

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**September 12, 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](mailto:sketchingalong4@gmail.com) to get the Zoom link.

**Prelude**

**Hymn: MV 106 I Am the Dream**

1. I am the dream and you the dreamer.  
I am the song and you are the rhyme.  
You are the tune sung in ev'ry silence.  
You are the now in the endless stream of time.
2. I am the bell and you the silence.  
You are the yearning I cannot curtail.  
I am the blest and you the blessing.  
You are the wilds in which I lose my trail.
3. You are the word and I the echo.  
You are the leader and I am the led.  
You are the joy and I the laughter.  
You are the Rock on which I lay my head.

**Welcome & Announcements**

Welcome to St. Andrew's United Church, here in Sudbury, Ontario. Welcome to you online, many of you live thanks to the grace of live streaming. Welcome also to you who are, distanced and following COVID protocols, here worshipping in the sanctuary!

In the sanctuary, if you don't already have your communion cup, there is a place at the entrance where you are welcome to leave your offering and to pick up your Communion element. At home, get your elements ready – a cup of something and a bread to take, whether muffin, toast or rice cake.

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**

I invite you to join me as we open our hands, our hearts, our spirits, in whatever way feels real for you... *[Dave gestures - open hands]*

Let us together light this candle to symbolize Christ-presence and love with us.

**Nurturing Safe Space**

We as Christ's Community seek to nurture among us safe place that welcomes and includes all people, that all can participate in the life and work of the regional council regardless of age, ability, race, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

For thousands of years, people have walked this land, cared for it, long before colonizers called it Canada. In this space, we give thanks for the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikemeksheng Anishnaabeg and the Métis people Who have been stewards of this land. We covenant to share that stewardship responsibility, and to work towards Reconciliation.

## Call to Worship

Every day, God calls out to God's world in love.

Today, at this moment, we are invited to pause, and listen... [silence]

Come, celebrate. God is calling your name, and mine.

## Opening Prayer

**God, we are here to worship. We are here to listen. We are here to know. We are here to be known. You know me, (name), help me today to know you more fully. Amen.**

## Hymn VU 679 *Let There Be Light, vs. 1*

1. Let there be light, let there be understanding,  
let all the people gather, let them be face to face.

## Prayer for Grace

This prayer will invite us all to take stock of our spiritual lives. Between you and your Creator, how are you doing. Questions are offered to invite prayerful, silent reflection.

Gracious God – we come seeking your grace and guidance at a time of change in our country. Holy Spirit guide us with your wisdom in our decision making. As we take this time to reflect upon how to love our neighbour who votes differently – and generally is profoundly different from us. Spirit, remind us that in all things to follow Jesus who teaches that we are all beloved children of God!

How well do I recognize the goodness in my neighbour who doesn't share my opinions and values?

Do I ever judge others whose opinions or political views differ from mine?

### **Dave rings chimes...**

Do I take the time to pray for guidance, to centre myself in God's spacious love, so I can lean into that love when I experience conflict?

Do I get so caught up in the turmoil of an argument that I forget love in order to win an argument?

### **Dave rings chimes...**

Am I open to learning about political policies that benefit all God's children?

Do I sometimes consider only the things that matter to me right now?

## Assurance

### **Dave rings chimes...**

If we answered yes to most or all of those questions, we are human. We are God's beloved children. May we remember that God's love is so high, we can't get over it. So low, we can't get under it. So wide we can't get around it. Love envelopes us, accompanies us. Love never dies. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## Hymn VU 670 *Let There Be Light, vs. 2*

2. Open our lips, open our minds to ponder,  
open the door of concord opening into grace.

## Scripture Readings (*Deb McIntosh*)

### **Mark 8: 27-34**

*Jesus asks, "Who do **you** say that I am?"*

*This is another story from the Gospel writer Mark, reminding us that being a leader walking in the footsteps of Jesus can be a very humbling experience.*

Jesus and his disciples went to the villages near the town of Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, "What do people say about me?"

The disciples answered, "Some say you are John the Baptist or maybe Elijah. Others say you are one of the prophets."

Then Jesus asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

"You are the Messiah!" Peter replied...

Jesus began telling his disciples what would happen to him. He said, "The nation's leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make the Son of Man suffer terribly. He will be rejected and killed, but three days later he will rise to life." ...

Peter took Jesus aside and told him to stop talking like that. But when Jesus turned and saw the disciples, he corrected Peter. He said to him, "Satan, get away from me! You are thinking like everyone else and not like God."

Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples to come closer, and he said:

If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for me and for the good news, you will save it.

### **James 3:1-10**

*In the second reading today, James offers yet more of the more than 100 rather blunt, but often useful, gems of wisdom. Last week we heard "faith without works is dead", this week the focus is on the way we speak – do we start fires or reflect God's love?*

My friends, we should not all try to become teachers. In fact, teachers will be judged more strictly than others. All of us do many wrong things. But if you can control your tongue, you are mature and able to control your whole body.

By putting a bit into the mouth of a horse, we can turn the horse in different directions. It takes strong winds to move a large sailing ship, but the captain uses only a small rudder to make it go in any direction. Our tongues are small too, and yet they brag about big things.

It takes only a spark to start a forest fire! The tongue is like a spark...

My dear friends, with our tongues we speak both praises and curses. We praise our God, and we curse people who were created to be like God, and this isn't right.

