

A SERVICE OF FAREWELL & BLESSING

For the Rev. Dr. Paul Strawn, Senior Pastor

Elder Karen Butler

The church of Jesus Christ is constantly changing. Our church is changing as well. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends die. Newcomers join our community and our church. Others leave, moving on to new places and new opportunities. It is important that we recognize these times of change.

Today we say farewell to one who is leaving our fellowship. On November 1, 1981 the Rev. Paul Strawn was called to serve with us as *pastor*. Today that call comes to an end.

PRAYER

Pastor Kurt Helmcke

Let us pray for the saving presence of our living Lord:

In your world,

be present Lord.

In this congregation,

be present, Lord.

In this community,

be present Lord.

In this presbytery and the whole church,

be present Lord.

In the homes and hearts of all your people,

be present Lord.

Pastor Paul Strawn

Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord:

For work begun but not completed,

Lord, have mercy.

For expectations not met,

Lord, have mercy.

For wounds not healed

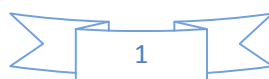
Lord, have mercy.

For gifts not shared,

Lord, have mercy.

For promises not kept,

Lord, have mercy.



Elder Karen Butler

Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place:

For friendships made,
for joys celebrated
and for time of nurture and growth,

Thanks be to God.

For wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given and promises kept.

Thanks be to God.

For our fellowship in Jesus Christ, and for the love of God which has sustained us,

Thanks be to God.

THE DISSOLUTION

Dr. Corey Schlosser-Hall, Executive Presbyter of North Puget Sound Presbytery

Do you, the members and friends of North Creek Presbyterian Church,
release Rev. Paul Strawn from service as your *pastor*?

We do with thanks to God.

Do you, Rev. Paul Strawn, recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with
this congregation?

I do with thanks to God.

Let us pray:

Loving God, Alpha and Omega, you are both beginning and end.

Our endings and our beginnings are rooted in your love.

Whether near or far, we are held close by your love,
and kept safe from any lasting loss.

Let our time together end with your blessing.

Touch all memories with your grace and peace.

Help us to live with courage and gladness in the future you present us.

In every time and place, may we offer you our highest and our best,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alleluia! Amen.

Representing the Presbytery of North Puget sound, I witness these words of
thanksgiving, forgiveness, and release. The presbytery rejoices with you in the ministry
you have shared, and we pledge to you continued support and prayer.

With thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation and the ministry of God's
servant, Rev. Paul Strawn, and with hope for God's abiding grace in the years to come,
This pastoral relationship is now dissolved.

CHARGE:

With God's help and love may your lives be blessed and your labors fruitful as you offer yourselves gladly in the service of our common Lord.

BLESSING:

Pastor Paul Strawn

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord be kind and gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Alleluia! Amen.

Go in peace.

Go in peace.