

WORSHIP AT ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

October 10, 2021

Love your Neighbour who doesn't THINK LIKE YOU

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

Email sketchingalong4@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Hymn: MV 28 *God of the Bible, vv. 1, 3, 5*

1. God of the Bible, God in the Gospel, hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our centre, daylight or darkness, freedom or prison, you are our home.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

3. Those without status, those who are nothing, you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice, birthing new systems, lighting new lights.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

5. Hope we must carry, shining and certain through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other, till our world changes facing the Cross.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome to this sacred space, St. Andrew's United Church in Sudbury Ontario, where again we are blessed by the gift of being able to come together, in person and online, all one Body of Christ.

We are also blessed to have the musical leadership of Tracey LeGrand this morning. Thank you for again sharing your generous spirit and talent to help us worship.

If you are new here, please note the credits at the end of this worship on screen with contact information – Facebook, our website, email and just a traditional phone call to us to say hello and allow us to get to know you. Virtual Fellowship time is canceled for tonight, but will resume next Sunday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

As we prepare to worship, let us take a quiet moment ...
[silence]

Inviting Holy Light

The Spirit of God is stirring in this place.

The Spirit of God is stirring in you.

And also in you.

Let the lighting of this candle mark our readiness to welcome our God.

Let this candle be a beacon of love to all.

[light the candle]

Nurturing Safe Space

How do we collectively make this safe and nurturing space at St. Andrew's? Perhaps it begins by delving deeply into the teaching of Jesus to unconditionally love absolutely everyone we encounter. We seek to nurture safe space here where all can participate in worship and life regardless of age, ability, race, cultural background, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

I would like to acknowledge that we are gathering today on the traditional territories of indigenous peoples across Turtle Island. We are grateful to be allowed to use these lands for growing spiritually and worshipping. To all who have been as here for thousands of years before us across Turtle Island, we honour the struggles and the lives of those who gave themselves for it. For those here today, we acknowledge the ancestors, we acknowledge the land beneath our feet. With our ears to the ground we can hear them – the Cree, the Métis, the Dene, Anishshinaabe, the Inuit, the Blackfoot, the Innu and all nations that came before us. We are mindful of an infinity of footsteps of those who long called this land home, the unfolding of bundles, the undoing of colonization and the opening of this land to allow treaty to come alive. We affirm our relationship to each other and to the land. We acknowledge and pay respects to the Indigenous nations and ancestors of this particular land, the Wahnapiet First Nation and the Atikemesheng Anishnawbek, who call this territory home. Let us work earnestly for Reconciliation.

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

We glorify our God with songs of thanksgiving and joy.

God has done great things for us, filling us with grace.

God fed our ancestors in the wilderness, God clothes us with hope.

We will offer our hearts to God, always saying, 'Thank you!' to the One who loves us.

We will sing our praises, shouting of God's presence in our lives.

Opening Prayer

Will you pray with me: Loving Creator, you are the centre of our being and we begin our worship by connecting with our sense of gratitude. Our lives are blessed just knowing that your unconditional love and acceptance is woven into our being. May this time together be guided by your Holy Spirit. Lift our hearts, strengthen us to love courageously in your love and gentle warmth of your light.

The Prayer Jesus Taught

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: MV 156 *Dance with the Spirit, vs. 1*

1. Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Time Up Front

Glitter. I could make a wonderful mess today with this glitter, couldn't!! Glitter is wonderful. My kids always loved putting glitter on their art. How does glitter make you feel? Any words to describe the feelings you have? If I were to throw this up in the air, how would you feel? What expressions would be on our faces?

There is a story that will be told today about the people around Jesus, worrying. They worried about him, they worried about their lives. We worry don't we. Think about things that worry you right now... It doesn't take long – there is a lot to worry about. What do we do with that worry? What would Jesus say to us? Pray? Trust him, trust God who created us, to help us make it through the tough situations. Birds, our cat at home who sleeps, eats, poops and plays outside, she doesn't worry about big things. One thing we can do is breathe, and play. Giggling at the

thought of throwing this glitter up in the air and see what grown-ups say. God has got this, share your worries with the one who loves you so so sooo much!

