

Celebration of a New Ministry

at Mission Farm

On the Feast of The Holy Cross
September 20, 2020
Mission Farm, Killington, Vermont
11am



Mission Farm is situated on 180 acres in the heart of the green mountains. These mountains, formed by colliding rock and shaped by ancient oceans, have been, and continue to be the home of the Abenaki - the Dawn People. We recognize the relationship between the Abenaki and these mountains, as well as the implications of colonialism that still resound in these hills, and we invite you to commit, with us, to work toward undoing the racism that shapes our common life and to celebrate the healing and reconciling potential of this land.

The Institution

The sound of the Church bell marks the beginning of the service.

People:

Bishop Shannon, we have come together today in this space to witness the emergence of new life and to welcome Lisa and Rachel, who have been chosen to serve as Priests in this new diocesan ministry at Mission Farm and for each of them to serve as priest in their respective congregations of St. Thomas and Grace and Church of Our Saviour. We believe that they are well qualified, and that they have been prayerfully and lawfully selected.

The Bishop then says

Lisa and Rachel, do you, in the presence of this congregation, this land, the more-than-human community, those who have lived and worked this land in the past, and carrying in your hearts those who will walk this land in the future, commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility?

New Ministers **We do.**

The Bishop then addresses the congregation

Will you who witness this new beginning support and uphold Lisa and Rachel in these ministries?

People **We will.**

Bishop Let us then offer our prayers to God for all God's people, for this earth and the people who are blessed by it, and for Lisa and Rachel, their Priests.

Intercessor Let us pray to Jesus Christ the Giver of life that the Church of God may be renewed and strengthened for its mission in our day.

Silence

Holy God, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,

People **Have mercy on us.**

Intercessor Jesus the Christ, through whom the world is reconciled to the Creator,

People **Have mercy on us.**

Intercessor Holy Spirit, whose glory fills the world and searches the depths of God,

People **Have mercy on us.**

Intercessor Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,

People **Have mercy on us.**

Intercessor O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and place.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue and dialect the wonderful works of God.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Touch our hearts, that we may discern the mission to which you call us.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Touch our feet, that we may take your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Touch our hands, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Strengthen and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely, dangerous, and unresponsive places.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

At the end of the litany, the Bishop, standing, says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop Let us pray.

Everliving God, strengthen and sustain Lisa and Rachel, that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people and this land; and grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering to you their gifts and talents; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

At the Liturgy of the Word

Psalm 104: 10-15

Pat Mattson, Executive Committee Church of our Savior

10 You send the springs into the valleys; * they flow between the mountains.

11 All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, * and the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

12 Beside them the birds of the air make their nests * and sing among the branches.

13 You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; * the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.

14 You make grass grow for flocks and herds * and plants to serve human beings that they may bring forth food from the earth, *

15 wine to gladden our hearts, oil to make a cheerful countenance, * and bread to strengthen the heart.

Music

Melissa Maravell, Church of our Savior

Gospel John 15:9-16

Rena McDonough, Sr Warden at St Thomas and Grace

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

The Homily

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Bishop

Lisa and Rachel; people of Vermont: in Holy Baptism we received full adoption through God’s grace and full empowerment for ministry through the Holy Spirit. Will you work together as partners in the mission of the Church, to reconcile all people to God through Christ?

People

We will, with God’s help.

Bishop The water of baptism signifies our eternal covenant with God. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to Christ, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Bishop may bless the water.

We pray you, O God, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit, that all who in baptism are cleansed from sin and born again may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Lisa Let us renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we renounce Satan and all his works, and promise to serve God faithfully in God's holy Catholic Church.

Water is poured into the font and the Bishop or the Rector leads the renewal of baptismal vows.

Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, and called us to ministry in Jesus Christ, keep us in eternal life by his grace; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Bishop will then anoint the congregation with the water.

The Induction

Representatives of the congregation stand before the bishop with the new ministers.

Representatives of the congregation present a Bible and a Garden book, saying

Lisa and Rachel, accept this Bible and Planting Guide, and be among us as one who proclaims God's Word revealed in the Book of Scripture and the Book of Nature.

People **Amen.**

*Representative clergy of the diocese present the Constitution and Canons
of this Church, saying*

Lisa and Rachel, obey these Canons, and be among us to share in the councils of this diocese.

People **Amen.**

Others present a pitch fork, saying

Lisa and Rachel, receive this fork, and be among us as a pastor with this earth.

People **Amen.**

Those gathered move to the orchard, saying

Lisa and Rachel receive this orchard, and let the ministry here bear fruit for the feeding of the world.

People **Amen.**

Those gathered move to the garden, saying

Lisa and Rachel, receive these garden beds, that we may all learn about the life that nourishes the world.

People **Amen.**

Other Representatives of the congregation present wheat and grapes, saying

Lisa and Rachel, take this wheat and these grapes, and be among us to break the bread and bless the Cup when the time is right and your people are safe.

People **Amen.**

The Bishop presents a vessel of water, saying

Lisa and Rachel, take this water, and help me baptize in obedience to our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Bishop then says

Lisa and Rachel, let all these be signs of the ministry which is mine and yours in this place.

People **Amen.**

The new Ministers then says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop We have celebrated this new pastoral relationship in the great prayer of the Church. Lisa and Rachel, I commend to your love and care this good earth and all who are nourished by it. Beloved in Christ, I commend to your love and care your new Priests, and this new Ministry in the Diocese of Vermont.

Blessing Bishop recognizes the assembled ministers with the following or other words

Behold the family of God!

The Bishop then presents the new minister to the congregation, saying

Let us welcome Lisa and Rachel into this new ministry!

The Congregation expresses its approval. Applause is appropriate.