

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**October 3, 2021, World Communion Sunday**  
**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](mailto:sketchingalong4@gmail.com) to get the Zoom link.

## Prelude

### Hymn: MV 28 *God of the Bible, vv. 1, 3 & 4*

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.

4. Not by your finger, not by your anger will our world order change in a day,  
but by your people, fearless and faithful, small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

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 St. Andrew's United Church here in Sudbury, Ontario. Here in the Sanctuary, we are observing all the health safety protocols. We are worshipping online by the grace of live streaming. One Community in Christ.

If you are in the sanctuary, if you don't already have your communion cup, there is a place at the entrance where you are welcome to leave your offering and to pick up your Communion element. At home, get your elements ready – a cup of something and a bread to take, whether muffin, toast or rice cake.

Thanks to Graham and Debby Laporte for leading the music this morning. Thank you also Donna Mese and Sue Nykilchuk, our readers today, as well as the many people who have worked together guided by the Spirit today to coordinate this worship.

If you are joining us for the first time, **welcome**. Please note the contact information at the end of this worship service, ways to connect with us. We also have a Virtual Fellowship time tonight at 7 p.m. hosted by Bev and Diane. Information on how to join this evening's fellowship time is included at the end of the service.

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

## Inviting Holy Light

I invite you to join me now to prepare, to open our hearts and minds to Spirit, and God's still small voice. Ground ourselves, remember the words of Jesus; we cannot see God's kin-dom vision unless we are like children. You and I are beloved Children of God. Known and Loved. Open yourself to that love, perhaps open your hands on your laps. *[Light Candle]*

We symbolize Christ-presence and love with us, its warmth and peace that it brings, by igniting this flame. Love.

## **Nurturing Safe Space**

We as Christ's Community, together we nurture safe place that welcomes and includes all people, where all can feel welcome and loved, participate in worship and life here, regardless of age, ability, race, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender identity.

## **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

For thousands of years, people have walked this land, cared for it, long before colonizers called it Canada. In this space, we give thanks for the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikemeksheng Anishnaabeg and the Métis people who have been stewards of this land. We covenant to share that stewardship responsibility, and to work towards Reconciliation.

## **Call to Worship**

On this day, we are not a single congregation,  
**but part of all believers everywhere, every place.**

On this day, we share not just a sacrament,  
**but a feast from every time, every place of faith.**

On this day, God's people gather in house churches and cathedrals,  
**and on sandy beaches and under towering trees.**

## **Opening Prayer**

Let us pray: We will not find justice in our apathy; or that elusive wholeness when we quarrel. We will not realize unity when we hide in doctrine, nor will we find the peace you offer, Holy One, in the grudges we hold. Instead, today may we find you in the brokenness of the Bread and in the breaking of our hearts. May we find you when we empty the Cup and refill it with our gifts, and offer it to a little child. Find us now, here, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen

## **Scripture Readings**

### **Psalm 26 (Donna Mese)**

Declare my innocence, O Eternal One!

I have walked blamelessly down this path.

I placed my trust in the Eternal and have yet to stumble.

Put me on trial and examine me, O Eternal One!

Search me through and through—from my deepest longings to every thought that crosses my mind.

Your unfailing love is always before me;

I have journeyed down Your path of truth...

I wash my hands in the fountain of innocence

so that I might join the gathering that surrounds Your altar,

O Eternal One.

From my soul, I will join the songs of thanksgiving;

I will sing and proclaim Your wonder and mystery.

Your house, home to Your glory, O Eternal One, radiates its light.

### **Mark 10:2-16 (Donna Mese and Sue Nykilchyk)**

**ONE:** *Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"*

**TWO:** *What? The Pharisees again? Why do they keep trying to trip me up?*

**ONE:** *He answered them, "What did Moses command you?"*

**TWO:** *Good technique, Jesus. Put the ball back in their court. Get the law out on the table.*

**ONE:** *But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you."*

**TWO:** *Hmmm...So, the law doesn't fix a problem of the heart?*

**ONE:** *"Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."*

**TWO:** What do you mean? What does God expect?

**ONE:** *Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter.*

**TWO:** Yes, Jesus, what DO you mean?

**ONE:** *"...and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."*

**TWO:** Is this a text about God's anger or God's sadness?

**ONE:** *People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.*

**TWO:** I'm sure they were all tired. Didn't the parents realize that?

**ONE:** *But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.*

**TWO:** But children haven't done anything to deserve this!

**ONE:** *Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."*

**TWO:** Maybe that's the point.

**ONE:** *And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.*

**TWO:** When we received God's reign as a child, Jesus blessed us, too.

Let us pray: As we wrestle with tough questions, and uncertain answers, grant us the courage to ask what is on our hearts, and the loving-kindness to empathize with opinions we do not understand. Amen.

### **Message: "Turning to Wonder"**

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

### **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. Thanks!

### **Dedication Hymn: VU 480 *Let us Break Bread Together*, vv. 1 & 2**

1. Let us break bread together on our knees,  
let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees,  
let us drink wine together on our knees.  
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

### **Dedication Prayer**

Let us pray: We love your house, Holy God, but love your people even more. So, may our gifts be used to bless those considered worthless by the world, but so valued in your heart, that as they are blessed by your grace and hope, they might sing songs of thanksgiving and praise to you, even as we have just done. Amen.

### **Sacrament of Communion**

Some come from towns we have trouble pronouncing,  
others have walked across the street.  
some of us, here physically, here online, some are strangers,  
while others are here as old friends and family;  
some hold the bread with trembling hands,  
others pass the cup with a strong grip;  
some need to taste hope and grace,

others long for a community which welcomes them with open arms.  
And all, all of us, are welcomed to this Table.

