

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
October 11, 2020 – Thanksgiving Sunday

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, October 11th
Email sketchingalong4@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Welcome

We here gathering in the Sanctuary are asked to leave immediately after the worship. In order to care for and love one another, we need to not socialize.

But this evening at 7pm on Zoom there will be virtual Fellowship time. Please contact Diane Trollope to get the Zoom link – you can find her email address on screen at the end of this worship. Links are also in the weekly emailed NEWS.

Now we take time, create space to breathe, to feel. We prepare ourselves for worship. 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 the First Nations and Métis peoples of this land, 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

God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in [them]. (1 John 4:16)
Joyce Rupp says that for her this verse is a doorway into the mystery that is God. She read that the Greek word translated here "remain in" could also be translated as "settle in for awhile and relax." In challenging times, she says, with gratitude we might ponder all the ways that love is in our lives, to feel ourselves relax, settling into the arms of God.

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.

Let us pray: God-of-all, we have set aside this day of thanksgiving, because sometimes we have difficult remembering to live our thanks-giving. We sometimes have difficulty remembering to be thanks-giving. So thank you, for everything! Open our hearts to realize where thanks need to be given. Open our hearts to where we need to offer thanks, open our spirits to share the words, and open our lives to be your love. We ask this as disciples of Jesus. Amen.

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 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.

Bible Reading (Dan Desormeaux)

Luke 17:11–19

This is a reading from the Gospel of Luke, a story about the one who was grateful.

It happened that as he made his way toward Jerusalem, he crossed over the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers, met him. They kept their distance but raised their voices, calling out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

Taking a good look at them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.”

They went, and while still on their way, became clean. One of them, when she realized that she was healed, turned around and came back, shouting his gratitude, glorifying God. She kneeled at Jesus’ feet, so grateful. She couldn’t thank him enough—and she was a Samaritan.

Jesus said, “Were not ten healed? Where are the nine? Can none be found to come back and give glory to God except this outsider?” Then she said to him, “Get up. On your way. Your faith has healed and saved you.”

Response to the Bible Reading

This is the time for reflection. This is the time for inspiration. This is the time for determination.

This is the time to discern the direction revealed by our Creator.

Living Word in our midst, may you bless our receiving of your Story. Amen

Message: Grateful

(Not available at time of printing.)

Hymn: VU 409 Morning Has Broken

1. Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2. Sweet the rain’s new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass.

3. Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God’s re-creation of the new day!

Minute for Mission: *Florence Gava Gives Thanks*

Florence Gava is a grandmother. She lives in a small community in Zimbabwe where she looks after her grandchildren. Recently, a series of challenging events has pushed her whole family to the edge. First, 9 of Florence's 12 cattle died of a disease. That meant that less of Florence's fields could be turned for food. Shortly after her livestock died, there was a severe drought. If disease and drought weren't devastating enough, COVID-19 struck. Florence's family didn't have enough food to survive.

Thankfully, Florence's story doesn't end there. When the situation was most dire, your gifts through Mission & Service helped change Florence's life. With the support of generous people like you, Florence's family received a monthly food ration of life-saving beans, meal, and cooking oil through June and July when they were most in need. Other families just like hers—7,000 of them—received the same life-saving support. Every gift matters.

In Canada right now, COVID-19 is the final straw for families who were already pushed to the financial edge before the virus struck. By the end of the year, 12,000 people per day living around the world could die of hunger because of the pandemic. And the situation is getting worse by the hour.

Compassion, care, and love are up to us. Together, we can create a better world. A world where grandmothers like Florence don't have to watch their family go hungry. If you already give to Mission & Service, thank you! Please consider making a special Thanksgiving gift through Mission & Service to help people who need it most at home and abroad during this pandemic.

Your generosity through Mission & Service helps create a world where everyone belongs and where we take care of each other so no one is hungry or alone. Your gifts truly do make a difference. Thank you for giving generously.

Offering Moment

Thank you for all you do to share your time, your treasures towards God's work through you, and particularly as you support God's powerful work here at St. Andrew's United Church and Mission and Service. If you aren't already sharing what you have generously, perhaps today is the day to consider how grateful you are for what God has done for you and how you can respond with open heart and hands. The coordinates online to our website and our Facebook page will appear at the end of this worship with opportunities to donate or connect with us by contacting Alison in our office. Thank you. Thank you, God, for all our gifts, all that we are. We now return our giftedness, our time, our talents toward your building of a new realm, a new vision where all your Creation thrives. Amen.

Offering Hymn: VU 543 *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God, from thee.

A Time for Remembering and Giving Thanks

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, we have the privilege of being able to gather and bear witness to our faith within community. Through these last seven, difficult months, one of the pieces that we lost has been the ability to come together in gathering, to celebrate lives well-lived, to mourn together, hear stories, find wisdom in sacred scripture, and be reminded of the love that never lets us go, in life, in death and in life beyond death.

Particularly because it is Thanksgiving, and we are grateful for their witness, Dave and I saw the need to lift the names of the people who will no longer be part of our gatherings. There have been many losses in these last seven months.

In gathered worship, sharing this time with those who are watching from their homes, we bring to mind the importance of each of these relationships and we assert, once more, how much we need

each other in the dark times. Our grief and sadness are great. But love is stronger. Let's do the holy work of remembering...

I am grateful for Suzanne and Jen's leadership today. As each name is read, they will light a candle, helping us to pause, remember, give thanks, and mark the passings.

