

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
October 18, 2020 – “What does Love look like?”
Loving those who don't think like me

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, September 27th

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

Prelude

Welcome

Welcome – both people in sanctuary and those at home joining worship through our video. This is holy ground we worship on, wherever we are. We will be having a Virtual Fellowship time tonight at 7:00.

Now we take time, create space for the holy in our hearts – breathe gently, noticing how you are filled with life-giving oxygen. Let us worship.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

We are worshipping on sacred land. Land that is sacred to the First Peoples of this land. St. Andrew's United Church worships on the traditional territories of the Wahnapiatae First Nation and of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. In 1850, the Robinson Huron Treaty was made, but was never honoured by the colonizing government. It still has not been honoured. We recognize the long history of the First Nations and Métis peoples, we give thanks for their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. Let us, commit ourselves anew to the work of healing, justice and reconciliation.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Remember that scripture passage from last week? God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in (them). (1 John 4:16) “Remain in” also means “settling in for awhile.” As we light this Christ Candle, let us think about all the ways that our Creator's love is shown to us. May we settle into that love, so that as we leave, we might shine with that holy love in all that we do. [light candle]

Call to Worship

The world says:

“Love your neighbours, and hate your enemies.”

But Jesus said,

That's not good enough.

“Love your neighbours.

Love your enemies. Pray for them.”

That's what Jesus said.

Love my enemy?

Love your neighbour. Love your enemy. Pray for them.

What was Jesus trying to teach us?

Perhaps, if we pause and open ourselves to receive, we'll figure that out.

Then let us worship God!

Almighty God, we come to worship acknowledging that our points of view can often be narrow. We see what is in front of us—the easy way or the best way for ourselves, but often paying less attention to the consequences on others. In this worship, open our minds to see how the road less travelled by others might be time-consuming or tedious, but grounded in your infinite love we have the courage to speak and act in transformative ways – blessing us and those around us. We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught...

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: VU 509 *Here I Am, Lord*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Bible Reading (*Allison Desormeaux*)

Matthew 22:15–22

This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew, a story about the Jesus engaging people who thought very differently from him.

...the Pharisees plotted a way to trap him into saying something damaging. They sent their disciples, with a few of Herod's followers mixed in, to ask, "Teacher, we know you have integrity, teach the way of God accurately, are indifferent to popular opinion, and don't pander to your students. So tell us honestly: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Jesus knew they were up to no good. He said, "Why are you playing these games with me? Why are you trying to trap me? Do you have a coin? Let me see it." They handed him a silver piece.

"This engraving—who does it look like? And whose name is on it?"

They said, "Caesar."

"Then give Caesar what is his, and give God what is his."

The Pharisees were speechless. They went off shaking their heads."

May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing in your sight, our Lord, our Rock, and our Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn: MV 89 Love is the Touch

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.
3. Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road:
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.

Message: *Loving those who don't think like me*

Not available at time of printing.

Minute for Mission: *Sharing Circle Lifts Indigenous Voices*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries as well as Healing Fund projects like the weekly sharing circle at St. Matthews Maryland. This community ministry offers health and wellness programs to meet basic needs and help families thrive. One of the programs is a weekly sharing circle led by an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, followed by a simple lunch. One participant describes her experience there:

The Elder opened the sharing circle with a prayer and lit some sage, one of the traditional medicines used by Indigenous peoples. When sage is burned, the smoke cleanses a person's body, mind, and spirit so they can put aside their worries and be present. Also, it is believed that smoke can carry a person's prayers to the Creator. Once the circle opened, we all took turns sharing anything we wanted. The Elder taught us about the Anishinaabe Creation Story, and later we talked about what we learned.

After the sharing circle we had lunch. The bannock was delicious! I was happy to chat with one of the Indigenous participants who was a long way from home on the west coast of British Columbia. She first came to St. Matthews Maryland three years ago looking for services, and the warm reception encouraged her to return for programming. Eventually, she started to volunteer and built her confidence as a helper.

I was grateful to them for providing such a safe place for the participants to build relationships, learn about health issues, and support their goals for health and wellness.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Offering Moment

If you already contribute your time, your treasures towards the many ministries of St. Andrew's and to the United Church of Canada's Mission & Service – THANK YOU. If you are still thinking about being a part God's work here, may you be blessed in your prayerful pondering. 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.

If you have any questions about what we do at St. Andrew's or how you can get involved, please call or email us. You might also ask to be added to our weekly Newsletter email list so you can keep up-to-date on how we make a difference, you, all of us.

Generous God, out of our privilege we give. Out of our longing, we seek your face. Bless these coins, bills/notes, and promises and claim them for yourself, knowing we give them to you happy to release their hold on us. Amen.

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.

Prayers of the Community

Loving and Trusting God, all around us, we are reminded of your abundant love. Teach us the wisdom we need to walk gently on this good earth, trusting your leading, listening for your words of caution, open always to traveling on your good paths.

Thank you for this day, this time, this experience of worship and praise, either here in the sanctuary, or sitting at home in our favourite chairs. Thank you for the rich web of connections that add flavour to our living.

We pray for the faith we need to lean into your grace this week. Be with us in our searching moments, in our times of questioning, in our joy and in our sadness. Remind us of the promises you have given to sustain us and guide us. Help us to trust in those promises that make a good foundation for the living of our days.

Help us to notice. Enable us to look up, look around, pause. Be our thanksgiving.

Help us to care for the ones we meet. Enable us to say a prayer, listen, offer a kindness, wait with a friend. Be our concern.

Help us, that we might be your hands and feet, your voice, your heart, your love, your presence, this very day.

We offer our own prayers, a moment of silence for a thank you, for a plea, for an intercession....

Loving and trusting God, thank you. Jesus our guide, thank you. Spirit our life and our way back to centre, thank you. Amen.

Closing Hymn: MV 161 *I Have Called You By Your Name*

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

2. I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

3. I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

4. I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

Blessing

Go forth now, filled with God's grace.

We will cradle others in God's peace.

Go forth now, with the words that can transform the world.

We will go to speak up for those who are not heard.

Go forth now, taking the Light of God into the world.

We will go into every shadowed corner with hope lighting the way.

Postlude

Call to Worship written by Richard Bott. *Gathering* Pentecost 2, page 35. Used with permission.

Prayer after Call to Worship created/adapted by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, <http://rev-o-lution.org>, October 19, 2014.

Matthew 22:15-22 reading from *The Message* translation, © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson.

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