

**SHARED SUMMER WORSHIP: ST. MARK'S, ST. PETER'S
AND ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCHES**

August 22, 2021

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: MV 1 *Let Us Build a House*

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome to the shared summer worship hosted by St. Peter's, St. Mark's and St. Andrew's United Churches, here in Sudbury, Ontario. Welcome Tracey Le Grand, who will be leading our music this morning. We are so blessed in this time as we search for a music director at St. Andrew's to have such talented musicians like Tracey to bless our worship. Thank you also Alison and Jacqueline Warner-Smith who will be our readers today.

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

We light this candle to help us remember that God is with us; we are not alone. *[light the candle]*

We are held always in the warmth and wonder of God's love.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Here we are worshipping 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 Anishnawbek 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 Métis peoples have made. May we journey and act together towards Reconciliation.

Call to Worship

We come to worship God who is present in the nest built by a bird and in glorious clouds.

We come to worship God, who provides sunshine and shelter.

We come to worship God who cannot be contained by the universe,
but who is also alongside us.

Let us enter fully into worship.

Opening Prayer

God our dwelling place, be close to us as we join together in worship. May our worship time be one of the ways we "get dressed," one of the ways we get ready for our tasks so we will be equipped and protected, as together we work and walk with you.

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 345 Come, Children, Join to Sing, vv. 1 and 2

1. Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah! Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!
Let all with heart and voice, saved by God's gracious choice,
now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!

2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah! Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!
Christ call his people friends, the helpless he defends,
a love that never ends: Hallelujah!

Time Up Front - Letters

For thousands of years, letters have been written:

To Encourage

To Challenge

To Celebrate special days

To let one another know that others are thinking of them

To remind a person that God is there for us when we feel distressed...

Hymn: VU 345 Come, Children, Join to Sing, v. 3

3. Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!
Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!
The whole creation o'er let all God's love adore,
singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

Scripture Readings (Alison & Jacqueline Warner-Smith)

This is a paraphrase from a letter from Paul to the Ephesian church, set in a time when wars and persecution were prevalent, and the language of armour gave comfort:

What then shall we wear as we set ourselves the task of living in God? How shall we defend ourselves from those who wish us harm and would diminish the way of love? Fasten truth around your waist and cover your heart with the breastplate of righteousness. Let your shoes be ones that

offer strong support as you walk the path of peace. When you feel you are attacked, put up a shield of faith and don the protective helmet of salvation.

Your defence is the Spirit and the word of God; these things are more powerful than any evil force. Let the Spirit be with you and within you as you pray, no matter what your petition might be. In fact, pray always; pray for all the saints, and also pray for me. As I am bound in chains, it is hard to be bold, yet I seek to speak the mystery of the gospel of the risen Christ with all my strength when it is given to me. Pray that I will be able to undertake this task.

St. Patrick's Breastplate

St. Patrick's breastplate builds up a multi-layered image reminding us of God's care and protection. It also invokes that care as we see Christ active in ourselves, our relationships, and the wider world.

VOICES 1 AND 2: Christ be with me

VOICE 1: Christ within me

VOICE 2: Christ beside me

VOICE 1: Christ to win me

VOICE 2: Christ to comfort and restore me

VOICE 1: Christ beneath me

VOICE 2: Christ above me

VOICE 1: Christ in quiet

VOICE 2: Christ in danger

VOICE 1: Christ in hearts of all who love me

VOICE 2: Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger.

Let us pray: God, walking your way requires a particular kind of footwear – shoes in which we can march for justice, run faithfully, stride through rocky terrain, step tenderly, and dance joyfully. Guide us in our choice of shoes. Amen.

Message: "God's P.P.E. – an uncomfortable fit"

Message will be posted on the website when it is available.

Hymn: VU 402 We Are One, vv. 1, 2, and 4

1. We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace as we meet together in this place.

2. We are one as we share, as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand there's a sense that God is here.
We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace as we pray together in this place.

4. We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways as we move together from this place.

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer

Gratitude ... Generosity.

It is a primal rhythm inspired by faith, isn't it? First, we feel thankful for all that we are given, on loan from our Creator for this journey of life. Out of that sense of gratitude, we are motivated to be generous with who we are and what we have. Can you connect with that rhythm in you?

Thank you for being here today. I invite you to hold your hands out in front of you like this... Think about the things you are grateful for. Consider what ways you would like to be generous today and this week. Thank you for what you do. If you support causes in your community, love your neighbours. If you give locally to St. Mark's, St. Peter's or St. Andrew's, the churches that share in this worship, feeding God's ministries locally... Thank you.

Thank you for your time, your prayers and your donations! If you give to the larger holy work of God through our United Church of Canada by donating to Mission and Service, thank you for that too! You will find links to the different church websites at the end of this worship, so you can learn about what we are up to and how you can help.

Let us pray: May these simple gifts transform into shoes for those who have none, into clothes for kids heading off to school, into faith, hope, peace, and grace for all of your children, Holy God. 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

Strong, loving God, we pray with those we worship alongside, thankful that we gather together with you.

Remind us to trust in you.

We pray with those who seek a place of peace and love in you to settle.

Remind us to trust in you.

We pray with those who travel, who find strength for their journey in you.

Remind us to trust in you.

We pray with those who ask you to hear their prayer.

Remind us to trust in you.

We pray with those who seek to do the right thing, to live upright lives.

Remind us to trust in you.

In faith, we bring to you now the people and situations that move us, even bring us to tears...
(situations like Haiti, Afghanistan, people displaced because of forest fires near and far...)

God, hear our prayers,
and in your love, answer. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 278 *In the Quiet Curve of Evening*

1. In the quiet curve of evening, in the sinking of the days,
in the silky void of darkness, you are there.
In the lapses of my breathing, in the space between my ways,
in the crater carved by sadness, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

2. In the rest between the phrases, in the cracks between the stars,
in the gaps between the meaning, you are there.
In the melting down of endings, in the cooling of the sun,
in the solstice of the winter, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

3. In the mystery of my hungers, in the silence of my rooms,
in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.
In the empty cave of grieving, in the desert of my dreams,
in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

Blessing

To whom should we go, Holy God, now that worship is done?

We will go to nurture others with grace.

Where should we go, Holy One of God,
now that the songs have been sung?

**We will go to serve those around us,
for you are the Word of hope all need.**

Why should we go from this space,
gracious Spirit, where we find life?

**We will go to gather who are lonely,
all who hunger for community.**

Benediction Hymn: VU 884 *You Shall Go Out with Joy*

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap, clap*)
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap, clap*)
the trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap, clap*)
while you go out with joy. (*Repeat full hymn*)

Postlude

Inviting Holy Light from <http://www.highriverunitedchurch.org/>

Call to Worship and **Opening Prayer** from *Seasons of the Spirit, Fusion*, Pentecost 2. © 2021 Wood Lake Books Inc.

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Paraphrase from Ephesians 6, a short **paraphrase of St. Patrick's Breastplate**, **Prayer of Response** and **Prayers of the Community** from *Seasons of the Spirit, Fusion*. Pentecost 2. ©2021 Wood Lake Books Inc.

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