

Pastor Paul Calnan Installation Address

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Text: **Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

Prayer: Father, may the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in your sight O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

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Ahh – the Challenge to stay focused.

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Of course, where there is change, there can also be uncertainty. **How will it work? Will it last? How many services will each Church get? What about the money?** Will we need to have a different account? And the all-important question... who will be our pastors?

Do we want the old ones, or should we have new ones? Of course, we know the answer.

God has seen fit to bless you with Pastor David, and now Pastor Paul, who will be installed shortly, who incidentally you have known for two and a half years. So, I think this is a really good time, to revisit the responsibilities that you as the **Murray Valley Lutheran Community** are charged with, in accordance with the “Letter of Call” in how to treasure and look after your Pastor.

You have the responsibility in accordance with the call document to give Pastor Paul the love, respect, and goodwill that is ascribed to him as your called and ordained, servant of the Word. You are to promise to be diligent and faithfully assist in his prayerful support, and at the same time, you are to seek his counsel and aid for your spiritual welfare and cooperate in Pastor Paul’s endeavours to care for you, including pastoral visits to your homes.

You are to partner with Pastor Paul, cooperating with him in endeavouring to extend the ministry of the Word – that means that it is not only his job but yours as well, to care for all people who are under the spiritual care, of your congregation and in the wider community.

Furthermore, you are to obligate yourselves to make faithful and regular use of the means of grace, that is **Word and Sacrament**, so that God’s enabling power may have free course among each and every one of you, so then you can carry out your God-given ministry, to the service and glory of God, and to the welfare of all, and support the work of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

You are also to receive Pastor Paul as your brother in Christ Jesus, and provide him, and his family, with love and care, promising your support for their welfare, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. You are to commit yourselves to the regular evaluation of the ministry and mission of your community, **Murray Valley Lutheran Community**, which also includes your own role in that mission and ministry.

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Now, this might seem like a one-way street. What does Pastor Paul have to do? Well, I can tell you he doesn’t get off Scot-free. There are a few things that He is called to do, which include **“Mutual Covenants.”**

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Brother Paul, you are to help the people here to discover, and use for the common good the gifts of the Holy Spirit, that has been given to each and every one of them, which equips his people for service. In doing so, are to encourage and support God's people in their Christian vocation.

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As you do so, you are to serve as an example of Christian conduct, by earnestly endeavouring to live in brotherly unity with your people and fellow workers and sister congregations, stimulating and encouraging them to support the work of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

Of course, all this is only possible when we all serve the one true creator God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The only way the **Murray Valley Lutheran Community**, and Pastor Paul and I include Pastor David in this as well, is to keep moving forward, to keep living as those who have been made alive in Christ Jesus, and setting your hearts on things above.

Colossians 3:1-4, **Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

This happens because Jesus is the whole Gospel, and the whole contradiction of all the misrepresentations of the Gospel (Colossians 1:15-2:23). Paul says in his first chapter to the **Colossians**, we have this assurance because of who Christ is; He is the image of the invisible God. **The Creator**, the one who is unparalleled over all things.

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What's that saying, "**2 is company 3 is a crowd**" Well, in your circumstances 3 congregations have now become one **Community**, One in Christ Jesus.

It is when we unite together as congregations, Pastors, and people of God, that you can **set your hearts on things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.**

Christ's name occurs 15 times in the 31 verses of Colossians 3:1 – 4:6;

- Christ,
- Lord,
- Lord Jesus,
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For whatever we think we might like to bring to the table in sustaining our life, here below, the reality of the Christian life is to be seen in Christ; Nothing is more real than the fact that Christians have died with Jesus, and have been raised with Him, and, and share in the glory of His life, in God our Father.

We are to set our minds on the things that are above, but our feet are firmly planted in the stuff of earth, our hands open, to the treasure which is our neighbour. It is not about us, but about those who we are called to serve, whether it be as a member of a Christian Community to help others, or as a Pastor, called to climb into the trenches with our people, who we have been called to serve,

to walk alongside them in their hour of need. When all these things happen, what you find is the things that have been hidden, are revealed in Christ Jesus. This interconnectedness in Jesus Christ, of things above, and on earth below, is how, indeed, **Christ is all in all** (v11).

The distinction which follows, between things “above” and things “on earth,” is consequently grounded in the fact that Christ-as-Lord is both the centre and the whole of the Christian life.

So, Pastor Paul, as you set your ministry on the things above, and not on earthly things, where moth and grub destroy. May God the Father who raised our Lord Jesus Christ, keep your heart and mind focused on Christ alone, so that **“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

And in the words of one of our loved Sem Lecturers **Dr. Dean Zweck**, who when he had finished teaching every class, would leave us with these words. **“Go in peace and serve the Lord”** Amen.

**Prayer** – Lord, since we have been raised with Christ, continue to set our hearts on the things above, and not earthly things, so that when Christ appears in Glory, we too may appear with him in his glory. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

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The distinction which follows, between things “above” and things “on earth,” is consequently grounded in the fact that Christ-as-Lord is both the centre and the whole of the Christian life.

So, Pastor Paul, as you set your ministry on the things above, and not on earthly things, where moth and grub destroy. May God the Father who raised our Lord Jesus Christ, keep your heart and mind focused on Christ alone, so that **“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

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**Prayer** – Lord, since we have been raised with Christ, continue to set our hearts on the things above, and not earthly things, so that when Christ appears in Glory, we too may appear with him in his glory. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Yours in Christ, Pastor Peter Heintze



Pastor Paul Calnan Installation Address

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Text: **Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

Prayer: Father, may the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in your sight O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

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