

Installation Proclamations

for

Pastor Dan Scott

10/17/2008

Upon assuming the role Senior Pastor of Christ Church Nashville

Isaiah 61: 1-6, 10-11

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.

He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.

To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory.

They will rebuild the ancient ruins, repairing cities destroyed long ago.

They will revive them, though they have been deserted for many generations.

Foreigners will be your servants. They will feed your flocks and plow your fields and tend your vineyards.

You will be called priests of the Lord, ministers of our God. You will feed on the treasures of the nations and boast in their riches.

I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom in his wedding suit or a bride with her jewels.

The Sovereign Lord will show his justice to the nations of the world. Everyone will praise him! His righteousness will be like a garden in early spring, with plants springing up everywhere.

Revelation 1: 4 – 20

This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia.

Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne; and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world.

All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him—even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen!

“I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God’s Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus.

It was the Lord’s Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast.

Proclamation from Pastor Hardwick:

Bro. Dan, a year ago, I laid my hands on you before our congregation and announced that you are my choice and the choice of the board to succeed me as senior pastor of Christ Church. In June of this year, the church members ratified our choice by casting their vote in a specially called business meeting. Today, representatives of various groups within the congregation will give you a charge and a blessing, so that God may fully equip you to discharge all the duties and responsibilities of your office.

I will begin by reminding you of the heritage of Christ Church. Nearly sixty years ago we began with only a few people, most of who are now with the Lord. You joined us in this work twenty four years ago, which means that you have been connected to the church for a significant portion of its history. I charge you therefore to guard the spiritual and corporate health of the church. Lead it in such a way that it will retain the values and calling that it has embraced as it has served the Lord, this city, this nation and the world during its first fifty-nine years.

Proclamation One

Representing the Children

Pastor Dan, please love all the children in our church.

Teach us about God and about the Bible. Pray for us and keep us safe so we can grow up to know God.

Proclamation Two

Representing the Youth

Pastor Dan, please help us to worship God and know Him in ways that we understand. The world has changed a lot since you were our age but we are followers of Christ who want to honor our heritage as well as adapt it to our own times. Help us become leaders and effective adult believers.

Proclamation Three

Representing the Men

Pastor Dan, many Christian men feel that masculinity has been under attack in our times. The role of fathers has particularly been redefined. However, we want to be godly men and godly fathers, leading our families in the covenant that we have received from men and women of God through the ages. We charge you to lead the men as they lead the home.

Proclamation Four

Representing the Women

Pastor Dan, this is a church that has always invited women into roles of leadership and spiritual service. We ask you to honor that heritage and to lead the church in such a way that women will be respected, empowered and released to do God's work alongside of the men of the church.

Proclamation Five

Representing the Seniors

Pastor Dan, in our culture, many older people feel abandoned and discarded. We charge you to remember that our faith honors the wisdom and experience of age. We will pray for you and we will support you. However, as you carry out your responsibilities to teach our youth and prepare them to do God's work, please ask for our help and for our advice. Remember that like you, we have a vested interest in the continuing ministry of this church that has been our spiritual family and the place where we have met with God through the years.

Proclamation Six

Representing the African-American Community

Pastor Dan, we are all first believers in Christ before we are members of ethnic communities. Nonetheless, our nation and region's particular history has often emphasized the differences of race in ways that have caused suffering and pain. May God give you the grace to lead the church to become an example of reconciliation and unity and may that begin by making you a father in the Lord to all your flock, including those of color. Remember those of color who were so instrumental in teaching you the ways of God and honor them by loving and respecting us.

Proclamation Seven

Representing the Hispanic Community

Pastor Dan, you have always made it clear that you love our language and our people. We are newcomers to this city and to this region and we need safe places where we can learn the customs and language of the United States. Even more, we need to know the ways of God and His people. We charge you to lead us, to love us and to help us find our place in this church, in this city and in this nation.

Proclamation Eight

Representing the Asian Community

Pastor Dan, the people of Asia are also new to the city of Nashville. In the last few years, we have come here to learn, to work and to invest in this city. Now, some of us have found Christ here in this church and we desire to learn about God and to become a part of God's family. We charge you to help us grow in Christ and to equip us to reach our friends and relatives who do not know Jesus Christ.

Proclamation Nine

Representing the Board and Corporation

Pastor Dan, as well as being the senior pastor, you are now the president of our corporation. The responsibilities of watching over the ethical, legal, organizational and financial health of the church are very involved and sometimes complicated. The church board realizes that you are first a pastor and that the necessary work of leading our corporation will sometimes feel heavy. Please remember that we are here to help. Most of us have experience, training and talents in the various facets of corporate life. If you remind us of our vision, our values and our church culture, we will do our best to help you carry the corporate responsibilities that makes our spiritual work possible. We charge you to remember the words of St. Paul, to not be slothful in business. Together we will maintain the high ethical standards that have guided this church from the beginning.

Proclamation Ten

Representing the Church Staff

Pastor Dan, you have been one of us. You know what it means to serve on a church staff. You understand the long hours and often-invisible service that we give to the congregation. We ask you to be a father-in-the Lord to us. Lead us with tenderness and compassion. Be clear about what you expect from us. Inspire us with a vision that will make our lives meaningful.

Remember that many of us have families; so help us not to neglect our spouses and our children as we try to do God's work. We welcome you as our leader and we are ready to help you care for our people and reach our city.

Proclamation Twelve

Representing the Nashville Pastoral Community

As a representative of the churches and pastors of Nashville, I want to bless you as you assume the mantle of leadership for Christ Church. Your fellow pastors in the city will be here to help you, pray for you and give you council and encouragement.

Christ Church has been a vital part of Nashville's Christian community for many decades. So what this congregation does impacts all of our churches and all of our people. For this reason, I charge you to remain faithful to the gospel and to lead this church in that same Christian spirit of servanthood that your predecessor, Pastor L.H. Hardwick has done.

Proclamation Thirteen

Representing the Universal Church

Pastor Dan, the leaders of this church have asked me to represent the Universal Church of Jesus Christ on this day of celebration in which you are installed as the senior pastor of Christ Church Nashville. I charge you therefore to remember that neither you nor this congregation are islands. The ways that you speak and the ways in which you conduct the affairs of this congregation will reflect upon all those who name the name of Christ. You are a representative of that faith once and for all delivered to the saints. You must therefore teach and practice those things that have been at all times and in all places believed by the whole people of God.

Charge from Reverend Luis Palau

Dan, I charge you to preach the gospel. Love the scriptures. Be diligent in prayer. Live a life that is worthy of your high calling. The people of Christ Church have asked you to be their pastor, the leaders have given you a charge, pastors from various parts of the body of Christ have laid their hands on you and prayed for you – you are officially installed as the senior pastor of Christ Church.