

Heavenly Father, gracious and eternal God,

As I stand before You and this beloved congregation today, my heart overflows with gratitude for the thirty years You have allowed me to shepherd this flock. From the early days of humble beginnings to the seasons of growth, trials, and triumphs, You have been our faithful Rock. Thank You for the lives transformed, the souls saved, and the community built in Your name. I commend to You every memory, every prayer lifted, and every step taken in faith.

Lord, as I retire from this sacred calling, I entrust this church into Your sovereign hands—the same hands that formed the stars and sustain the universe. You are the Chief Shepherd, the one who never slumbers nor sleeps. Guard this body of believers from division, strengthen them in truth, and inflame their passion for Your gospel. May Your Holy Spirit continue to guide, convict, and empower them as they press on toward the prize.

I also commend this church to the elders You have raised up—wise and devoted servants who love You and Your people. Grant them unity of vision, boldness in leadership, and humility in service. Equip them with wisdom from above, protect their families, and fill them with joy in the journey ahead. May they lead with integrity, preach with power, and love without measure, always pointing to Christ and revelling in the gospel of grace.

Father, bless this congregation abundantly. Let Your peace reign, Your love abound, and Your kingdom advance through them. Let the glorious good news of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ shine bright in all their hearts and ring out loud for all to hear. As I step aside, I do so with joyful confidence and peace, knowing You hold the future. All glory, honour, and praise be to You, O God, now and forever.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, Amen.