last pastor, The Rev. Jamie Tyrrell.

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Old Testament – Bob Bidlack

Hear the start of Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the Temple:

1 Kings 8:27-30 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive."

Psalm 84:1-2,12 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.

New Testament – Cathy Foerster

1 Peter 2:4-5,9 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...You are a

chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

LITANY OF PRAISE – Moderator

Eternal God, whom the highest heaven cannot contain, much less a building made by human hands, hear us as we pray: **we praise you, O God.**

For the Church universal, of which this Atlanta building has been a symbol, **we praise you, O God.**

For all the saints who, in times past and present, have formed a congregation of your people and have met in Atlanta to offer their prayers and praise to you, **we praise you, O God.**

For your blessing upon each of your children, welcome and nurtured met in this place to offer their prayers and praise to you,

For those who have been made your children by adoption and grace, who in this place were cleansed of sin, buried with Christ in the waters of baptism, and raised to new and eternal life, **we praise you, O God.**

For your presence whenever your word has been proclaimed and your sacramental gifts of bread and wine received, **we praise you, O God.**

For your blessing upon each of your children, welcomed and nurtured in Atlanta, **we praise you, O God.**

For all who came to ask your blessing in marriage, seeking to love with your love, **we praise you, O God.**

For faithful stewards who have lived for others, serving you by loving neighbors, **we praise you, O God.**

For all who, having lived this life in faith, were commended to your loving care and now live eternally with you, **we praise you, O God.**

For the knowledge that your church and your ministry among us will continue today, tomorrow, and forever, **we praise you, O God.**

All thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DECLARATION - Moderator

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the Presbytery of Geneva, I declare the congregation of Atlanta Presbyterian Church dissolved and the building vacated and released to its new owners.

CHARGE – Moderator

Go out into the world in peace. Live holy and joyful lives, in the spirit of the crucified and risen Savior.

BLESSING – David Ashby for the AC

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Amen.