

## 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Litany

*Leader: Today is a day both of dreams and of memories.*

**People: “For a child has been born to us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named,**

Choir: “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

*Leader: That child grew and blossomed. He heard God’s call and answered it, and with the confidence and dread, hope and fear, trust and suspicion, faith and doubt that all of us have known.*

**People: He heard God’s call and followed it, through life, through death, to life anew, glorious and triumphant.**

Leader: And people began to follow. Renewed in faith, sustained by the Spirit.

**People: Through the centuries of persecution and suffering, they trusted in the redeeming power of God.**

*Leader: The Upper Room, the road to Damascus, Patrick-missionary to Ireland, Augustine and the City of God.*

**People: Empires rose and fell, the Crusades and the Inquisition; Constantine and Charlemagne, Constantinople and Rome.**

Choir: And the name of Jesus Christ spread wider and wider throughout the world.

*Leader: Francis of Assisi taught the world to love all of God’s creation.*

**People: While Thomas Aquinas reminded us of the balance of reason and revelation in faith.**

*Leader: And then there was Luther and Calvin, Know and Wycliffe, the Wesleys and the Separatists.*

Choir: “I cannot, I will not recant,” Luther cried out.

*Leader: Between the door of Wittenburg Cathedral and the New World, the mission field grew larger. And the good news went further.*

**People: The Mayflower set sail and the Massachusetts Bay Colony was formed.**

*Leader: The good news spread and the meeting houses were established.*

Choir: “It’s time to build a new one, on the highest hill north of Bolton and east of Windsor.”

*Leader: And so they began to gather on Meeting House Hill. Gathering from near and far, they were known as the Second Church of Bolton.*

**People: And they called first Ebenezer Kellogg who was the first to teach and nurture them. And over the centuries, they grew in life and spirit, guided and inspired by Higgins and Brenner and Carr.**

Choir: And the good news spread, and the people were fed in the ways most important to their hearts and souls.

*Leader: And for two hundred and fifty years now, generations upon generations have worshipped here. The communion of saints has been enriched by the mission of this congregation.*

**People: Till today, when once again we gather, looking for new opportunities and challenges; new voices to preach, inspire and guide; new ways to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, again and again.**

**All: Bless us O God, to live our lives in ways that honor our heritage and proclaim the never-ending hope we find in you. Amen.**