

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
November 22, 2020 – Stewardship Celebration Sunday

St. Andrew's Sunday

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, November 22.

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

Prelude

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.

Welcome

Welcome – both people in sanctuary and those at home joining worship through our video. 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 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

This morning we offer our gratitude for the land we worship on. We acknowledge that these lands have been cared for and inhabited by many First Nations people from time immemorial to the present. We gather as a treaty people of Robinson-Huron and Williams Treaty people. We acknowledge the Atikemeksheng Anishnawbek and Wahnapiatae First Nation and Métis people who call these territories home. We give thanks for the current and historic contributions these and other Indigenous peoples continue to make and we pray that we may live in peace and friendship, honouring the treaties, seeking justice and walking together in the spirit of reconciliation.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Holy Space is wherever you worship the Creator who seeks us. We light this candle to recognize God's presence here, and where you are.

In every moment, especially we when join within community, virtual or physical – Christ's light shines. Alleluia!

Call to Worship

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Sung Opening Prayer: VU 353 *'Tis the Gift to Be Simple*

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed;
to turn, turn will be our delight
'til by turning, turning, we come round right.

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 227 *For the Fruit of All Creation (vs. 1, 2)*

1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

2. In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

Time up Front

There is a meaning to each of these symbols, these Gifts from God:

- Bells (making a joyful noise to God)
- Oil (blessing and healing)
- Bread, grapes, and chalice (God's banquet table where all are welcome, especially we are called to invite those who feel left out or excluded in life)
- Red scarves – the outreach work we do, scarves to keep people warm, to support our neighbours who cope with HIV/AIDS, and to support our partner Réseau Access in their work with HIV/AIDS positive people locally
- Shortbread – symbolizing our Scottish, Presbyterian heritage at St. Andrew's United Church – and how much we love sweets!

As you see, giving our offerings out of gratitude to God is more than giving money. It includes our own action, our support of helping hands, and our commitment to working together with others to make a better world. True discipleship begins with gratitude, offering ourselves and all we have to God and to one another every day. You see, things you see here cannot be accomplished alone.

No one super person can achieve this independently. Offering gratitude is collective and communal work.

Hymn: VU 227 For the Fruit of All Creation (vs. 3)

3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Scripture Readings (Betty McFarlane)

Isaiah 55: 1-3, 10-13 King James Version

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Luke 14: 15-24 (NIV)

Our second reading offers us teachings of Jesus around holy manners for hosts of banquets, and especially God's radical hospitality.

Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

"When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

"Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

"Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

“The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

“‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

Response Prayer

Loving God, in the ancient words of scripture, we meet you, the word of life. In the gospel stories, you meet us and search our hearts. May your gospel show us how to be just, kind and generous in our living. Amen.

Message

Not available at time of printing.

Hymn: MV 171 *Christ Has No Body Now but Yours*

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

1. No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

2. No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

3. No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
to walk this world with mercy and justice.
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the children of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

4. Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need;
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
with ev'ry gift a benediction, be to the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

Stewardship Moment

Please return your Response Cards that you received in your Stewardship package. The Response Cards are seen only by two people, our Envelope Stewards. The information on the cards helps us to plan the work that we can do to care for the vulnerable and bring Good News and healing to our community and world.

Offering Moment

Thank you. Simply said, thank you. If you also offer yourself, your time and talent, towards God's work here at St Andrew's – thank you. Thank you even more for taking time to fill out this

Response Card, to review what you offer as a partner in ministry here at St. Andrew's – a hearty thank you.

If you are newer here, not quite sure how you would like to contribute, either your money or your volunteer time, take time. Pray about it. Consider what God has done for you in your life, in this world, and whether you would like to commit yourself to God's work at St. Andrew's. Let us know how we can help in your prayerful discernment.

Let us pray: We offer ourselves and our gifts to you on this day of generosity. Whether we feel our gift to be great or small, when we give out of the gratitude of our hearts, it is generosity towards your glory and work. We particularly dedicate today the red scarves to you, God. May you warm the hearts and bodies with these scarves, blessing those who live with HIV/AIDS. 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

We are grateful God, for all the ways you care for us. You bless us with music and give our voices reason to sing your praise. As your people, this day we will day to give voice to the power of your love in our living.

You offer us healing through prayer and you remind us that we are never alone. Thank you for healing, body, mind and spirit.

You fill us with good things, food for our journey, your bread of life. Thank you for an abundance of food that nourishes our bodies. Thank you for reminding us that bread is meant for sharing.

Your love invites us to dream of a world made better. You insist that we care for one another. It is your calling, and also our greatest joy. You give us community. Thank you for this church, St. Andrew's United. Thank you for the stories of faithfulness that we carry from past generations. Thank you for sustaining us through our times of deepest darkness. Thank you for being our way and our truth.

We offer the prayers of our hearts... Some of the names have been recorded on our prayer sheet here in the sanctuary. Others are spoken in our homes where we are watching this service... We pray for...

You bless us and offer your healing. You give us eyes to see and hearts to know the magnitude of your goodness. You call us to dream of a world made better – and so we pray for our neighbourhood schools, for the people in our bubbles, for the vulnerable on the streets, for situations of conflict in the world.

You have given us these people, this church family, to share our time of prayer. Thank you, God, for blessing us beyond imagination. We are grateful for all the ways you care for us now and all the ways you will care for us in the week ahead. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, the one who has invited us to know you as peace and hope, joy and love, mercy and blessing. In his name we pray, Amen.

Hymn: VU 352 *I Danced in the Morning*

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

5. They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Commissioning

May God continue to bless us as we respond to God's call.

Let us share God's abundance, following in the way of Jesus.

Christ called everyone who thirsts to come to the waters.

As Jesus multiplied loaves and fishes, may we invite all whom we meet into God's Banquet of Love.

We will go out in joy and be led back in peace.

As we go out, help us remember that Christ has no body but ours.

Sung Benediction: *Love Your Neighbour*

You gotta love your neighbour who doesn't look like you.
You gotta love your neighbour who doesn't think like you.
You gotta love your neighbour who doesn't love like you.
Loving your neighbour is what you gotta do.

You gotta love your neighbour who doesn't speak like you.
You gotta love your neighbour who doesn't pray like you.
You gotta love your neighbour who doesn't vote like you.
Loving your neighbour is what you gotta do.
No exceptions! (*spoken*)

Postlude

This worship service is adapted from *Called to be the Church: Congregational Giving Program 2020. Loving Our Neighbours*. The United Church of Canada.

Isaiah 55:1-3, 10-13 reading from the King James version of the Bible.

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Response Prayer written by Wendy MacLean. *Gathering*, Pentecost 2, page 41. Used with permission.
