

**SHARED SUMMER WORSHIP: ST. MARK'S, ST. PETER'S
AND ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCHES
July 4, 2021, Sacrament of Communion**

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 178 *Who Is My Mother*

1. Who is my mother, who is my brother? All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit-blown people born from the Gospel sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.
2. Differently abled, differently labelled, widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas, all come together round Jesus Christ.
3. Love will relate us, colour or status can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:
family failings, human derailings, all are accepted round Jesus Christ.
4. Bound by one vision, met for one mission we claim each other round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother, kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen!

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome to St. Andrew's United Church, a community of faith in Sudbury, Ontario. It is summer, my friends. Next week also marks the beginning Pride Week in Sudbury – so happy pride to all my dear friends from and allies of those of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and 2 Spirited community.

St. Peter's United Church will be holding their Annual Pride Week Worship Service on Sunday, July 18. This service is hosted by St. Peter's, led by Rev. Gerry Copeman and St. Peter's Affirm Committee members. This service will be posted on their YouTube channel. The link to this service was sent out with the NEWS on Thursday, or you may search for "St. Peter's United Church Sudbury YouTube."

Today is Communion Sunday and all are welcome. All you need is yourself, and your "elements" that represent the bread and cup – it could be a rice cake or toast and juice or your morning tea and coffee. When we bless it together, they become sacred.

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

While listening to the music, you are invited to reflect on the images. You may also close your eyes and take a few intentional deep breaths, slowing your mind down and opening your heart to what God's Spirit has to say to you today, centring yourself in this place. *[silence]*

On this ordinary Sunday in July, we remember Jesus Christ, the light of our world. *[light the candle]*

I invite you to join me as we open our hands, our hearts, our spirits, in whatever way feels real for you.

Let us open ourselves to our Creator:

God is here with us. We open our hearts to the Living One.

Let us thank God for all that is good.

We thank you, God of Creation.

We celebrate your goodness, and we open our hearts to worship you.

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 Métis peoples have made. May we journey and act together towards Reconciliation.

Call to Worship

You awaken the sun, O God, to guide us into the new day:

Your name, O God, like your praise, sings in every person.

You speak your Word, O God, to guide us into your kin dom:

Your hope, O God, like your joy, echoes in every soul.

You guide us to those who are looking for you:

Your love, O God, like your name, fills the emptiness of every heart.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray: The rumbling of thunder in the distance, the shade of an oak tree in the back yard, the laughter of children splashing in the pool, the stars glittering on a moonless night: all the gifts of the universe fill us with delight in every moment. Broken, you touch us to make us whole; tear-stained, you share our pain and struggles; source of peace, you replace our bitterness with hope; make our hardened hearts as soft as a baby's breath. Creator, Sustainer, Spirit, thank you for making this space, this moment holy as we seek your transformation. Amen.

Time up Front

Do you know about the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly? When my family ventures into the woods, we cannot pass a caterpillar. There are many in spring and even around now, preparing for their big change, a metamorphosis. As things change around us, our communities opening up, I think we, as we come out our doors, rub our eyes, we are undergoing a bit of a metamorphosis too! (Time-lapsed video showing a caterpillar changing into a Monarch butterfly.)

Life is always about transitions – changes from one thing to another. Jesus was the same. He went to his hometown after a long time away. All people didn't like the changes that happened to him. He wasn't small and cute. He also had some ideas that kind of challenged older people, his elders. You, I, all of us are always growing, changing. It is awesome, it fills me with awe, to think of what God does in us. Be thankful for change, even though it's tough too. Amen.

Scripture Readings (Kathy Brankley)

Let us offer praise and thanksgiving with the help of *Psalm 48*. Please join me, as we responsively say:

Great is God, and greatly to be praised in a city of our God.

**Fair and lofty is God's holy mountain;
it is the joy of all the earth.**

We remember your steadfast love,
O God, as we gather in your temple.

