

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
May 16, 2021, 7th Sunday of the Easter Season

Welcome to Worship

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

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

Prelude

Hymn: VU 567 *Will you Come and Follow Me*

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
5. Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome to St. Andrew's United Church, a community of faith that welcomes you here in Sudbury, Ontario.

If you are joining us for the first time today, thank you and welcome. At the end of the service, there will be information about how to contact us – via email, facebook, and even by phone. We also have a Virtual Fellowship time tonight at 7 p.m. hosted by Bev and Diane. Information on how to join this evening's fellowship time is included at the end of the service.

As we prepare to worship, let us take a quiet moment. [silence]

Inviting Holy Light

Remember this beautiful rainbow photo. Rainbows are the wonderful bending of the sun's light by drops of water. We always go outside when it is raining but see sun peaking out. Light shines through the raindrops in special ways and forms colours. It's called refraction – and we do that too with God's love. God's love pours onto us, and when we feel it, are thankful for it. We then pour out that love, like light becomes rainbow colours. We give thanks for Christ light that shines, refracts through us...

[Light candle in silence]

Minute for Right Relations – Meet Autumn Peltier

Autumn Peltier is a 16-year-old Anishinaabe-kwe and a member of the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory on Manitoulin Island. She is a water defender and the chief water commissioner for the Anishinabek Nation. After taking part in a ceremony in a village that had no access to clean, safe drinking water, Autumn was struck by the fact that people her own age didn't even know what a drinking water tap was. She began to take part in a number of water ceremonies across Ontario, inspired by her Great Aunt Josephine Mandamin, who was a water rights activist and founder of Mother Earth Water Walkers and, until her death in February 2019, was the Chief Water Commissioner for the Anishinabek Nation.

Autumn Peltier was nominated for an International Children's Peace Prize multiple times, named as Chatelaine's woman of the year in 2019, and has spoken at the United Nation Climate Action Summit in 2018 and 2019. A movie, *The Water Walker*, was made about Autumn, documenting her powerful journey from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory to New York City as she prepared to speak in front of the United Nations with the hope of preserving the future of Indigenous communities for generations to come.

Autumn continues to advocate and give voice to the right to clean, safe water in Indigenous communities. In 2016, she had been chosen to present the Canadian prime minister with a ceremonial copper water bowl to symbolise his responsibility to protect the country's water. She told the Prime Minister, "I am very unhappy with the choices you've made." Although some progress has been made – 106 advisories have been lifted since November 2015 – there's still a ways to go. There are 52 active long-term water advisories in communities across the country, and activists maintain that clean water should be a priority for the federal government, especially during a global pandemic.

Autumn says "We can't drink money and we can't eat oil. We shouldn't have to pay for water and everyone should have access to clean drinking water all around the world. Keep advocating, keep going and do this for the planet. We do this for the water and we do this for our future!"

How can we help?

- Write a letter to your MP and the Prime Minister's Office urging them to prioritize safe drinking water for First Nations' communities.
- Fundraise or Donate to a water advocacy group such as "Water First" – Check out St. Peter's United Church in Sudbury's initiative.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEiJDiWul58>
- For updated information on where the Government stands with its promise to end drinking water advisories visit Government of Canada's "Water in First Nations' Communities" page.
<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1506514143353/1533317130660>
- Make a personal pledge to reduce your Greenhouse Gas emissions and engage in acts of solidarity with justice-seeking communities. Check out For the Love of Creation.
<https://fortheLoveofCreation.ca/>

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

We gather as a treaty people – here we are part of the Robinson-Huron Treaty made in 1850. We particularly acknowledge the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikemeksheng Anishnabek who call this territory home.

We also give thanks for the current and historic contributions these and other Metis and Indigenous peoples continue to make in our regions.

May we answer Lisa's call and the call of Indigenous neighbours

To take one step, to write, to learn more, to be caretakers of water

In solidarity – steps towards Reconciliation.

