

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

May 30, 2021, Trinity Sunday

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 595 *We Are Pilgrims*

1. We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
2. Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome to St Andrew's United Church, a community of faith 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

Holy Spirit, dance your light into the corners of our lives:
when we are cold, bring us warmth;
when we are afraid, bring us comfort;
when we are lost, brighten the path;
when we are unsure, mark the way;
when we are in need, come into our presence.
Come, Creator, Redeemer and Spirit, come!
[Light candle in silence]

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Here we are worshiping on the traditional land to First Peoples. Across Turtle Island Treaties were made between colonizers and those who had lived on the land for millennia. Here at St. Andrew's we give thanks to the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikemeksheng Anishnabek who call this territory home, and share the caretaking of this land with them. We give thanks for the current and historic contributions that Indigenous and Metis peoples have made. May we journey and act together towards Reconciliation.

Call to Worship

God, who flung the stars into the night sky,
rejoices over all creation, especially us!

**Come to us, Laughing God, and gladden
our hearts with your goodness and grace.**

Christ, the Word of joy and life,
fills all creation with hope, especially us!

**Come to us, Brother and Saviour, and reclaim
our hearts as your own.**

The Spirit, who breathes life into emptiness,
gives all creation the gift of peace, especially us!

**Come to us, Spirit of Gentleness, and refresh us
with the dew of delight.**

Opening Prayer

Let us pray: Living God, you have led us to this place to be transformed by your love. Let us open ourselves through the power of your Spirit that our hearts and our lives may be transformed into the image of Jesus the Christ...

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: VU 315 *Holy, Holy, Holy, vs. 1*

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Time Up Front

So, this is Trinity Sunday. The “tri” part of trinity meaning 3. We have this mystery in Christianity, it’s not really in the Bible, but it’s important. Trinity – God (our Creator), Christ, and the Holy Spirit – they are different, but they are all one. Say Whaaaat?

You will often hear in church – in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, or the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. That is another way of saying the Trinity.

God – see that hand at the top of the cool picture, that is God.

Down below are two other pictures

One side a cross, well that is Christ or God’s son

On the other side is a bird, a dove and fire, that is Spirit.

They are all different but connected as a community.

This is a picture of the Walker family in Missouri in the United States. In COVID time, they are one of those many full households with multiple generations living together. Mrs. Walker, smiling proudly in the centre of all that love, she has different roles: She is a wife to Mr. Walker. That’s important to Mr. Walker. Mr. Walker is a mother to her children – Momma to her kids, that’s an important role. She is also a grandma, or mamere – that is super important to the grandchildren. The same important, powerful, wise woman. Different roles.

God has different roles in our life, depending on what is needed. Wisdom, comfort, encouragement, even a little kick in the backside when we need it.

Creator (Mother or Father)...

Christ the Son who walks with us ...

and the Spirit that inspires us. Happy Trinity Sunday everyone.

Hymn: VU 315 *Holy, Holy, Holy, vs. 4*

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Scripture Readings (*Genevieve Gibbons*)

Psalm 29: 3-9

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.
The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
God makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

Isaiah 6: 1-8 (*Genevieve Gibbons, Jen Bruneau, Sue Nykilchyk, Rev. Dave*)

Narrator: (Suzanne)

The story of the calling of the prophet Isaiah.

In the same year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a grand throne way up high with a flowing cape that filled the whole temple. Bright flaming creatures waited on Him. Each had six wings: two covering its face, two covering its feet, and two for flying. Like some fiery choir, they would call back and forth continually.

Flaming Creatures: (Dave)

Holy, holy, holy is the Eternal, the Commander of heavenly armies!
The earth is filled with His glorious presence!

They were so loud that the doorframes shook, and the holy house kept filling with smoke.

Isaiah: (Genevieve)

I am in so much trouble!
I'm just a human being—fallible and stammering.
My lips are unclean; and I live among people just like me.
But here I am, and I've seen with my very own eyes
none other than the Eternal One, Leader of heavenly angels.

Narrator:

Then one of the flaming creatures flew to me holding a red-hot ember which it had taken from God's table, the temple altar, with a pair of tongs. The creature held it to my lips.

Flaming Creature:

Look! With the touch of this burning ember on your lips,
your guilt is turned away;
All your faults and wrongdoings are forgiven.

Isaiah:

Then I heard the Lord's voice.

Eternal One: (Jen)

Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us?

Isaiah:

Here I am! Send me.

Eternal One:

Go to this people and say,

“Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
Keep looking, but do not understand.”

Make their hearts hard, their ears deaf, and their eyes blind.

Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears,
Understand with their hearts, and then turn and be healed.

Isaiah:

How long, Lord?

Eternal One:

Until cities are in ruins, the houses sit empty,
and the land has become a wasteland.

You see, the Eternal has determined to move the people far away; place after place will be completely abandoned.

Imagine a terebinth or an oak;
once it is cut down, the stump remains.
The holy seed remains in the stump.

(Genevieve) Let us pray: Holy Trinity, Creator, Sustainer and Spirit. We know you as unity, we see you in your diversity, and we experience you in your mystery. We are drawn into the intimacy of your love. May your Word enliven, enlighten our hearts and minds about how we can be refractions of your divine love. Amen.

Message: “Post-pandemic. Post-Pentecost!”

Message not available at time of printing.

Hymn: MV 27 Creator God You Gave Us Life

1. Creator God you gave us life,
your image formed within our souls,
yet through the mist of time and space,
we search for that which makes us whole.