Hymn: MV 156 *Dance with the Spirit, vs. 3*

3. Sing with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way

Scripture Readings (*Marian McKnight & Sue Nykilchyk*)

Psalm 126 – A paraphrase

The first reading is a modern translation of Psalm 126, entitled “Harvest Thanksgiving”. The psalm writers were pastoral people, depending on agriculture for their survival. Simply being spared a disaster was cause for celebration.

Sue: God has been good to us.
Marian: The storm clouds gathered, the hail hung overhead – but it passed by.
Marian & Sue: Then we laughed and danced;
Marian: our pearls of joy echoed across our lands.
Sue: Celebration spread faster than fire through autumn grass,
Marian: faster than rumours on a summer night.
Marian & Sue: For God has done great things for us.
Marian: We were overcome with gratitude.
Marian & Sue: The desert is not kind, oh God.
Marian: It demands living on the edge of disaster.
Sue: Give us some sparkling springs!
Marian & Sue: We watered the desert with our tears;
Sue: with our hearts in our mouths, we watched the green shoots stretch up.
Marian & Sue: We risked everything on the seeds we planted;
Sue: we sank our lives into this soil.
Marian: Now the harvest has come home a hundredfold.
Sue: God, you have renewed our lives.

Matthew 6: 25-33 (*Marian McKnight*)

This is an adaptation of a story from Matthew, chapter 6. This paraphrase comes from the “Lectionary Story Bible” by Ralph Milton, it is entitled “God Will Take Care of You.”

Peter was looking worried. “We have hardly enough money left to buy food,” he said to Mary. “And I really need some new clothes. The ones I have are all raggedy.”

“I feel afraid too,” said Mary. “I like going around with Jesus, telling people about God’s love, but sometimes I wish we didn’t have to wonder every day if someone was going to give us something to eat.”

Peter and Mary decided to talk to Jesus about the problem. “We’re worried,” they said to Jesus. “We’re afraid!”

"I worry sometimes, too," said Jesus. "But God helps me stop worrying, especially about things like food and clothes. We need food and we need clothes, but there are far more important things. Your life is full and rich and happy when we go around and tell people about God's love, isn't it?"

Mary and Peter both nodded, yes.

"Look up in the trees," said Jesus. "See those tiny birds? They don't worry. They aren't afraid. They don't have jobs to earn money. But they have enough to eat and a nice nest to sleep in at night."

Jesus put his arm around Peter's shoulder. "God loves those birds, Peter. But you and Mary and everyone else – all of God's people on earth – are far, far more important than the birds."

"I know that's true, Jesus," said Mary. "But maybe the birds don't feel afraid the way I do."

"I'm sure they don't, Mary," said Jesus. "But if you feel really, really afraid – if you worry all night long – is that going to bring you lots of food. Is that going to bring you some new clothes, Peter?"

Jesus sat down on the grass under the trees. "Look here," he said. "See this tiny little lily? Isn't it beautiful? Even the great King Solomon, when he dressed up in the best clothes he had – even King Solomon wasn't as beautiful as this tiny little flower."

"I think I know what you are going to tell us now," said Mary. "God loves this little flower, but God loves us way more. Way, way more!"

"Yes," said Jesus. "Of course we need to be careful. We need to work so that we have food and clothes. God knows that we need to eat and keep warm. But the most important thing is to live God's way – to say thank you to God for the kindness and the love we feel. If we do that, we won't worry as much about clothes and food."

Let us pray: May we trust in your love and respond to your presence, when your call cuts against our expectations or plans. Open us to compassion that seeks your way of love, justice, inclusion, and equality for all. Amen.

Message: "Love Begins with Trust"

Message will be posted on the website when it is available.