Your name, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

Go in procession around the circuit of Zion,
count the number of its towers,
Take note of its ramparts, examine its citadel,
So that you may tell the next generation:
Such is our God, our guide forever. Amen.

Mark 6: 1-13 “Jesus returns home”

The second reading is a *paraphrase* of the passage from *Mark, chapter 6, verses 1-13* – entitled “Jesus returns home”

Wow! Who is this guy?” they whispered. “I heard he can perform miracles; I heard he can heal the sick.”

“Well, I heard he works on the Sabbath!” Jesus had just finished preaching at the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. It had been a long time since he had been home and he was excited to bring his disciples with him to the place where he grew up. He had been looking forward to seeing his family and catching up with old friends, all while sharing the good news of God. But soon, a new whisper went around the crowd.

Someone said, “Wait – this is Jesus! You know, the carpenter’s son! Remember him? I know some of his sisters.”

Then another spoke up, “Why does he think he is so special? He’s just one of us!”

“Yeah,” added another, “We don’t have to listen to him; let’s go home.” The crowd dispersed, mumbling, and Jesus was left alone with his disciples. The disciples looked warily at Jesus. Surely he would be disappointed, angry even, that the people in his hometown didn’t take him seriously.

But Jesus sighed deeply. “Funny,” he chuckled, “people come from all over Galilee to hear me talk about God, but the people here still see me as a 12-yearold, reading in the temple.” He shook his head. “I guess they aren’t ready yet.” And because the people didn’t believe, Jesus found he could do only a few miracles there, healing a few of the sick. Jesus then moved on to the next village.

Along the way, Jesus smiled at his disciples and said, “I want you to travel to villages and help me show and tell the people about God’s love.”

The disciples looked at each other and shook their heads. They were full of questions, “What if people won’t listen to us like they didn’t listen to you in Nazareth? To what villages will we go? What will we take with us?”

“You don’t need to take anything with you; no food or money will be needed. Just go, and in each village find a home that will welcome you for as long as you need to stay there. If you find people won’t listen to you, don’t get angry. Just dust off your sandals and move on to the next village, like I did.”

The disciples did as Jesus asked, healing the sick and spreading the word to all who chose to listen and believe.

Let us pray:

Surprising and confounding God, illumine your word to us this day. As we ponder its meaning for us and our work, let it come not as a familiar friend easily forgotten, but as a new spring of water for parched souls. Amen.

Message

Message not available at time of printing.

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer

Generosity has to come from the heart. Deep down, we feel it. Not giving, volunteering, caring about someone, because we are told to. We do it because we love doing it. It also starts with a sense of being blessed, thankful! How are you doing with gratitude and generosity these days? Not quite there yet? That's ok, we are works in progress.

Thank you for what you do. If you support causes in your community, love your neighbours, even the tough-to-love ones. Thank you. 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!

Let us pray: As we have heard, so we have seen God's compassion in our lives. As we have seen, so we will live, offering our gifts to God, so others might know God's steadfast love is present with them in every moment. Amen.

Offering Hymn: VU 575 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*, vv. 1-3

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
2. I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Sacrament of Communion

May the God of steadfast love be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, offer your hearts to God.

We open our hearts to the One who fills them with grace.

Children of God, sing your praises
to the One who has gathered us here.

Our songs of joy travel to the very ends of creation.

It was you, Imaginative God, who whispered
and the rumble of creation shook the rafters of chaos.
Mighty trees graced valleys with shade,
stars glittered in moonless nights,
children splashed in the pools of hope.
Every delight was crafted so we might know
of that love which would last forever.

When we could not have our way,
we took offense at your hopes for us,
choosing to follow our individual wants.
Seeing our crafty rebellion, you continued to love us,
longing to shelter us in your heart.
When we continued to dishonour your prophets,
when we would not welcome their words,
you sent Jesus to become that weakness
strong enough to destroy sinful systems
of thought and action in our world.

So, we join our voices with all who praise you,

to the edges of the universe.

