

**Ordination and Installation Service for
The Reverend John Bennett
January 24, 2016**



Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Ed Arvin

***Call to Worship**

from Psalm 117

Minister: Praise the LORD, all nations!

Congregation: Extol him, all peoples!

Minister: For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**Congregation: And the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Praise the LORD!**

ADORING OUR GOD

*Song of Praise

O God Our Help in Ages Past

Words: Isaac Watts (from Psalm 90); 1719 Music: Attr. To William Croft, 1678-1727

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!

Under the shadow of Your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Your arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting You are God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Your sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
O be our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

*Prayer of Invocation

The Rev. George Lacy

ACKNOWLEDGING GOD'S GRACE

* Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, #1

Minister:

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Congregation:

**That I am not my Own,
but belong body and soul,
in life and in death -
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins
with his precious blood,
and has set me free
from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven:
in fact, all things must work together
for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to him,
Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me
wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for him.**

***Song of Reflection**

Come Thou Fount

Words: Robert Robinson; Music: John Wyeth

Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise His name I'm fixed upon it
Name of God's redeeming love

Hitherto Thy love has blest me
Thou hast brought me to this place
And I know Thy hand will bring me
Safely home by Thy good grace
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Bought me with His precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart O take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above
Here's my heart O take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

EMBRACING GOD'S WORD

Proclamation of Word Of God

The Rev. Rob Bailey

Psalm 139

- ¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
³You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.
⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.
- ⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.
¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.
- ¹³For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.

¹⁹ Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!
O men of blood, depart from me!

²⁰ They speak against you with malicious intent;
your enemies take your name in vain.

²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

²² I hate them with complete hatred;
I count them my enemies.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!

²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

INSTALLATION and ORDAINATION of a MINISTER

Questions for the Candidate

Mr. Rob Sigler

1. Are you now ready to take charge of this congregation as their pastor, agreeable to your declaration in accepting this call?

2. Do you conscientiously believe and declare, as far as you know your own heart, that, in taking upon you this charge, you are influenced by a sincere desire to promote the glory of God and the good of the Church?

3. Do you solemnly promise that, by the assistance of the grace of God, you will endeavor faithfully to discharge the duties of a pastor to this congregation, and will be careful to maintain a deportment in all respects becoming a minister of the Gospel of Christ, agreeable to your ordination engagements?

Questions for the Commission of Presbytery

Mr. Gordon Landreth

1. Do you, men and of this Presbytery, continue to profess your readiness to receive John Bennett, whom you have called to be the minister of Reformed University Fellowship at Texas A&M Corpus Christi?

2. Do you promise to receive the Word of truth from his mouth with meekness and love?

3. Do you promise to encourage him in his labors, and to assist his endeavors for students and your instruction and spiritual edification?

4. Do you engage to continue to him while he is the campus minister that competent worldly maintenance which you have promised, and to furnish him with whatever you may see needful for the honor of religion and for his comfort among you?

Prayer

Pronouncement of Ordination and Installation

Mr. Gordon Landreth

I now pronounce and declare that John Bennett has been regularly elected, ordained, and installed as Reformed University Fellowship Campus Minister at Texas A & M Corpus Christi, agreeable to the Word of God, and according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America; and that as such he is entitled to all support, encouragement, honor and obedience in the Lord: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. – Amen.

A Charge to the Minister

The Rev. George Lacy

Prayer for Congregation and Minister

The Rev. George Lacy

***Song of Response**

Be Thou My Vision

Words and Music: y Eleanor Henrietta Hull and Mary Elizabeth Byrne

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

***Benediction**

The Rev. John Bennett

***Postlude**

**The Commission of South Texas Presbytery
To Ordain and Install
The Reverend John Bennett
as Reformed University Fellowship Minister, Texas A&M Corpus Christi
Corpus Christi, Texas**

Ruling Elders

Mr. Ed Arvin
Mr. Gordon Landreth
Mr. Rob Sigler

Teaching Elders

The Reverend Rob Bailey
Southside Community Church, Corpus Christi, Texas

The Reverend George Lacy
Providence Presbyterian Church, Beeville, Texas