Come, people of God; come and taste the goodness of the Lord.  
May the God of all be with you!

**May that God be with you, as well!**

We will join our hearts with all of God's people,  
**offering them to the God who loves us.**

God fills our hearts, our lives, with overflowing grace.

**With voices in every tongue, of every faith,**  
we will sing our praises to God.

**We offer glory and thanksgiving to our God.**

When there was nothing but your imagination,  
God of Wonder, you thought,  
and the Spirit began to twinkle chaos with stars, moons, and planets.  
You spoke, and the Word began to call to life  
centipedes to march across the ground,  
sparrows to dart across skies,  
and little kittens to lap milk.

You laughed, and shaped us in your image,  
to offer all these things and more to us.  
But we were convinced we did not need you,  
and so chose to stay wrapped in our little cocoons  
spun by sin and death.

Over and over, in dusty streets and urban centers,  
your prophets call us back to you, but too often we are set in our way.  
So that we might finally have life with you,  
you sent your Child to us,  
so that all the world might be redeemed.

With those whose hearts are filled with joy,  
with those whose lips tremble with questions,  
we lift our praises to you:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of all, God of each.**

**All creation everywhere joins in praising you.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who calls us to the Table of life.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

In your holiness, God of creation, you could have stayed aloof,  
letting the world drift back into chaos.  
But you became one of us, in a little child born in a place  
no one imagined,  
and to a family none would have picked.  
A little child, Jesus knew the hunger and fears of poverty and despair.  
A young boy,  
Jesus knew the doubts and questions  
of wondering about the future.  
A worker,  
Jesus knew the struggles to put food on the table.  
A storyteller,  
Jesus knew how to reach the deepest

depths of the human heart.

A servant,

Jesus was willing to take on our death for us,  
so that in the power of the resurrection,  
sin and death lost their power over us.

As we gather in grand churches, in kitchens and offices,  
one community gathered now in Christ,  
we join our sisters and brothers in every place, proclaiming the mystery:

**Jesus died, so we might know the depths of love;  
Jesus was raised, so we might know the strength of love;  
Jesus will come, so we might know God's steadfast love for us.**

On the night before he died  
it was Jesus who took a loaf of bread,  
gave you thanks, broke it, and said,  
"Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me."  
Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,  
"This is the new covenant; remember me."

### **Prayers of the Community**

Let us pray: Creator God, we give you thanks for this amazing universe and our lives in it, for friends and loved ones, for this community and the knowledge of your presence in both the good and the bad. We come before you today with deep concerns and many questions about our suffering world.

We have so many questions and concerns about violence between nations and all who suffer because of it.  
(silence)

We have so many questions and concerns about violence within families and all who suffer because of it.  
(silence)

We have so many questions and concerns about  
...earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes and all who suffer because of them.  
...poverty and all who suffer because of it.  
...sickness and disease and all who suffer because of them.  
...untimely death and all who suffer because of it.  
...prejudice and hatred and all who suffer because of them.  
...the squandering of Earth's resources and all who suffer because of it.

We pray also for those people and situations that are very close to us or which have touched our hearts deeply. We lift those up to you now...  
[silence]

Suffering God, you hear our prayers, and you let our cries come unto you. With your help, we will comfort and be comforted, strengthen and be strengthened, feed and be fed, shelter and be sheltered, listen and be heard, in Christ, with Christ and through Christ, we dare to pray....

### **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.**

At ornate Communion Tables and kitchen tables,  
we pray that you would pour out your Spirit  
upon your children and on the gifts gathered  
from the simple goodness of creation and set aside for holy use.  
In the bread which is broken, *[Gesture broken bread]*  
may we be reminded of those places  
like Palestine and Israel torn apart  
by ancient and modern fears;  
may we be strengthened to bring hope and help  
to flooded communities;  
In that cup which is filled with grace, *[Gesture pour cup]*  
may we be called to welcome those  
who have been forced to flee from the neighborhoods  
they loved, but now fear;  
may we gather up children who have been forgotten,  
to be blessed by their resilience;  
may we commit ourselves to ending injustice  
in every place, in every person.  
May we all, as with your kin-dom vision, gather around  
Your One Table of grace, hope, love, Shalom. Amen.

The Bread of life, broken,  
filling us that we might share. [share together]

Your Cup of grace, overflowing,  
that love might flow from us. [share together]

**Refrain: VU 466 *Eat This Bread (sing 3 times)***

Eat this bread, drink this cup; come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.

**Prayer After Communion**

Let us pray: Thank you, Resurrected One, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. We are now commissioned to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Closing Hymn: MV 182 *Grateful***

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

1. You are more than we imagine, Ancient, Holy, Living Lord.  
Even when we doubt your presence you are faithful to your Word.

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

2. May our lives proclaim your justice, may our voices sing your praise.  
May our hands work in your service to the glory of your name.

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

### **Blessing**

We will go from this place,  
**to sit at the side of those forgotten by the world,  
as we are welcomed by their grace and God's holy presence.**

We will go wherever your children gather,  
**to be blessed by their love, as they echo Jesus' gentle voice.**

We will go with our hunger, and be fed;  
we will go with our brokenness, and be healed;  
we will offer ourselves, and be accepted by the Spirit,  
**who lives and works in every person we will meet. Amen.**

### **Benediction Hymn: VU 481 *Sent Forth by God's Blessing, vs. 1***

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us  
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.

### **Postlude**

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**Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Dedication, Sacrament of Communion, and Blessing** from Thom M. Shuman <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com> © 2018.

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