

**A Litany of Farewell and Godspeed  
For Pastor Rebecca Bourret**

**November 21, 2021  
Christ the King Sunday**

A reading from Philippians...

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayers and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be received and heard and seen in me,

And the God of peace will be with you.

Assisting Minister:

Today Pastor Bourret is entering a new phase of life:

retirement--a time to rest, a time to enjoy family and friends and to explore the world that God has created, a time to develop her artistic skills in new ways.

Therefore, it is time to mark the ending of her ministry at Christ Lutheran Church, a time to look back, and a time to look forward, a time for joy, and a time for sadness. It is a time to give thanks and praise to God for what Rebecca has given us in our lives together.

Blessed be God.

**And blessed be God's holy name.**

The Lord makes everything beautiful in its time.

**Whatever God does endures forever.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

**And forget not all God's benefits.**

President of the Congregation:

Pastor Bourret, in January of 2008 we called you to be our Pastor, to proclaim God's word, to baptize new members into the Church of Jesus Christ, to announce God's forgiveness to us, And to preside at our celebrations of the Lord's Supper. With the Gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ and in our service to this community. We thank you for your ministry among us.

Pastor Bourret:

It has been a privilege and blessing to be called as your pastor and to work with you in God's kingdom. I thank each of you and all of you for welcoming me into your lives and for the many ways in which we have loved and served together. It has been a blessing to have spent these years with you. After prayerful discernment, I have decided it is time for me to retire.

Associate to the Bishop:

Do you, the people of Christ Lutheran Church with thanks to God for the ministry of Pastor Bourret among you, release her from service as your pastor?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Pastor Bourret, with thanks to God for the members of this community and for their ministry with you, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with Christ Lutheran Church?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

+Mutual Confession and Forgiveness+

Pastor Bourret:

I thank you, the people of Christ Lutheran Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I ministered among you. I am grateful for the ministry we have shared, and I ask your forgiveness for the mistakes that I have made. I carry with me all I have learned in this place.

**We receive your thankfulness and we forgive you. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure.**

Pastor Bourret:

I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are held in God's mercy and love.

+Return of the Signs of Ministry+

Associate to the Bishop:

People of God, through your call Pastor Bourret has shared the responsibilities of ordained ministry in your midst. When she was installed, you presented her with symbols expressing that role among you. It is time for her to relinquish these symbols.

*Pastor takes the baptismal shell and returns it to a member who responds...*

You were called here to baptize, teach, and to forgive sins.

Pastor Bourret:

I now relinquish the sign of this office.

**There is one Body and one Spirit, there is one hope in God's call to us. For your ministry among us we say:  
Thanks be to God!**

*Pastor takes the Bible/lectionary and returns it to a member who responds...*

You were called to proclaim the good news.

Pastor Bourret:

I now relinquish the sign of this office.

**The Word of the Lord is our sustaining strength. For your ministry among us we say: Thanks be to God!**

*Pastor takes the chalice and returns it to a member who responds...*

You were called to lead worship and preside at Holy Communion.

Pastor Bourret:

I relinquish the sign of this office.

**Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in God. For your ministry with us we say: Thanks be to God!**

*Family is invited to join the pastor at the altar.*

Associate to the Bishop:

In holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of God's church. You were welcomed to Christ Lutheran Church along with Pastor Bourret, supporting her and the mission we share as the people of God in this place. Here you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed the community through you. May you continue to be a blessing to others.

Let us pray...

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servants, Rebecca and Jeff, and their family, who have enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family. Now bless and preserve them at this time of transition. Day by day, guide them and give them what is needed, friends and family to cheer their way, and a joyful and blessed retirement. By your Holy Spirit be present in their pilgrimage, that they may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

May God our Creator breathe into you  
    new life and a whole new meaning.  
May the Spirit of God breathe into you  
    a new spirit and a new understanding.  
May the Wisdom of God breathe into you  
    new hope and a new awareness.  
And may all who hear the Word of God  
    be blessed forever.

**Amen.**

Blessing, *Chalice Worship*, c. Chalice Press, 1997

## **Litany participants:**

Reader	Russell Pollard
Assisting Minister	Joyce Simon
Congregation President	Mary Avalos
Pastor	Rebecca Bourret
Associate to the Bishop	Mark Winzler
Members of Congregation:	Lisa Eck
	Zourfahou Nadia Namory
	Comlanvi Agboudjinou
	Diane Stevens

*The paper banners which adorn the sanctuary and narthex are the results of CLC's 100th anniversary project in 2011, created in partnership with the staff and students of Medicine Wheel, Boston. A cloud of witnesses joins us this morning as we celebrate the openness of Pastor Bourret to the creation of the powerful symbols that enhance our worship spaces: these banners which are raised on All Saints Sunday, the ceramic candle stands, the glass baptismal font, and the Easter Vigil bonfire bowl.*