Call to Worship

From comfortable pews,
from tricycle seats,
from easy chairs in front of TVs:

**God gathers us in, giving us the
words with which to proclaim the gospel.**

At kitchen sinks,
at laptops and blackboards,
at nursing stations:

**Christ calls us to share
in serving all creation.**

In communities gathered to pray,
in memories of those who served,
in families grilling in the backyard:

The Holy Spirit fills us with God's joy.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray: We at times don't notice, Holy One, but you give us:
time, to think about your Word;
silence, to fill our emptiness;
wisdom, to know the path to follow.

We may not always notice, Risen Christ,
how you have not given just a piece of yourself,
or a portion of your grace, but instead you give all of who you are:
for us – and yet, you regard US as an amazing gift to you!

Nourishing Spirit, you remove fear by simply sitting with us
and holding our hearts; by swirling around us,
pulling us deeper and deeper into love, grace and peace.

Holy Community, Creator, Redeemer, Spirit, transform this space, this moment, and transform us
into something altogether new today.

The Prayer Jesus Taught

Now we pray this along with 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 133 *Jesus Laughed Out Loud (verses 1 & 2)*

1. Jesus laughed out loud to see the children play;
his joyful presence drew a crowd we could not send away.
2. Jesus healed a child by asking her to rise,
and doubtful people wept and smiled to see her open eyes.

Time Up Front

We have almost made it to the end of a strange school year. Nothing feels normal, but we do get reports, teachers tell us how we did. Some of us will get awards for the things we did well at!

There was a guy long, long ago that we had never heard of. Actually two people, Justus and Mattias. You see, among the special followers of Jesus, the disciples, one died – they needed to

elect one to replace the one who died. Mattias and Justus were the ones put forward. We didn't know either of them, Mattias won. Justus didn't get picked.

Shortly after, there was another election of what were called deacons – Justus lost that election too. Ouch!

So Mattias become a disciple, but I've got to say, if you asked me or many people who go to church regularly, we might not remember his name and certainly nothing about what he did. Many of us know Matthew and Luke, James and Peter... no Mattias.

But the unknown heroes helped get the word about Jesus out. We are here thanks to people like Mattias, and other men and women and children.

God seems to use average, un-famous disciples (like us?) to do important work. How do you spread the love of God where you are? There is a lot of complaining, a lot of anger and even hate. Love is so important – so, how can you put love out there? It starts with one action, or one word. A kind gesture, sending a message to people telling them that you are thinking about them. Helping out your mom or dad or grandparent in a surprising way... Making a card to send to someone who is sad...

Will you pray with me this say- after-me prayer:

God of love... make us your disciples today... caring for your world... being kind... spreading love one small action at a time. Amen.

Hymn: MV 133 *Jesus Laughed Out Loud* (verses 4 & 5)

4. Jesus climbed a hill to pray and rest alone;
we wondered why we felt the chill of wind and wood and stone.

5. Jesus called my name when he was passing by;
my life will never be the same; this love will never die.

Scripture Reading (*Natasha Gerolami*)

Choosing an Apostle Based on Acts 1:15–17, 21–26

Peter was feeling impatient. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for something new. And here they were – waiting and praying. Waiting was hard for Peter. He was usually quick to respond to people or events. He was the first to declare that Jesus was the Son of God at the Transfiguration, first to try walking on water to Jesus. Now he was eager to tell about Jesus' being alive in a new way.

“We need to get organized and name someone to replace Judas who betrayed Jesus and is no longer with us,” he thought. “We need twelve disciples to represent the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Then Peter hesitated. Jesus had chosen Judas – how would they choose his replacement? It could not be just anyone. Then the answer came to him, and he stood up to make his announcement.

“Someone who has been with us during all the time that Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken from us – one of these must become a witness with us to Jesus' resurrection.” After much conversation, two names were suggested. Joseph, called Barsabbas, also known as Justus, and Matthias.

How could they choose between them? How would they know which one God would choose? Peter discussed the situation with the others, and they decided God would show them. They would pray and then cast lots.

They prayed, “God, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”

We are not sure exactly how they did it, but perhaps they put a stone representing each man in a jar and shook the jar until one of the stones fell out. When that happened the “lot fell on Matthias.” He was the one who would be an apostle.

The word “apostle” means one who is sent on a mission. Matthias’ mission was to tell and show Jesus alive in a new way.