George Arnil Brown, 88 years of age, a faithful church member, who continued to read his Bible every day, even on the last day of his life. George died on November 3, 2019. His family had planned for his service to take place here at the church in April, because one of his sons is in the Armed Forces and was stationed overseas. George was buried in a private service which was held on August 18, 2020.

Milton Robert Samuel McKee, 92 years of age, father to Gail McKee Humphries, father in law to Bob Humphries; Milt lived all his adult life in Onaping, and was proud of his three grandsons; he died on March 12, 2020. A private service took place on August 22, 2020.

Marjorie Mulloy, 98 years of age, the lady with the huge smile, so much fun, generous and loving; mother to John and Donnie, she died on April 11, 2020.

Dorothy Johnson, 88 years of age, a giving volunteer in the church office, with the visitation committee, the worship and music committee, she was a woman who held friendships close. Dorothy died on April 29, 2020. Her service was held on September 25, 2020 in North Bay. Doreen Sanders represented St. Andrew's at that funeral.

Greta Clark, aged 51 years, died May 5, 2020. When her children were young, Greta served as one of our church school teachers and she helped with the Out of the Cold program. Her ashes were interred in her home town in Simcoe County.

Vivian MacKenzie, 90 years of age, one of our newest members, who joined the church last November when she moved into St. Andrew's Place. She had a vivacious and welcoming way about her. She was known as mom, grandmother, and friend to many people. Vivian died on May 10, 2020. A private family gathering took place at the time of her death.

John Gamble, 81 years of age, a member of the St. Andrew's Place Board, a tenor in the choir, before moving to North Bay. John died on June 5, 2020. His burial took place on September 18, 2020. Many members of the St. Andrew's community attended the funeral.

Carl Smith, 90 years of age, husband to Anne, father to three sons, an active member of the Congregational Fellowship Committee for many years. Carl died on June 24, 2020. A service was conducted at the cemetery on July 4, 2020. A number of friends from St. Andrew's attended the service.

Dr. Wally Cook, 92 years of age, served on the St. Andrew's Place Board, a friend to many, a dentist in our community, he died on August 2, 2020. He was buried in London.

Dr. Donald Crang, 92 years of age, a healer in our community of Sudbury, beloved to Phyllis, a father, a grandfather, he died on August 9, 2020.

Robert Bob Trollope, 75 years of age, beloved brother to Rev. Diane Trollope, died on July 6 after a short illness. A memorial service was held on September 17 with a few of Diane's friends including Freda Wilson.

Barbara Kennedy Ritchie, our church secretary for 13 years, one of the founders of the Out of the Cold program, a beloved friend to St. Andrew's, she died on August 18. A private service was held on September 11, 2020. Gloria Oldenburg, Jim Smith and Elaine Brummer represented the St. Andrew's church community at that service.

Each of these people made an impact in the world and on this church, and their going from us has left a hole in the community. But the light of their memory, their love, their service, their faith continues to shine bright.

As God's chosen people, we are invited each day to act and serve with hope and share our faith in generous ways. We love as Jesus loved us first. Faith, hope, and love give us the strong foundation we need to continue our mission of being God's people here and now. In life, and in death, and in life beyond death, God is with us, we are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Faith teaches us the wisdom of cultivating gratitude, gently learning how we might live, aware and thankful for all the people who cross our paths. We learn the wisdom to see how each person makes this world better. Hope reminds us how important it is look beyond our immediate worries and cares, especially in trying times. We wait in hope; we pray for a vaccine; we put our living into God's hands, with trust and with promise. Love calls to care for the well-being of our neighbours, by sharing abundantly what we can, by offering kindness and a listening ear, even by wearing masks and keeping safe social distance. Love looks like this- a community caring and doing its best for one another.

This pandemic has taken much from us, but it cannot take away our faith or our hope. It cannot take away our gratitude and our memories. It cannot take away courage, strength, kindness, and it cannot take from us the joy we have found in Jesus Christ.

Now, in the boldness of the faith we proclaim, let us pray...

God of endings, and unseen beginnings, thank you for the lives of these saints in your church: George, Milt, Marj, Dorothy, John, Carl, Wally, Donald, Bob, Barbara, other friends, other family members whom we name before you in the silence of our prayers. We thank you for their witness to love's transforming power in the world. We pray for this community, who mourns, each of us holding pieces of broken hearts in tender hands. We ask for your healing, for your peace, for the grace to laugh and remember these people well.

God, thank you for our relationships, and for all who add their light and beauty to our living. May we continue to live at peace with one another, offering our service, taking what we need, giving as we are able, holding fast to your wisdom, being thankful for our blessings. These prayers we make in the name of Jesus, our way, our truth, and our life. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 217 *All Creature of Our God and King*

1. All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing: hallelujah, hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam, soft shining moon with silver gleam,
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
2. O rushing winds and breezes soft, O clouds that ride the winds aloft, sing praises, hallelujah!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice; O lights of evening, find a voice:
sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
3. Earth, ever fertile, day by day brings forth rich blessings on our way: sing praises, hallelujah!
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow, let them God's glory also show:
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
4. And everyone of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part: sing praises, hallelujah!
All who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and yield up all your care:
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
5. Let all things their Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness: sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Blessing

The God of laughter sends you out.

So we can share joy with everyone.

The Brother of the poor sends you out.

So we may bring hope and healing to the broken and despairing.

The Spirit of wonder sends you out.

So we may join all creation in offering thanks.

Postlude

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