Through hands that paint majestic skies,
and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.

2. In ev'ry flow'r and ev'ry tree,
we see your great diversity,
yet greater still we see your love,
expressed in our humanity.

Through hands that paint majestic skies,
and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.

3. When with our hearts, our hands, our minds,
we share our gifts with all the world,
our spirits soar beyond the veil,
to touch the very face of God.

Through hands that paint majestic skies,
and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.

Minute for Mission (Genevieve Gibbons)

Outdoor Ministry Supports Well-Being in Children

No children have died falling out of a tree, at least not in the 17 years statistics have been gathered. In fact, the leading cause of death of children is car accidents. While some parents fear letting their children play outside, the same parents think nothing of strapping their children into a car.

Over the last 35 years, attitudes have shifted. Increased screen time, along with fears about playground injuries and child abduction, mean that only a third of Canadian school-aged children get the exercise they need. As a result, childhood obesity, anxiety, and depression have soared.

Getting outside is good for our kids.

That's why the United Church runs camps across the country. Today, your [Mission & Service](#) donations support approximately 25 United Church camps in Canada.

Overall, approximately 20,000 children attend a United Church camp each year. In COVID times, many of these camps have [pivoted to continue offering services](#) and encourage kids to get outside.

On Environment Sunday, we often focus on what we can do to reduce our personal footprint and to advocate for changes to social policies, particularly ones that impact climate change. Without a doubt, we need to do more to care for the world God made.

But Environment Sunday is also a good time to stop and appreciate how the created world takes care of us. As [Bill Darnell](#), one of the founders of Greenpeace says: "The environment doesn't need us. It can get along without us. We need it."

Let's pause today and give thanks for all the ways the natural world sustains us, and especially our children. Specifically, we give thanks for the confidence, creativity, and imagination nature builds. For the sense of responsibility it creates. For the stimulation it provides. For the mental and physical health it promotes. For the wonder it inspires.

And we give thanks for all of our camps. And for you. Thank you for supporting outdoor ministries through [Mission & Service](#). Your gifts help our children—and all of us—breathe more deeply.

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer

I invite wherever you are, to hold in your heart what you are giving – to church, into your living today and in this coming week – hold that out, physically, prayerfully. It is a time to count blessings, I know that we face challenges, health issues, money issues, we offer that to our Creator too. But those blessings, count them... one, two, three. Find your place of gratitude as you now offer your treasures – giving towards God's work in church, in your everyday life.

Thank you for your generosity to God's Church, locally and globally, and for all you will do this week to make this world kinder, and more generous in spirit and love. If you would like to join me, as you think about what you plan to give, to church, of yourself to God this coming week, we can hold our hands out, offering...

Let us pray: God of community, God of Trinity, you model community in your self-giving and unconditionally loving nature. As we bring these offerings before you, we pray that you would use them for your purposes that your glory would be shown in every area of our world. 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

Out of the chaos at creation you brought order. When creatures had been formed, you made humanity the caretakers of what you had made. We pray now for those places around our world where there are wildfires, famines, deforestation, drought, hurricanes, earthquakes, intense heat, and rampant disease. God of creation, bring healing and restoration to your world. May we be faithful in our call to care for our world.

You told us that we would see your image reflected the faces of the poor and marginalized. Christ, you called us to have a special care for the most vulnerable because when we care for them, we care for you. We acknowledge that we have not lived out that calling. We hold in our hearts today those who are struggling in our society and our church. We pray for those who do not have enough to eat, those who are without shelter, and those struggling with an illness or who are facing death. God, you who enfleshed yourself among us, help us to work with you to bring comfort, work for justice, and provide for the needs of those around us.

We particularly pray for...

You have called your church, diverse as the colours of a rainbow in skin colour, language, life experience, to follow in the way of Christ and serving your Kin-dom. Be with the faithful who face challenges, those, including us, who have become distracted from their mission, those who are facing internal divisions, and those who are struggling to make ends meet. Send a fresh flame of your Spirit so that we may proclaim your good news and embody your love in the world.

Empowering God, may your kingdom come, an order on earth your vision as in heaven, where the blessed are the least among us. Infuse us with a fresh passion and love for all of Creation. Amen

Closing Hymn: MV 28 *God of the Bible*

1. God of the Bible, God in the Gospel, hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our centre, daylight or darkness, freedom or prison, you are our home.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

2. God in our struggles, God in our hunger, suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit, feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

3. Those without status, those who are nothing, you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice, birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

4. Not by your finger, not by your anger will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful, small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

5. Hope we must carry, shining and certain through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other, till our world changes facing the Cross.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

Blessing

God our Life sends us out in these moments.

**We will go to bind ourselves to those who hunger,
to those who search for a home.**

God our Hope sends us out in these moments.

**We will go to bind ourselves to those who live in the shadows,
to those who long for companionship.**

God our Peace sends us out in these moments.

**We will go to bind ourselves to those who are forgotten,
to embrace those who are pushed aside by hate and anger.**

As we leave this place where we have encountered God's presence, let us go cleansed by God's grace, empowered by God's call, and committed to being God's agents of grace and love; knowing that we do not work alone for we do it in Christ's name and with power of God – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

Benediction Hymn: MV 144 *Like a Healing Stream* (vv. 1 & 4)

1. Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth...
like a healing stream.

4. Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

Postlude

Call to Worship and **Offering Prayer** written by Thom M. Shuman. lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com © May 2018.

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