



PAXTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service of Installation of Teaching Elder the

Rev. Margaret L. Poteet

as Pastor of Paxton Presbyterian Church

November 23, 2025 | 4:30 PM

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

WELCOME AND CONVENING OF PRESBYTERY

Rev. Janice Tiedeck

VOLUNTARY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Scott Pepperman

Let us worship the eternal God, the source of love and life, who creates us.

Let us worship Jesus Christ, the risen one, who lives among us.

Let us worship the Spirit, the holy fire, who renews us.

To the one true God be praise in all times and places, through the grace of Jesus Christ.

* HYMN - 305

“Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Elder Anita Laughery

Merciful and loving God, you have called us to be your people and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ. We confess that we have not lived up to our calling to proclaim the good news in word and deed. We are quick to speak when we ought to listen and remain silent when it is time to speak. We put too much faith in our own actions and fail to trust the strength of your Spirit. O God, forgive our foolish and sinful ways. Strengthen us anew to follow Christ’s way in the world. By your Holy Spirit, give us the grace we need to be faithful disciples and fulfill our common calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Eric Williams

Send us your Holy Spirit, O God, that these words might speak to us as your Word, and our lives bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 16

ANTHEM

“The Call”

arr. Eric Routley

SCRIPTURE READING Selections from John 20 and 21

SERMON “Places Pleasant and Unpleasant, and How to Inhabit Them”

Rev. Austin Crenshaw Shelley

HYMN – 733

“We All Are One in Mission”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Allison Smith

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

PRESENTATION OF THE PASTOR ELECT

Elder Bob Frank

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

Rev. Janice Tiedec

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Questions to the Candidate

Questions to the Congregation

Elder Anita Laughery

Do we, as members of the church, accept Margaret as our pastor, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ? ***We do.***

Do we agree to pray for her, encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? ***We do.***

Do we promise to pay her fairly and provide for her welfare as she works among us; to stand by her in trouble and share her joys? ***We do.***

Will we listen to the word she preaches, welcome her pastoral care, and honor her authority as she seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ as Lord? ***We will.***

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

CHARGE TO THE INSTALLED PASTOR

Rev. Janice Smith Ammom

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Rev. John Green

HYMN – See Insert “O God Beyond All Praising”

BENEDICTION

Rev. Margaret Poteet

POSTLUDE “Now Thank We All Our God”

J.S. Bach arr. Virgil Fox

The () indicates that those who are able may stand.

The words printed in *bold face italics type* are said by all.

Installation Commission

The Rev. Janice Tiedeck, Moderator of the Presbytery of Carlisle
The Rev. Allison Smith, Associate Pastor of Market Square Presbyterian Church
The Rev. John Green, Honorably Retired, Presbytery of Carlisle and former pastor of Paxton Presbyterian Church
Ruling Elder Anita Laughery, Paxton Presbyterian Church
Ruling Elder Scott Pepperman, Silver Springs Presbyterian Church
Ruling Elder Eric Williams, Derry Presbyterian Church

Guest Participants

The Rev. Austin Crenshaw Shelley, Pastor of Shadyside Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA
The Rev. Janice Smith Ammon, Honorably Retired, former Minister of the Chapel at Princeton Theological Seminary
Ruling Elder Bob Frank, Paxton Presbyterian Church

Musicians

Dr. Susan Beckley, Director of Music
Jeanne Bruce, Organist
The Chancel Choir of Paxton Presbyterian Church