

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
April 24, 2022 – 2nd of the Season of Easter

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, April 24.

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

Prelude

Opening Hymn: VU 374 *Come and Find the Quiet Centre*

1. Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.
2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.
3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

Inviting Holy Light

We invite Holy Light to welcome Creator, Beloved and Spirit. *[Dave lights candle]*

Hymn: VU 595 *The Servant Song, vs. 1*

1. We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

Nurturing Safe Space

All are welcome in this space. Young or old. Whatever your ability, mobility, life experience, identity. You are welcome here.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

We as people of faith inherit a legacy, a history of hurt, but also journey into new chapters of healing and reconciliation. Today, here we are worshipping on the ancestral land the Wahnapiatae First Nation and of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, this land where the Robinson Huron Treaty was made in 1850, and never honoured by Canada. We live, work, play, and pray on the Treaty lands. May we live in harmony and respect with all those who share the earth with us and be thankful to God as we move into a peaceful and healthy future together.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to St. Andrew's United Church! We are welcoming today, our music leader, Michael Giroux, and our vocalists James and Alison Warner-Smith. Our scripture reader(s) is/are...

Zatoun olive oil continues to be available for sale. See Joanne Ross to get your bottle, and invest in peace and justice in Palestine and Israel.

Those at home, if you are new here, note that our contact information is at the end of the video, and you might want to visit our website or Facebook page, or email our office manager so you can receive our weekly e-newsletter called the NEWS. We also have a Social Hour on Zoom, every Sunday night at 7. As always, you can get your Zoom link to join that time of connecting by sending an email to Diane. That email address will be part of the credits after this worship.

Call to Worship

Praise God with clapping hands;
praise God with hands comforting a child.

**Praise God with silent hearts;
praise God with hearts broken for the world.**

Praise God with electric guitars;
praise God with soft piano chords.
**Praise God with be-bop and hip-hop;
praise God with rhythms that don't stop.**

Praise God with a hallelujah chorus;
praise God with a Gregorian chant.
**Praise God with dancing steps;
praise God with feet walking for justice.**

Opening Prayer

Holy God, Lover of your children: the tomb has been opened, and we dance into your future. Your life has dawned on us, and we surround you with our praise. You reach out your hand, and lead us into joy. Jesus Christ, Faithful Witness: you pick open the locked doors of our hearts and come in to be with us forever. You breathe peace into our souls, so we may bring healing to a troubled world. Holy Spirit, Breath of Peace: you show us our hearts, so we may give love to others. You show us our hands, sending us to serve the needy. You show us your hope, so we may live in your joy.

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.

Prayer for Grace

Today's story today takes us to an upper room after the crucifixion of Jesus, and after Mary's testimony, saying "I have seen the Lord!"

However, the disciples have locked themselves in a room, in fear and doubt. Jesus appears to them twice, breathes on them, helps them to believe.

Are we like those disciples at times – beyond what we can cope with, anxiety, fear, uncertainty paralyzing us. Consider prayerfully: The moments when others express concerns or doubts about something that you presumed to be "truth", when we don't welcome questions... (silence, then singing bowl)... Forgive us, God.

Help us to also forgive ourselves.

When we are timid to speak out against things that are wrong within our families, our community, our church or our world... (silence, then singing bowl)... Forgive us, God.

Help us to also forgive ourselves.

What has helped you to spiritually, emotionally, cope, when circumstances have changed so much that your instinct is to build walls to hide behind? What or who helps you to unlock the doors, open the windows, to go out into the world again? Give a prayer of thanks for that person or that practise that helps you... (silence, then singing bowl)...

Words of Assurance

The God of resurrection is our cornerstone, the foundation of our strength and hope. Let us rise together, works in progress, all of us, to be the people of God. Let us rise and be a living

testimony of the way of Christ. Let us arise, Spirit our guide as we open the windows and doors, and go faithfully into the world, a resurrection people. Thank you, God.

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. [Romans 8: 38-39]

Scripture Readings (*Tracey and Benjamin Le Grand*)

Psalm 118, Parts 1 and 2

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Let Israel now say:

“God’s love endures for ever.”