Let us pray: Teach us your names, O God, spoken in acts of mercy and justice and grace. May we learn your names, Christ, and speak with your spirit and love. Spirit, may we recognize your names, especially as you transform lives and build faith, resilient, communities. Amen.

### **Message: "What kind of a spark are you?"**

*The Message will be posted on the website next Tuesday.*

### **Invitation to the Offering**

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! 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. Thanks!

### **Dedication Hymn: VU 467 One Bread One Body**

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless;

and we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless;  
and we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless;  
and we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless;  
and we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

### **Dedication Prayer**

Let us pray: All around us, we are reminded that we are not on our own, but our lives intersect with the poor, the hungry, the hopeless, our sisters and brothers. As we seek to follow you, may we share from the abundance you have poured out upon us, so all might experience your grace and life. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### **Sacrament of Communion**

May the God of glory be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift your hearts to the One who whispers hope and grace to you.

**Our hearts rejoice in the wonder of God.**

Sing glad songs of praise to God.

**We join all creation in proclaiming God's generosity.**

The heavens tell the story, God of wonder,  
of how your Wisdom moved and the waters churned with life;  
of how your Word danced through the fields of creation,  
the valleys and mountains singing their praise to the end of the world.

You stood at the corner of grace and hope,  
calling us to trust, to play with you in the garden,  
but we refused, choosing instead the lure of dim alleys  
of seduction in our world.

Your prophets came among us with words of caution,  
but we ignored them, our ears attuned to life's seductive voices.  
So, you sent Jesus, to teach us unconditional, sacrificial, love;  
He endured suffering that we might see how much you love us.

Now, wise and wayward, foolish and faithful alike,  
we lift our voices to you:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God our Rock and Redeemer.  
All creation proclaims your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who cries aloud in the streets  
of your redeeming love.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Holy are you, True God of all life,  
and blessed is Jesus, your Anointed Child.**

He came to us, standing in the marketplace  
declaring your good news for all, God, calling us to follow.  
Though we continually resist the call, Christ continues to call.

As we give thanks for his life and death,  
and we celebrate his resurrection woven into the mystery:

**Christ died, losing his life for our sake;  
Christ was raised, taming death's poison;  
Christ will come, that we may proclaim his name.**

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."

### **Prayers of the Community**

Who do we say you are? Who do we confess you to be?

**Prophet, Healer, Teacher – all three.**

God, when the disciple Peter answered Jesus' question by calling him the Christ, the Messiah, he echoed the hope for salvation, healing, shalom.

Today we pray for all those who need shalom in our world. Look at this map, again thinking about the places and people in need of God's shalom. Pray deeply for the world, and specific people, towns, villages, countries, all of Creation, groaning for salvation.

We pray for those who need salvation from war, violence, hunger, neglect. We pray for all people everywhere who, through oppression, are held down from being the people you call them to be.

We pray for our families, ourselves, those broken places in our hearts needing your mending Spirit, God.

Who do we say you are? Who do we confess Jesus to be?

**Prophet, Healer, Teacher – all three.**

### **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.**

Divine Love, pour out your Spirit of life and hope upon us;  
Your diverse children – wayward and wise, foolish and faithful,  
who gather around your Table.  
Bless the gifts of the bread and cup.

As the healing touch of the bread of life  
rests upon our tongues and hearts,  
may we use them as a blessing – speaking grace,  
caring for those who are ignored.

May the taste of the cup of salvation  
tingle deep within our souls,  
may we go to take up our crosses, following Jesus in service.  
And when the Son of Man comes in glory,  
when we are gathered around the banquet in kin dom,  
may our voices join with all of Creation  
singing of your grace, your peace, your love forever and ever,  
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

The Bread of life, broken,  
filling us that we might share.

[share together]

Your Cup of grace, overflowing,  
that love might flow from us.

[share together]

**Refrain: VU 466 *Eat This Bread (3x)***

Eat this bread, drink this cup;  
come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup;  
trust in me and you will not thirst.

**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: MV 221 *I am Walking a Path of Peace, vv. 1***

I am walking a path of peace, I am walking a path of peace,  
I am walking a path of peace, lead me home, lead me home.

I am walking a path of hope, I am walking a path of hope,  
I am walking a path of hope, lead me home, lead me home.

I am walking a path of love, I am walking a path of love,  
I am walking a path of love, lead me home, lead me home.

**Blessing**

Friends of Christ, go now with one of the many names of Christ on your lips, the question Christ asks you in your mind, and hope in your hearts. Amen.

**Benediction Hymn: VU 646 *Siyahamba (We are Marching)***

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, oo-oo,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, oo-oo,  
we are marching in the light of God.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',  
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.  
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',  
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.  
Siyahamba, oo-oo,  
siyahamb', ekukhanyen', kwenkhos',  
Siyahamba, oo-oo,  
siyahamb', ekukhanyen', kwenkhos'.

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, oo-oo,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, oo-oo,  
we are marching in the light of God.

## **Postlude**

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**Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer after Scripture, Prayers of Community, and Blessing**  
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**Prayer for Grace** created by Suzanne Nykilchyk.

**Prayer of Dedication** © 2018 Thom M. Shuman. [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)

**Scripture readings from** *Contemporary English Version (CEV)* © 1995 by American Bible Society.

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