

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**September 13, 2020 - Communion**

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>  
Email [dave@st-andrews.ca](mailto:dave@st-andrews.ca) to get the Zoom link.

**Prelude**

**Welcome – Donna Mese**

Welcome to worship here at St Andrew's United Church. Wherever you join us from, I invite you to take this moment to look at your space around you. You are on holy ground, as we are here. We gather in worship, to be God's community here, but more importantly, living out Christ's love and forgiveness for a world that needs love.

We are so thankful that you can join us for worship today. At the end of this video you will also find other ways to connect with us: our website and Facebook information, and you can subscribe to the weekly emailed NEWS previously mentioned called simply the NEWS by emailing Alison at the church email you will find at the end of this video.

Now, let us worship God.

**Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

This is holy ground, very sacred to us. Sacred especially to the First Peoples on whose land we worship this morning. We, here at St. Andrew's United Church, worship on the traditional territories both of the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, land where the Robinson Huron Treaty was made in 1850, a Treaty that was never honoured by the colonizers of this land. Whose traditional territory are you worshipping on today?

We recognize the long history of our First Nations and Métis peoples, we give thanks for their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. Let us, all of us, Treaty people, commit ourselves anew to the work of healing, justice and reconciliation.

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

We take a breath. We pause before we enter worship. Take a moment to breathe in, God's spirit is everywhere, like the very breath that invigorates your vital organs. We light the Christ candle knowing that Christ's love shines like a beacon for those of us who are troubled, anxious, unsure. Its warmth welcomes all people as children of God in holy hospitality that unconditionally loves us into fullness. **[Light Candle]**

**Call to Worship**

We come to worship this morning, some with joyful hearts, and some with hurting souls.

**Christ is here, ready to celebrate, ready to heal.**

We come to worship this morning, some of us tired, some of us full of energy.

**Christ is here, giving us strength, giving us purpose.**

We come to worship this morning,  
some feeling righteous, some very repentant.

**Christ is here, full of grace, full of forgiveness.**

We come to worship this morning,  
some of us full of questions, some of us sure in our faith.

**Christ is here, present in doubt, present in assurance.**

We come to worship this morning, all of us knowing...

**Christ is here!**

## Opening Prayer

Let us pray: God, when we tremble at the thought of taking stands for things that matter to you, you beside us offering strength. Cloud of Grace, we offer our love to you. Living Christ, when our hearts turn to deserts of bitterness and we come up with all sorts of rules for those who seek to find you, you tear up the list and welcome all who seek you. Servant of Love, we offer our hearts in worship today. Transforming Spirit, when we cling to old worries in our hearts, you open our eyes to hope paving the path ahead of us. God in Community, we open our hearts now, Amen.

## Bible Readings

### **Psalm 114 (New Revised Standard Version)**

When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language, Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel God's dominion.

The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

### **Matthew 18:21-33**

Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

"At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'"

## Message: ***Love and Forgiveness***

*Not available at time of printing.*

## Offering Moment

Love is a gift first from God. All that we have, we believe, are first a gift from God. We take care of our blessings – ourselves, our bodies, our loved ones, our world. Out of gratitude we become inspired to share all that we have to love and heal this fragile world that our Creator has entrusted

to us. In what ways do you love your world? It may not be a question you can answer right away, but think about it. First, what are your blessings, the things you treasure most? The people you treasure too! Feel that. Gratitude, all those gifts. I invite you to think about those gifts as given to you to share, not just with people nearest to you, but with causes that matter to you. Making a difference in this life. Maybe you already include this community, St. Andrew's, among those causes that you contribute towards – whether it is your precious time and talent, your prayers. You might contribute your treasure, money, towards the ministries. If you do, thank you!! If you don't already, maybe consider being part of St. Andrew's. Visit our website and our Facebook pages – you will find the coordinates for those at the end of this worship service – you can even donate via the Canada Helps button by clicking on the Donate button on our website.

What a gift you and I are. Our love and generosity, and in this world that can feel void of grace and mercy, forgiveness might be the greatest gift we can offer someone. God, thank you for our blessings. Give us passion and generosity of spirit to share the best of who we are to bring love and forgiveness to our world. Amen.

**Offering Hymn:** *Excerpt from Scot Soper's "Loving and Forgiving."* (sung by Jonathan Swift)

**Hymn: MV 4 All Who Are Thirsty**

1. All who are thirsty, all who are weak, come to the fountain.

Dip your heart in the stream of life.

Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away in the waves of his mercy

as deep cries out to deep, we sing:

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

2. All who are thirsty, all who are weak, come to the fountain.

Dip your heart in the stream of life.

Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away in the waves of his mercy

as deep cries out to deep, we sing:

Holy Spirit come. Holy Spirit come.

Holy Spirit come. Holy Spirit come.

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

May the God of hope be with you!

**And also with you!**

God, our God, leads us through the flood of fears  
into the future of wonder and hope.

**We open our hearts to the One who journeys  
with us, in the past, in the present, into tomorrow.**

God goes before us, preparing the Table piled high  
with grace and peace.

**We sing songs of glad thanksgiving to the One  
who fills us with goodness and mercy.**

You stretched out your hand,  
Cloud of Glory,  
parting a way through chaos,  
so your goodness might come forth.  
You looked, and laughed out loud,  
as seas ran forth in joy,  
mountains played leapfrog,

and hills hopscotched with valleys.  
Creation became a sanctuary  
for those created in your image.  
But we decided to live for ourselves,  
every day becoming one in which  
we could turn your dreams to ashes,  
your overflowing love into  
dust bowls of despair.  
Out of pity, you sent the prophets,  
those pillars of faithfulness,  
but we wrangled with their gentle words.  
So, you sent Jesus,  
to lead us through evil's deeps,  
to that freedom found only  
in your kingdom of life.

Therefore, on this day, when we stand in your grace  
joining our voices with all who offer praise to the One who saves:

**Living, we serve others in God's name;  
Serving, we die unto ourselves;  
Dying, we are given life eternal with God.  
Blessed is the One who comes  
Forgiving us more times than we can count.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, Cloud of Joy,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Servant.  
When we were weak in faith,  
he came to strengthen us  
with your everlasting hope;  
when we were slaves to sin,  
he came to lead us into  
the promised land of mercy;  
when our hearts became like flint,  
he softened them with compassion;  
when we could only focus on ourselves,  
he came to die for us.

On the night before he died,  
he had supper with his companions.  
He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks,  
he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:  
"Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks,  
he passed it among them, saying:  
"Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me."  
Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.  
In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.

As we gather at your Table,  
we remember his love for us,  
his patience with our failings,

his hope in our willingness to follow,  
his trust in that mystery we call faith:  
**Baptized in Christ, we would live for him;  
forgiven through Christ, we would emulate him;  
putting on Christ, we wait for his return.  
Alleluia! Amen!**

### **Prayers of the Community**

*Not available at time of printing.*

### **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.**

Creator God, send your Spirit in peace  
upon us and these simple gifts.

As we share the bread,  
we share the presence of Christ,  
strengthened to go out  
with forgiveness in our hearts.

As we pass the cup,  
we share Christ's Spirit  
with our neighbors,  
especially those held captive  
by the bitterness of the world.

God our Maker, Christ our Brother,  
Spirit our Compassion, one God, now and forever.  
And together, as God's forgiven and forgiving community we say, Amen.

The Bread of Life, broken in love that all might find hope

The Cup of Salvation, poured out so that all God's children might be One  
The gifts of God, for the people of God. Come, for all is ready.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,  
**here we have tasted your goodness and hungered for a world more just.**

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,  
**here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.**

Though daily we touch our limits,  
**here we have received the fullness of your grace.**

Send us forth, O God,  
**in faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn: MV 76 *If I Have Been the Source of Pain***

1. If I have been the source of pain, O God:  
if to the weak I have refused my strength;  
if, in rebellion, I have strayed away; forgive me, God.

2. If I have spoken words of cruelty;  
if I have left some suffering unrelieved;  
condemn not my insensitivity; forgive me, God.

3. If I've insisted on a peaceful life,  
far from the struggles that the gospel brings,  
when you prefer to guide me to the strife, forgive me, God.

4. Receive, O God, this ardent world of prayer,  
and free me from temptation's subtle snare,  
with tender patience, lead me to your care. Amen, Amen.

### **Blessing**

In every person, God is with us, let us welcome God in the family we know all too well, and in the strangers we will meet in the coming days.

In every choice, Jesus is with us, let us welcome the Christ who serves us unexpectedly, and in those who will offer us forgiveness.

In every moment, the Spirit is with us, let us welcome the Spirit who calls us to live as well as calling us to give of ourselves without question.

### **Postlude**

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