Let the house of Aaron say:

“God’s love endures for ever.”

Let those who fear God say:

“God’s love endures for ever.”

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

God is my strength and my song; God has become my salvation.

There are shouts of joy and deliverance in the tents of the righteous.

The right hand of God does mighty things; the right hand of God raises up.

The right hand of God does mighty things.

I shall not die, but live; and I shall proclaim what God has done.

God indeed punished me, but did not give me over to death.

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

John 20:19-31 – Common English Bible (CEB)

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won’t believe.”

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!”

Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.”

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples’ presence, signs that aren’t recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

Let us pray. Grant us a voice, O God, that breaks into all silence and speaks out in your name. May we find the gospel words that speak into poverty and for justice, that proclaim heaven's authority and love's agenda. When others wish to silence the good news, may we shout it even louder. Amen.

Message: "The Importance of Touch"

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

Questions for Reflection:

- When have you allowed fear to shut you out or shut you in?
- What was the breakthrough moment?

Hymn: MV 89 Love is the Touch, vv. 1 2, 4

1. Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

2. Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the
frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

4. Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which
the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Memorial Gifts Presentation (Kathy Brankley)

Good morning, I'm Kathy Brankley and I'm representing the Memorial Gifts Committee that includes Susan Darling, Alison Warner Smith and Debby Laporte. Here at St. Andrew's we have an annual practice of remembering those we have lost over the past year and celebrating the gifts or donations we have received in their memory. Donations come into the Memorial Gift Fund in two ways: at the time of a funeral, or in a bequest—which is a donation left through someone's will or estate.

First, funerals. Families often suggest that a donation to St. Andrew's Memorial Gift Fund would be welcomed; or sometimes the deceased's family might direct people to donate to a specific fund at the Church. If a service is held here, we often have volunteers in the narthex to accept donations. An unfortunate aspect of the pandemic is that these funeral gatherings have so often not been possible. We haven't been able to gather to acknowledge a loss, nor have the opportunity to make a donation right in the narthex or at the desk at the funeral home. But actually you can still send a one-time donation to the Memorial Gifts fund for one or even several people who have died and indicate to whom this donation applies. Donations would be sent to the Church office.

Then there is another opportunity for families to donate and that is through a will with a legacy gift known as a bequest. The donors have the option of setting up a restricted fund with a specific purpose, for example as the Thornton family did through the Lester B. Thornton Fund which was specifically designated towards the provision of pastoral care.

Most bequests are received as unrestricted, and go into the Memorial Gift Fund and are spent according to the needs of the church. An example of how this can meet the needs of the church so well was the bequest from Martha Harper's family to the church. While it was donated to the

general fund the Resources team recommended to Council that it be used to help with the increasing equipment needs of St. Andrew's to reach out with livestreaming to our congregation and beyond, which has become so important during pandemic times.

I'd like to highlight another aspect of our work and that is awards. The Lola McNaughton Bursary was established with monies left to us by long-time parishioner Lola McNaughton who was an educator. It is awarded for students entering their second year of post secondary education who have a relationship to our church to or to another United church. Its value is \$1000. We didn't have applicants this year, but you may recall that the last winners were Torrin Maag and Catherine van Oosten in 2019.

Another award coming from one of our restricted funds is the Dr. Earl and Elizabeth Lautenslager Memorial Scholarship named for Dr. Earl Lautenslager, a former minister of ours who became the first president of Huntington University. It's for students associated with Huntington who show high academic achievement, carry out volunteer activities in community or on campus and who have a financial need.

This year's recipient is Muskan Malhotra, a resident of Huntington University and international student from India. She has completed her third year in the Law and Justice Program and has another year remaining. While working at two part-time jobs on-campus and one off-campus, she has maintained an A average. It's important to note that international students pay three to four times the tuition paid by Canadian students. She is also becoming a peer supporter in the Peer Wellness Program at Laurentian, specifically assisting international students with mental health and wellness.