Holy one, we thank you for all those past and present who have shared their testimony and passed on their sacred stories to us. Help us live as faithful witnesses in our time, and reflect your redemptive love in our word and actions. Spirit of God fall afresh on us today. Amen.

Message: “Who, me?”

Message not available at time of printing.

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.

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer

We lift up to our Creator all the things we have been given, blessings. But we also lift to God today how we refract those blessings by pouring out love and generosity to our family, neighbours, strangers, to our church – by our volunteering of our time and talent – but also praying for situations that touch our hearts, God hears, and also by contributing our treasures, great amounts or small amounts. No gift is small if it comes from our hearts. For all you do to support God’s work, here at St. Andrew’s, towards global work in Mission and Service, towards causes that you are passionate about outside church – THANK YOU

Prayer: As we offer our gifts, remind us that they will be used to heal the broken often lost in the systems we have created, to feed those who don’t have the forms filled out correctly, and to bring hope to those who wander the shadowed alleys of despair. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Dedication 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 Community

God our Creator, we give thanks that we are here, together thanks to technology, but your Spirit knits us together as a Body of Christ nonetheless. Thank you for life in all its wonder, for this day. We come with praise, and in hope for renewal. We give thanks for you for your Community, the cloud of saints today who live out your love now, and for the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us.

We lift our hurts, our disappointments, our need for your comfort and healing touch. We come with our hopes, and our dreams, needing your wisdom to discern the wishes as well as the yearnings that come from your vision for us.

God hear our prayer,

and in your love, answer.

We come seeking guidance for decisions about our relationships and vocational choices. We come with concerns about our health or the health of others. We come in grief about the losses in our lives.

God hear our prayer,

and in your love, answer.

Hear us, O God, as we pray for our families, our neighbours, community, and our global community needing your Love; we place them in your hands. We pray for those who Jesus called blessed: those who are the poor in spirit, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, those who show mercy, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers.

We pray for those who grieve, who have dreams but cannot find safe housing, food, the love and support of others.

God hear our prayer,

and in your love, answer.

God we particularly pray today for the people of Palestine and Israel, where people who have the least power end up being in the most danger, and those with greatest power unwilling to push for just and sustainable peace to that land. We pray for our leaders, local and global, that they might be granted your vision, your wisdom, to heal Creation, to care for the most vulnerable, to make Love the yardstick of success rather than money.

God hear our prayer,

and in your love, answer.

We pray, finally, for those who are particularly on our hearts and minds this morning. People or situations close to us or distant – situations of joy, but we lift up also situations of pain, of uncertainty, of loss. We name those now to you in this silent moment...

We know what is required of us, and we pray in faith in your power, in hope for your Kin-dom, and in love for one another. Amen.

Closing Hymn: MV 40 Never Ending Joy

Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy.

1. God of every tribe, every language, God of every river and sea,
God of every mountain and island, you bring joy to me.

Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy.

2. God of every hill, every valley, God of every leaf, every tree,
God of every cloud, every raindrop, you bring joy to me.

Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,

never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy.

3. God of every song, every story, God of every captive set free,
God of every dance, every footstep, you bring joy to me.

Blessing

From the comfort of this place,
to the discomfort of discipleship,
we will go to serve your people, Loving God.

Weeding community gardens which feed the hungry,
tutoring children after school,
we will go to wrap others in your grace, Jesus our Brother.

Listening to the stories of the ignored,
learning the language of our newest neighbors,
we will go to discover the truth you share in every moment, Spirit of Wisdom.

Benediction Hymn: VU 424 *May the God of Hope*

1. May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

2. May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude

Call to Worship, Blessing, and Opening Prayer © Thom M. Shuman, May 13, 2018.
lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

Time up Front from worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2015/03/year-b-seventh-sunday-of-easter-may-17.html with Carolyn Brown

Scripture Reading, Choosing an Apostle, based on Acts 1:15–17, 21–26, from *Seasons of the Spirit, Fusion*. Easter 4 B. ©2021 Wood Lake Books Inc.

Minute for Right Relations submitted by Lisa Blais, on behalf of the CSRC Right Relations Resource Team.

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