

On the occasion of
Brandon Pierce's Installation
September 17, 2017

More I Cannot Wish You

By Dale

What do I say as we come
to the climax of this sacred season of
transition?

It's momentous to turn over
ministerial direction
of a church family I love
to another after many years of service.
It's a challenge to step back.
It's maybe a little scary.

But then when someone comes along
like Brandon
it just flows.
It's easy.
It's easy
when it's someone who knows gospel,
someone so gifted,
so capable,
so caring,
someone with confidence but not arrogance,
someone whose thinking inspires me,
someone who married well
and fathers wisely,
someone we can fully trust,
someone whose commitment to inclusion,
to flourishing life for all people,
to good news of great joy for all the people,
matches the spirit of this place,
someone who gives us courage,
not to step back,
but to step up
to the challenges of being God's people
in our challenging times:

honoring diversity,
being actively engaged
in the larger local faith community
and in community service,
respecting knowledge
– biblical, historical, scientific,
reaching out in compassion
to those in need,
to those marginalized,
to those left out,
advancing in the grace and knowledge
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and in the eternal spirit of Jubilee
working toward
life that is flourishing,
life that is sustaining,
life with God in Christ.

And now to Brandon
adapting from words I like
from Broadway's *Guys and Dolls*,
from one generation to the next:
Music, I can wish you
Merry music while you're young
And wisdom
when your hair has turned to gray
But more I cannot wish you
Than to wish you know God's love,
God's own true love this day.

And all the days of your life.

And in the life to come.