



February 2021 |Adobe Connect

<b>Gathering Song</b>	We Are the Church Alive	MCC General Conference
<b>Welcome</b>		Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston
<b>Gathering Prayer</b>		Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry
<b>Scripture Reading</b>		Elder Larry Rodriguez

**Philippians 1:3-11, (Common English Bible) alt**

I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now. I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the work by the day of Christ Jesus. I have good reason to think this way about all of you because I keep you in my heart. ... God is my witness that I feel affection for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. ... I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God.

**Outgoing Elders Litany of Blessing**

Rev. Elder Ines-Paul Baumann, Rev. Elder Héctor Gutiérrez, Elder Nancy Maxwell, Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson, Rev. Elder Tony Freeman, and Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner

There is a season for everything,  
and a time for every purpose under heaven ~  
A time for giving birth,  
and a time for transitioning to the next life;  
A time for planting,  
and a time for uprooting;  
A time for taking things apart,  
and a time for putting them back together again.

There is a time for every purpose under heaven,  
and in everything, God continues to work for good.  
To our colleagues on the Governing Board and Staff  
and the wider MCC family,  
we come today to say  
we are grateful for the many and  
varied purposes with which we have been taxed  
and for every opportunity, great and small,  
we have had to be of service.  
For the times in which the impact of our work did not  
carry our good intentions, we ask your forgiveness.  
For all the work left in partial completion,  
we pray for God's Spirit to guide those who  
will now fill the seats we once held  
in making choices about what is worth keeping and  
what must be laid aside.  
To those newly appointed, we pray for a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit  
upon you. ~ May the words of your mouths,  
the meditations of your hearts and the actions you take  
be guided always and only by the singular truth that  
God asks only this of you:  
to act justly and love tenderly and walk humbly.  
To our Moderator, we pledge continuing loyalty and the willingness to serve  
If ever you should need us.  
To our siblings in this global movement of faith:  
Know that the vision  
that called us to life ~ salvation for all,  
community for all, social justice for all ~  
will remain our life-long call and mission.  
Whenever we pray for any or all of you,  
as we pledge to continue doing,  
we will pray with joy,  
remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News  
from the day you first heard it.  
We remain quite certain  
that the One who began this good work  
known as Metropolitan Community Churches  
will see it through to completion in Christ Jesus. +Amen

**Blessing of the Outgoing Elders**

Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

*Congregation, please reach out your hand in blessing*

**Special Music**

Amigo by Roberto Carlos

Voces de Alabanza  
en la ICM Fundadora

## Scripture Reading

Rev. Elder Don Eastman

### **Matthew 4:18-22 (New International Version)**

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

## The Message

Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

## Music

Carry On

John Fischer

## The Elders Share Their Vows

The Elders are the spiritual and pastoral leaders of our Fellowship. As a member of the Council of Elders, an Elder has authority over the affiliation of MCC churches and over the approval of clergy in MCC. In all things, an Elder has the duty to uphold the unity, values, faith, and disciplines of our denomination.

In obedience to the movement of the Holy Spirit and, in accordance with the Bylaws of MCC,

Rev. Alejandro Escoto

Ms Velma Garcia

Rev. Goudy

Rev. Miller Jen Hoffman

Rev. Karl Hand

Rev. Carolyn J. Mobley-Bowie

Rev. Maxwell Reay

Rev. Troy Treash

have been duly and lawfully appointed to the position of Elder by me as Moderator, approved by the MCC Governing Board, and affirmed in the position by a vote of the MCC General Conference.

Representing the voices of the people today are:

Corrine Avontuur, South Africa

Rev. Cristiano Valerio, Brazil

James Chavis, USA & Governing Board

Matt Pepall, Australia  
Camille Araullo, Filipino Community in MCC

- Voice 1                    Do you believe that God has called you to the Office of Elder?
- All Elders                I do
- Voice 2                    Will you accept this call and fulfill the trust that has been placed in you, and, in prayer and study, continue to seek the mind of Christ?
- All Elders                I will
- Voice 3                    Will you safeguard your own spiritual life, your health, and wellbeing, your home and family, even as you take on this new role?
- All Elders                I will
- Voice 4                    As a spiritual and pastoral leader in MCC, will you preach the liberating gospel of inclusion, encourage all people in fulfilling their commitment to God, nourish their gifts, and pray for them?
- All Elders                I will
- Voice 5                    Will you share with the other members of the Council of Elders in the leadership of the church; will you support, guide and counsel the church's lay leaders and clergy, strengthening them in mutual ministry?
- All Elders                I will

The Elders respond: *In serving you as Elder, I offer:*

Rev. Elder Alejandro Escoto

In serving you as Elder, I offer to Pray for us, MCC/ICM Globally and Locally, and in doing so, I offer you my Cultural Diversity (socially, religiously, and spiritually) and invite yours, so we can Celebrate our unique and outstanding Tapestry of Experiences, globally and locally. Amen, So Be It!

Elder Velma Garcia

In serving you as Elder, I offer the gifts of valor, empathy and passion for prayer to magnify and advance God's Dominion.

Rev. Elder Goudy

In serving you as Elder, I offer a ministry of presence, dedication to the Biblical text and courageous discipleship

Rev. Elder Miller Hoffman

In serving you as Elder, I offer myself as pastor, teacher, learner, flexible, humble, ready. I offer my awkward and vulnerable honesty to you directly, and with respect. I offer my passion for anti-violence, for consent in all matters, for social and spiritual distributive justice, and for laughter and wholeness.

