

## **DEDICATION FOR CORNERSTONE LAYING**

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As a new building of Worship is being constructed, when two walls are joined at a corner, a specially designed and dated stone is ready to be placed – a cornerstone – a service commemorating the progress of the building shall be held. The cornerstone provides an inner chamber for the placing of a specially constructed box holding a variety of selected items. The service may follow a worship service, or may be held at a convenient time for as many as possible to join in the celebration.

### **Affirmation:**

As God in ancient times commanded His servant Moses to set up the tabernacle in the camp of Israel in the wilderness and later gave His blessing to King Solomon as he erected the Temple in Jerusalem, where all Israel worshiped, so He has moved your hearts to build this Holy Sanctuary for His worship and the assembling of His people for praise, prayer and scriptural instruction. Today we gather in celebration looking toward the completion of this building of God as we ask God to grant us His blessings in this program.

### **Call to Worship:**

**Pastor:** We will go into His tabernacle; we will worship at His footstool;

**People:** Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth;

**Pastor:** Let Your Priests be clothed with righteousness, Your saints shout for joy;

**People:** The Lord has chosen Zion, desiring it for His dwelling place.

**Hymn** “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation” or other appropriate hymn

### **Invocation**

Holy God, we are here today to lay the cornerstone for this house of worship. We have come this far by faith and we do not doubt Your approval of our Godly purpose. We build this sacred place for worship, praise, prayer and instruction in Your Word. We ask that you will establish here a Church upon which the immovable and everlasting rock of faith and truth will be shared within our congregation, community and the world. We pray for Your presence as we share our witness for Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Psalm 84 - (may be read responsively)

Sermon, Address, Message may follow

Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Procession to site of Cornerstone

### **Responsive Reading**

Our help is in the Name of the Lord:  
Who made heaven and earth.  
Blessed be the Name of the Lord:  
From today and for ever;  
See, I lay in Zion a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;  
The one who trusts in Him will never be dismayed.  
To you who believe, this stone is precious  
Jesus Christ Himself as the chief cornerstone.

In Him the whole building is joined together  
And rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.  
For no one can lay any foundation  
Other than the one already laid which is Jesus Christ.

**Placing of the Contents:** (these could include)

A brief history of the church, a picture of the church in progress, the Church membership list, names of those contributing to a cornerstone offering, a Discipline of the E.C. Church, a Bible or New Testament, church bulletins of new church progress, newspaper accounts, other memorabilia.

**Laying of the Cornerstone**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we lay this stone in the foundation of this house dedicated to the worship and service of God, where His word shall be preached and His worship maintained. Amen.

**Litany of Dedication**

**Pastor:** To the glory of God our Maker, to the service of Jesus Christ and His Church, and to the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** We lay the cornerstone of this Church.

**Pastor:** For a building of which Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone, the pillar and ground of truth;

**People:** We lay this cornerstone.

**Pastor:** For a Church which shall exalt not a religion of creed or of authority, but a religion of saving grace, of personal experience, and of spiritual power,

**People:** We lay this cornerstone.

**Pastor:** For a Church which shall exalt the ministry of the open Bible, with its faithful record and its unfolding of the redeeming grace of God through Jesus Christ, its message of inspiration, warning, comfort, joy and hope,

**People:** We lay the cornerstone of this Church.

**Pastor:** For a Church that shall teach that all brothers and sisters are the children of God, and that shall be a renewing and cleansing power in the community,

**People:** We lay this cornerstone.

**Pastor:** For a Church with an open door for all people, rich, and poor, homeless or desolate, who need the help of God,

**People:** We lay this cornerstone.

**Pastor:** For a Church that shall gather the children in its arms and hold them close to Christ, that they may truly become His children,

**People:** We lay this precious stone in the corner of this building.

**Pastor:** For a Church that stands for the truth that, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" and which offers to people an abundant life which now is and which is yet to come,

**People:** We lay the cornerstone of this building, a house of Worship and Praise.

**All:** Mindful of those who have gone before us, whose hearts and hands served our Lord and this church; with gratitude for all whose faith and consecrated gifts make this house possible; for all who may share this spiritual adventure in this our age; and with hope for all who shall worship in this house in years to come, we lay this cornerstone in the Name of Almighty God, the Son and the Holy Spirit, unto the ages and ages, world without end. Amen.

Hymn "On This Stone Now Laid with Prayer" or other appropriate hymn.

1.                               On this stone now laid with prayer, Let Thy Church rise strong and fair;  
Ever, Lord, Thy name be known, Where we lay this corner stone.
2.                               Let Thy Holy Child, who came, Man from error to reclaim,  
And for sinners to atone, Bless, with Thee, this corner stone.
3.                               May Thy Spirit here give rest To the heart by sin oppressed,  
And the seeds of truth be sown, Where we lay this corner stone.
4.                               Open wide, O God, Thy door, For the outcast and the poor,  
Who can call no house their own. Where we lay this corner stone.
5.                               By wise master-builders squared, Here be living stones prepared  
For the temple near Thy throne, Jesus Christ its corner stone.

**BENEDICTION**