The slide show shown prior to this morning's service (and which will be repeated following the service) illustrates some of the many aspects of church life supported by Memorial Gifts funds, for example Church School, audiovisual equipment or other technology purchases, special projects such as refurbishing our sanctuary chairs, the planter display in the Narthex, and the piano and organ which are maintained through a fund and so on.

Today is a time to remember that we receive these funds or gifts in memory of someone we have lost. We will take time to commemorate those whose passing led to these donations. We would like to now share a minute of silent reflection as we view the *In Memoriam* list on our screen.

I now invite Rev. Le Grand to light candles.

Candle Lighting – Rev. LeGrand will light two candles, stating:

- 1) "To honour those in whose memory we have received these gifts
- 2) To thanks those who have given"

Offering Moment

Thank you for your gifts. Helping locally St. Andrew's to partner with people who help the most vulnerable downtown. Giving to the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service allows us collectively to reach out to Ukraine and other places needing love and community. Thank you for all you do, and perhaps those of you who are giving here for the first time. Thank you.

Dedication 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)**

Dedication Prayer

God of the bright and morning star, God of the rising sun,

God of death banished, we praise you!

For empty tombs: thank you!

For Mary and the disciples running with good news: thank you!

For your presence, alive, powerful, resurrected: thank you!

We celebrate your victory over death, over all the powers that would paralyze or defeat us.

Help us to grasp resurrection; to understand its power, to see its force at work in our world, overturning evil empires, changing the hatred within us, moving the world slowly, forcefully, bending us towards love and truth.

On season of Easter, Jesus appearing to his friends after his death, empower us to be your ambassadors,

proclaiming good news.

Good news in our kitchens and living rooms,

good news in the offices and workshops

good news in the fields and factories

Help us to be that good news,

walking softly on this good earth

caring gently for all people,

living hopefully into your kingdom.

Today we think of all who are grieving, and for the sick and dying.... Those who are struggling, feeling alone, without resources to carry on, feeling hopeless... in silence we offer our own silent prayers. [silence]

for places in the world that are torn by war and bloodshed... Ukraine, Syria, Myanmar, Palestine and Israel, our own places where violence and inequity nurtures fear and strife.

In this world of broken hopes and dreams
we catch sight of your kingdom come,
in the person of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns in us forever. Amen.

Prayers of Community

Closing Hymn: VU 359 *He Came Singing Love*, vv. 1,3,4

1. He came singing love and he lived singing love;

he died singing love.

He arose in silence.

For the love to go on we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

3. He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;

he died singing hope.

He arose in silence.

For the hope to go on we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

4. He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;

he died singing peace.

He arose in silence.

For the peace to go on we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

Blessing

God sends us forth with songs of joy in our hearts.

**We will go to sing of wonder to all who are empty of life
even as we gather them close to our hearts.**

Jesus calls us to step out of our fears into lives of witness.

We will go to breathe peace into all the broken places around us.

The Spirit teaches us new dance steps of grace.

**We will go to take our sisters and brothers by the hand
to dance in the streets of the kingdom.**

Blessing Hymn: VU 884 *You Shall Go Out with Joy*

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap, clap*)

the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap, clap*)

the trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap, clap*)

while you go out with joy.

Postlude

All prayers this week, except for the Prayer for Grace and Prayers of Community, written by come from Thom M. Shuman, lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com, © Thom M. Shuman April 28, 2019.

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Psalm 118 from *Voices United: The Hymn and Worship Book of The United Church of Canada*. © 1996 the United Church Publishing House.

John 20:19-31 from the Common English Bible (CEB). © 2011 by Common English Bible.

Prayers of Community adapted from a prayer written by Carole Penner, carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/

Thank you to: Michel Giroux, our guest musician this week; James and Alison Warner-Smith for leading the hymns; Tracey, Benjamin, and Sophia Le Grand for reading the scriptures; Suzanne Nykilchyk for her assistance with liturgy preparation; Jen Bruneau for assisting with graphics for the PowerPoint presentation; Jill Bennett and Jen Bruneau for the sanctuary décor and Mallon Appianing and Roger Pile in the sound booth.
