

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
November 8, 2020 – Remembrance Sunday

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, November 8th.

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

Prelude

Hymn: *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator, children all are we;
let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now
with every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

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.

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.

With Remembrance Day approaching once again, even as across the nation people will mark the sacrifice made by those who served in the Armed Forces, we will take time today to reflect on the lives lost – members of the United Church of Canada who have served in every major conflict since our church's formation. We remember, and, we reflect on the peace that our Creator calls us, each of us, to work for so that those sacrifices will not be in vain. Let us worship.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Long before settlers came to this land we call Canada, many nations of people already lived on the land, cared for it. We recognize them as the First Nations. Today, here at St. Andrew's, we are worshipping on the traditional territories both of the Wahnapiitae First Nation and the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. Whose traditional territory are you worshipping on today?

We recognize the long history of our First Nations and Métis peoples in Ontario. 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

As worship begins and we light our Christ candle, let us remember that Jesus came to bring divine peace and light to all people to our world. ***[light candle]***

Call to Worship

On this Remembrance Sunday we gather to pray
for a world where no one will learn war anymore.

On this day when the guns once fell silent,
we gather to pray for peace to reign in every heart, home and nation.

On this day of hope,
we come before you, God, to remember all those who gave their lives so we could enjoy freedom.

In this time of story, song, and prayer, help us to catch a vision of how the world could live together.

And so, let echo the old prayers—make us channels of your peace.

Opening Prayer

O God, today we move to the side of the veterans of every war, of every place and time. And not only to the side of the armed forces but also to the side of everyone innocently caught in the lands of death. Help us, O God. Help us to do everything we can to make this world a place where the engines of death never need to move, and people who drive them can always stand at ease. Help us, O God. We ask it in along with 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.

We Remember, Seeking Peace

In Flanders Fields by John McCrea (read by Tracey Sanders-Ross)

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Words of Remembrance

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

Laying of Wreath (Wayne Wahamaa)

Last Post

2 Minutes of Silence

Rouse

Time up Front

Dave holds up a poppy and asks if anyone recognizes the symbol and knows why we wear it. He asks if anyone has ever lost a poppy. Losing a poppy reminds us how easy it is to forget that freedom and peace are not things that just happen. King George VI said, "Peace and freedom cannot long be separated. Without freedom there can be no enduring peace, and without peace no enduring freedom."

Scripture Readings (*Marian McKnight*)

Micah 4:1-5

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it,

and many nations shall come and say:

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;

but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

For all the peoples walk,

each in the name of its god,

but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God
forever and ever.

John 15:9-17

"As my Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

As we ponder the true meaning of these words from Scripture, may we pray the words of the prophet Amos: let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

Message: *No one has greater love than this*

(Not available at time of printing.)

Response Hymn: VU 684 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

1. Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

2. Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life,
let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

3. Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Minute for Mission: *Planting a Path to Reconciliation*

Twenty-eight years ago when it was founded, Faith United Church in Kingston, Ontario, bought land near Highway 15 with the vision of creating a church building. Meeting in a local high school, they eventually decided to put their energy into being a caring community rather than into a building. Then, during the last year, Faith United began a time of discernment around the land. The members of the congregation felt inspired to walk a path of peace and offer the land as a place of healing.

The church and the Indigenous peoples of Kingston are currently in conversation as they collaborate on how to create a space where all can find healing. Talking over tea and shared meals, they are exchanging ideas on how to come together in friendship. Currently they are considering creating a garden for reflection and reconciliation that contains Indigenous sacred medicine plants.

Thanks to a grant from the Justice and Reconciliation Fund, supported by your gifts for Mission & Service, the Indigenous peoples of Kingston and Faith United Church members are able to move forward.

"We open our eyes now," the Elders and congregation members shared in a report on the initiative. "We aren't blinded by hopefulness and naïveté: we know our vision for this piece of land is grand in size and workload. We also know that when we walk together in a good way, when we root the process in ceremony and healing, we are acknowledging we aren't walking this path alone. Together we can. Together we will. One step along the path of peace." May it be so!

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

There are opportunities to give every day, certainly through gifts of dollars and cents, but also through courageous action, faithful service, and loving devotion. Let us share of ourselves and of what God has so graciously given.

Thank you for all that you do to bless your world and the time and your treasure that you already dedicate to St. Andrew's. If you haven't yet supported us, check out our website, Facebook page

the addresses are at the end of this video. Consider subscribing to our weekly emailed newsletter by emailing Alison at church@st-andrews.ca.

Gracious God, bless these gifts and these givers. May they be used well to foster peace and joy in this world and in the lives of those who cross our paths. May real and lasting change start now, with us, through us, and with God's blessing. 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

*(During the prayer time, the congregation will be invited to offer names into the silence...
As each name is offered, we are invited to respond, saying, "God, hear our prayers....")*

Bring peace into our lives and your world, O God; a deep peace which has your mark upon it. Bring peace to situations of conflict and disagreement, in our homes, in our relationships, between countries, and between those with differing political allegiances. Make your mark upon us by granting vision, so that we might see your truth, and live in new ways.

Bring peace to our schools, to our children, and to the youth of this land. Make your mark by giving us the knowledge that we are called to nurture and strengthen the next generations and encourage our youth to walk in good paths.

Bring peace through change of heart, through actions that lead us to put things to right, through fairness and justice for all. Make your mark by giving us the wisdom of new ways to live together.

Bring peace to veterans, to the victims of war, to the displaced and the refugee, to those who live with nightmares from conflict. Make your mark by bringing peace to mind, peace to action.

Bring peace into our own lives, as we pray for your wisdom to travel in your way. We make our prayers now for our neighbours and the ones we love, calling those people to mind, praying for healing and strength... *(time of silence for people to offer their prayers...)*

As we work together, through our conversations, our words and our actions, point us to generous living; be our light, be our way. Make your mark on us that we will bear witness to the peace that comes to the followers of Jesus, for he is our peace, and our guide. Amen and amen.

Commissioning

And now may the blessing of God be ours as we leave today.
May we use the blessing of peace to calm our troubled spirits
and our troubled world.

As you go into this new week, reach out to others,
show them that God's love for them is everlasting,
that there is peace for them each and every second of every day. Amen.

Benediction Hymn: VU 964 *Go Now in Peace*

Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Postlude

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In Flanders Fields written by John McRae, May 3, 1915.

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