

# Dutch Valley United Baptist Church

1851-2009

## Decommissioning Service

November 1, 2009

Prelude

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn "How Great Thou Art"

Invocation Prayer

Welcome and Introductions

Special Music Mr. Jim Cunningham

Church History and Memories

Scripture Readings: *Deuteronomy 34:1-4; 1 Kings 2:1-4; John 17:1-4* Rev. Neville Gosman

Hymn "The Church's One Foundation"

Message: *"The End of a Life"* Rev. Malcolm Beckett

Hymn "O God Our Help in Ages Past"

Decommissioning

Prayer Rev. Greg Jones

Hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Benediction

## Decommissioning Reading

Leader: In 1851 the Dutch Valley United Baptist Church was constructed for the worship of God and for His service, for the edification of believers, for outreach to the lost, and to the glory of our Saviour.

People: *"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." (Psalm 127:1)*

Leader: For 158 years the Lord has blessed and used His faithful people within and beyond these walls for His glory.

People: *"Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all those who delight in them. Splendid and majestic is His work, and His righteousness endures forever." (Psalm 111:2-3)*

Leader: "He has made His wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate." (Psalm 111:4)

People: *"He has sent redemption to his people; He has ordained his covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name."* (Psalm 119:9)

Leader: Today we come to thank you, Lord, for this building and for the worship and work that has taken place in it by your church through the generations.

People: *We thank you, O God. Your faithfulness, love, and mercy endure forever. We glorify your name!*

Leader: We recognize and acknowledge the faithfulness, vision, and sacrifice of our Christian ancestors, and we are moved and motivated by their example.

People: *"One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."* (Psalm 145:4)

Leader: We recognize that, while this building is not the church but the place where the church gathered for these many years, and while these walls, therefore, contain many precious memories, both joyous and painful, this building's service to the purposes of God has come to an end.

People: *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the sun: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to tear down and a time to build."* (Ecclesiastes 3:1-3)

Leader: The time has come to decommission this historic house of worship from its holy design and holy function.

People: *We declare this Dutch Valley United Baptist Church building to be released from the purposes established for it at its dedication in 1851. We decommission this building from its service to God and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Leader: We recommit ourselves to Jesus, the Lamb of God, and, with a devotion like that of our Christian ancestors, we will make the most of every opportunity to proclaim, in word and in deed, the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

People: *Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. From everlasting to everlasting you are God. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

All: *"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant, brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip (us) with everything good for doing His will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever."* (Hebrews 13: 20-21)