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of enduring love.
All the gifts of creation delight in you.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One whose weakness is our hope.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, God of all goodness and truth,
and blessed is Jesus, your Child, our Savior.
It was he who came, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh,
with words which could transform our foolishness;
his weakness which strengthened our fatigued faithfulness.
Yet, we were offended by his life, his ways, his humility.
He continued to listen to you, going wherever you sent him -
no glory, no wealth, no honor - even to that place called Calvary
where sin's thorns crowned him.
Your grace was enough for him, even in the cold shadows of the tomb,
and he walked forth into your steadfast love,
leaving death behind in the dust.

On the night before he died
it was Jesus who took a loaf of bread,
gave you thanks, broke it, and said,
"Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me."
Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,
"This is the new covenant; remember me."

As we remember his calling us to follow,
as we seek to be sent forth to serve,
we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

**Christ came, to shape our lives like his;
Christ came, to be our Guide forever;
Christ will come again, to gather us in glory.**

Prayers of the Community

We thank you for journeying with us, Christ Jesus, and for setting an example of resilience in times of trial. Travelling this road is not easy. We admit we'd rather play it safe than risk rejection as your messengers in our lives. Grant us the strength to be resilient, unfaltering, and determined to become the people you have called us to be. We dream of being leaders with heart and humility, strength and tenacity, servants - not tyrants - following you, our model.

Help us to be courageous in times of trial, as the apostle Paul reminds us, when we admit our weakness, we discover your strength.

Change our hearts and lives, O God, we pray.

When the world's leaders fail to act justly, give them wisdom and courage. Give us conviction to speak love when others might be hardened in heart.

Change our hearts and lives, O God, we pray.

When your church falters in its efforts on your behalf, renew our spirits and our determination.

Change our hearts and lives, O God, we pray.

When we second-guess our ability to respond when you call, restore our sense of purpose.

Change our hearts and lives, O God, we pray.

When our plans run face great hurdles, and our offers of help are refused,
Send us back on the road, Lord Jesus, for your sake.

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.

So now, in this place where we have heard your promises,
among these people in whom we have seen the Christ,
pour your Spirit upon the gifts of this your Table.

The broken Bread of life
is all we need of hope for filled, we can go forth
to anoint the lost and hopeless with the oil of your compassion.

[breaks bread]

Your Cup of grace overflows,
more than we will ever need, and more than enough to bring healing
to those who have known only hardship, rejection, and loneliness.

[lifts Cup]

And when at the end of all time, we discover that it was you who
had led us all along the way and brought us to the Table in glory,
we will join our voices as one,
singing our praise to you,
God in Community, Holy in One,
even as we unite in praying as we are taught,
Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray: thank you, Resurrected One, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. We are now commissioned to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 586 *We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection*

1. We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.

We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.

2. We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.

We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,

including all in circles of our love.

Blessing

Strap on your sandals and hit the road, my friends.

Shake off the dust of your complacency.

We walk with a friend and travel light.

We go, proclaiming Christ's message of healing and hope.

Go, declaring that hearts and lives can change!

Keep going, because Christ gives you authority.

Go in the name of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Just go!

Let's go!

Benediction Hymn: VU 575 *I'm Gonna Live...*, v. 4

4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Postlude

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Offering Prayer and Communion Liturgy written by Thom M. Shuman. lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com © July 8, 2018.

Words while **lighting the Christ Candle** written by Sandra Litt. *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, page 38. Used with permission.

Time up Front video: Video and Production by Jerry Jackson, The Baltimore Sun.

Psalm 48 adapted from *Voices United* pp. 772, 773. ©1996 The United Church Publishing House.

Prayers of Community, Mark 6:1-13 Scripture Reading, Prayer after Scripture and Blessing from *Seasons of the Spirit, Fusion*. Pentecost 1. © 2021 Wood Lake Books Inc.

Thank you to Tracey LeGrand for her musical leadership. Thank you to Kathy Brankley for reading the scriptures. Thank you to Jen Bruneau and Sue Nykilchyk for their assistance with obtaining graphics for the worship service PowerPoint presentation.