Rev. Elder Karl Hand

In serving you as Elder, I offer you my undivided attention, my unceasing prayers, and my confidence in God's good plan for this fellowship.

Rev. Elder Carolyn Mobley-Bowie

In serving you as Elder, I offer Inspirational Wisdom, Compassionate Listening, and Prayer-In-Song

Rev. Elder Maxwell Reay

In serving you as Elder, I offer compassion, creative community building and an open and inquiring mind.

Rev. Elder Troy Treash

In serving you as Elder, I offer: my heart, my prayers, my time, and my love.

Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

And now, I ask everyone who is present:

Will you pray for these Elders? Will you accept their leadership with love and grace; will you support them as they open their hearts and life to this office, to this responsibility? If so, please say, "I will."

*I will.*

While we do not yet have your Elder vestments, in this moment, we ask you to put on your stoles as a sign of your office.

*Elders put on stoles*

### **The Rite of Anointing**

The anointing of leaders is an ancient Biblical practice. It is an outward and visible symbol of the call of God for you to serve as an Elder, a spiritual leader,

amongst us. This ritual embodies your “yes” to God’s call and our “yes” confirming God’s call in your life at this time.

Each of you has someone present to anoint you on our behalf. Each of you has anointing oil. We bless this holy oil and this ancient practice that it might consecrate you to this sacred new beginning in your life as an Elder in Metropolitan Community Churches.

We anoint your hands for service. God has called you to the work of love. May your hands remain open to both give and receive all the Spirit will do through you.

We anoint your lips that you might speak words of love, healing and spiritual wisdom as the Spirit gives utterance.

We anoint your head and in so doing, pray that your mind might be one with the mind of Christ; that you might have Divine discernment in all the ways you lead.

Smell the sweet fragrance of the oil and the Presence of Spirit. Feel the fresh wind, the air against the oil on your skin. Feel the touch of the people of God and the Holy Spirit consecrating you to the ministry of Elder. Amen.

### **The Rite of Blessing**

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry

### **Music**

I am Available to You

Gospel Ensemble  
Resurrection MCC  
Houston, Texas, USA

### **The Celebration of Holy Communion**

Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson  
with Rev. Elder Héctor Gutiérrez  
and Rev. Elder Ines-Paul Baumann

If you are watching online, we invite you to gather your bread or cracker and fruit of the vine or beverage as we prepare to celebrate a global MCC communion for this special occasion.

### **Great Thanksgiving**

Today we honor our Elders who are retiring from the Council, and those new Elders who will begin to serve our denomination. We affirm our MCC Statement of Faith, which places communion at the heart of our spiritual practice, saying,

“Come, taste and see.” Jesus Christ, You Invite all people to Your open table, You make us Your people, a beloved community. You restore the

joy of our relationship with God, even in the midst of loneliness, despair and degradation. We are each unique and we all belong, a priesthood of all believers. Baptized and filled with Your Holy Spirit, You empower us to be Your healing presence in a hurting world.”

God, we believe that a church like MCC was part of your plan for our times. We pray for spiritual leaders who embody the vision first given to Troy Perry.

Our MCC Statement of Faith continues:

Holy One, . . . “We expect to see your reign on earth as it is in heaven as we work toward a world where everyone has enough, wars cease and all creation lives in harmony. . . . We will actively resist systems and structures which are destroying your creation.” With all Creation we worship You . . . We know you by many names, Triune God, beyond comprehension, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, who invites us to the feast.”

### **Words of Institution**

*(to the tune, “We’re Gonna Keep on Movin’ Forward,”  
sung acapella, by Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson)*

We’re gonna keep on movin’ forward  
We’re gonna keep on movin’ forward  
We’re gonna keep on movin’ forward,  
Never turning back, never turning back

Sigamos adelante,  
Siempre adelante,  
Siempre adelante  
Sin volver atras, sin volver atras

This is the Bread of Jesus,  
This is the Bread of Jesus  
This is the Bread now broken,  
Given for us all, given for us all

This is the Cup poured out for Love  
This is the Cup poured out for Love  
This is the Cup of Jesus’ Life  
Given for us all, given for us all

The Spirit sends us forth today  
The Spirit sends us forth today

For justice and for hope today,  
Never turning back, never turning back

### **Prayer of Consecration**

As we have done for more than 52 years, we are so humbled to bless these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. May they be the healing, justice bearing, hope-filled Presence of God for everyone who needs it today, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **Invitation to Receive**

All are welcome in this holy, global, virtual space! All are welcome, no exceptions.

Now please consume these common elements, as together we receive the bread of life and the cup of heaven.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Holy God, who has made the church One Body, we give you thanks for what you have created in this moment of our sharing: more connection to Jesus, more connection to each other and more connection to a hungry world. Amen.

### **Benediction**

Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

Thank you for joining us in this celebration today. And now, around the MCC world, please join us in your language in saying the benediction, as printed in your bulletin and on the screen, as our new Elders lead us.

We are the people of God.  
A holy nation, a royal priesthood  
God's own beloved community.  
We have answered the call  
To proclaim God's inclusive love  
To do the work of justice  
To transform ourselves  
As we transform the world.  
Cecilia: in the power and name of all that is holy. Amen.

### **Music**

### **Hallelujah Anyway**

Gospel Ensemble  
Resurrection MCC  
Houston, Texas, USA