Hymn: VU 218 We Praise You, O God, vv. 1, 3

1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

3. With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Minute for Mission (Marian McKnight)

Dignity is on the Menu

Most of us appreciate a well-dressed table and can afford to go out for dinner from time to time. Many of us will be sitting down to elaborate Thanksgiving dinners. Our daily experience doesn't involve standing in line for every single meal with a tray in hand.

That's why special dinners like Café Cinq-Zéro-Sept that Ottawa-based Mission & Service partner Centre 507 hosts are so important. Several times a year, the adult drop-in centre sets up a small room for a special fine-dining meal with gourmet food, decorations, and candlelight. For just two dollars, participants have their choice of meal accompanied by full service and great company.

“We realized that people in our community struggling with poverty had to wait in line a long time for a meal. When they were served, they weren’t given any choice and felt pressured to leave so that the next person could be served. That’s why we started Café Cinq-Zéro-Sept,” says Richard LeBlanc, Centre 507’s Executive Director. “We saw such a change in how people felt about themselves after experiencing this kind of a meal that our ultimate goal is that this dining experience becomes the norm rather than the exception.”

While COVID-19 has been challenging, it has also helped the drop-in take an important step toward achieving their goal. “One of the great things that happened is that when COVID hit, we had to start a system where everyone sat down and was served,” says LeBlanc.

Centre 507 now serves 25 people at sit-down meals and provides 150 people with meals to go each day. The café has incorporated a training program where participants learn to be servers, too. “We are taking the next step toward achieving our goal. We aren’t going back to line-ups after the pandemic,” vows LeBlanc.

Thank you for giving generously through Mission & Service. Your support helps create a world where everyone has enough food AND it’s served with dignity.

Invitation to the Offering

Thank you for your time, your prayers and your donations! If you give to the larger holy work of God through our United Church of Canada by donating to Mission and Service, thank you for that too! You will find links to the different church websites at the end of this worship, so you can learn about what we are up to and how you can help.

Offering Hymn: MV 191 *What Can I Do?*

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I’ll sing with joy. I’ll say a prayer.
I’ll bring my love. I’ll do my share. *(repeat verse)*

Offering Prayer

Let us pray: It would too easy to hoard all the blessings which are hours, God of this holy season. Yet, you call us to simply give a portion back to you, so that others might be fed by your hope, children might be sheltered in warm homes, and the broken might be made whole. Receive our gifts, as well as our hearts, we pray in the name of Jesus, our Brother. Amen.

Prayers of the Community

As we gather together for Thanksgiving celebrations:
may we be mindful of those who are lonely, those who are friendless, those who are forgotten.

As the food is cooked and shared this week:
may we be mindful of a mother who cradles her hungry child, and work for ways to share food around the world.

As we go for a walk in the fresh, crisp outdoors and enjoy the freedom to do so:
may we remember all those held captive by violence and war, by addiction and pain, by brokenness and despair.

Rather than simply speaking words of thanks and then returning to life as normal,
may my compassion be intensified, my concern broadened, my heart enlarged with your grace.

(Dave continues with Prayers of the Community.)

Closing Hymn: VU 227 *For the Fruit of All Creation, vv. 1 & 3*

1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Blessing

Before we fill ourselves from groaning tables,
let us go forth to feed those whose hunger is all too real.

Before we gather with friends and family in warm, safe homes,
let us go forth to shelter those who have no place to sleep.

Before we rush to the stores to buy more than we really need,
let us go to offer our hearts and lives to all whose lives are empty. Amen.

Benediction Hymn: MV 185 *Ev'ry Day Is a Day of Thanksgiving*

Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
God, you've been so good to me.
Ev'ry day you're blessing me.
Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
I will glorify you, O my Lord, today!

You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
You opened the door that I might see, you're blessing me.
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
I will glorify you, O my Lord, today!

Postlude

PPT: Several slides

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