

WORSHIP AT ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
October 17, 2021
Dedicating the Huntington University Peace Chapel
Love your Neighbour who doesn't THINK LIKE YOU

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 135 *Called by Earth and Sky, vv. 1, 2, 4*

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

1. Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

2. Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,

our gathering and our grace.

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

4. Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one.

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome to worship. We are graced with the opportunity again to worship in person together, but are also joined by you online. God's grace welcomes us all in this sacred, liminal, space. We are also blessed to have the musical leadership of Michael Barber this morning.

Ok, so I need to say an extra special thank you to Roger and Anne for stepping into roles you had never anticipated last week. Thank you, Roger, and considering he had no prep time didn't he make a wonderful worship leader? Tracey who was my ambulance driver, then who raced back to be our music leader, thank you for pulling it together. Remarkable the gifts around us. My note of gratitude also, I don't have a cast.

Finally, we are blessed today to have the leadership of Huntington University here with us today. Huntington has always been a special place for United Churches who collectively helped create it. We welcome today: President, Dr. McCormick, Chancellor Ravi, and Dr. Scott Darling, President of St. Andrew's Place Board.

If you are new here, please note the credits at the end of this worship on screen with contact information – Facebook, our website, email and just a traditional phone call to us to say hello and allow us to get to know you. 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

In a world that can be chaotic

We light a candle of hope.

In a world where the way can seem uncertain

May this light of Christ show us the way. *[light the candle]*

Nurturing Safe Space

We seek to nurture safe space here where all can participate in worship and life regardless of age, ability, race, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender identity. We give thanks for the diversity that is God's Creation, and we are called to become a community grounded in unconditional love and hospitality.

Representatives from The United Church of Canada met with the Rev. Nigel Uden (2nd from the left), Moderator of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom, to hear his powerful stories – about the work of justice, experiences of marginalization, of inequity, of myths to address, and of hope and prayer. Experiences were shared. Deep listening.

We connect in Christ's unconditional love. Vulnerability to share and listen compels us to deeper awareness and growth in understanding. They end by saying: Listen to the stories of people in your community!

Wise words as we seek to be Christ's community.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

I would like to acknowledge that we are gathering today on the traditional territories of indigenous peoples across Turtle Island. We are grateful to be allowed to use these lands for growing spiritually and worshipping. To all who have been as here for thousands of years before us across Turtle Island, we honour the struggles and the lives of those who gave themselves for it. For those here today, we acknowledge the ancestors, we acknowledge the land beneath our feet. With our ears to the ground we can hear them – the Cree, the Métis, the Dene, Anishshinaabe, the Inuit, the Blackfoot, the Innu and all nations that came before us.

We are mindful of an infinity of footsteps of those who long called this land home, the unfolding of bundles, the undoing of colonization and the opening of this land to allow treaty to come alive. We affirm our relationship to each other and to the land. We acknowledge and pay respects to the Indigenous nations and ancestors of this particular land, the Wahnapiitae First Nation and the Atikemesheng Anishnawbek, who call this territory home. Let us work earnestly for Reconciliation.

Call to Worship

We gather on sacred ground

On the rich earth that nourishes us

Under the great awning of sky that replenishes us

To once again listen to the voice

That warms our hearts say,

"Come, follow me."

Opening Prayer

Friends, in John's Gospel, Jesus says, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work." Food is the source of our energy. What Jesus was saying is that the will of

God energizes him to live out his mission. As we pray, we turn to God to replenish our sense of call and purpose.

Let us pray: God, the stories of our faith remind us that you are manna from heaven and water from rock. You are the miracle of the loaves and fish. You are our Bread of Life. In this hour, fill us up with your Holy Word. Energize us with your songs. Make us thankful, aware, and inspired: thankful for the universe that feeds us, aware that food is a sacred gift given to all and yet still withheld from many, and inspired enough to make a difference.

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 365 *Jesus Loves Me*, vs. 1

1. Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, in his love we shall be strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Time Up Front

Competition gets toxic. Who likes to win? How does it feel inside, the winning and losing? I had this experience in school where we were to write a story. We were given some time to write it there in the class. Then the teacher collected our stories. I was stunned when the teacher read my story. She used it as an example. It felt good. It felt like I had won an award. What are proud moments for you?

Jesus teaches us that possibly more important are the moments when we don't win? When we are not in the front of the line. Maybe you celebrate with them. Maybe you help them to win. I remember times as a child grandfather, my grandfather let people in front of us. I didn't understand at the time. Now, I wonder if Jesus would that such gestures of care, are at the heart of the kind of love he teaches. Letting someone in front of you. Sometimes it feels right!

St. Andrew's and Huntington University together congratulating a student there who is not only good academically but also makes the community better – the Lautenschlager Award.

We are created to care. With Jesus, to encourage others so that sometimes we are not the winner, the front of the line, going to the back of the line, with God we are winners. All of us are winners when we do it together.

This is a repeat after me prayer: God help us to be humble. God may we help you to turn the world upside down. May we help the people at the back to get to the front. May we see through new glasses how the world works. Your care, your love, your community wins. Amen.

Hymn: VU 365 *Jesus Loves Me*, vs. 2

2. Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Scripture Readings (*Anne Pile*)

Job 38: 1 – 8; 34 – 36

Prior to this reading from the book of Job, Job has been afflicted terribly and has complained to God. Now, in today's reading, we hear some of God's response. Humbling to say the least.

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:
“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
Gird up your loins, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.
“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
When the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings[a] shouted for joy?
“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
so that a flood of waters may cover you?
Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go
and say to you, ‘Here we are’?
Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,
or given understanding to the mind?”

Mark 10: 35 - 45

This is a reading from the Gospel According to Mark, how Jesus turns the way the world works upside down – those who seek to be first shall be last in the kin-dom, and the last, shall become first.

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.”

“What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.”

“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

“We can,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Let us pray: Creator God, we cannot hope to know all that is and will be – and when we think we do, deliver us from the arrogance of ignorance. Our hope rests in your wisdom. By that wisdom, lead us through the uncertainty, and steady us in love. Amen.

Message: “Loving begins with Humility”

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

Hymn: VU 567 *Will You Come and Follow Me, vv. 1, 2, 4*

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?
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?

Dedication of the Huntington University Peace Chapel

Dr. Kevin McCormick, President of Huntington University, is invited to come forward and speak.

Invitation to the Offering

We give thanks that we are not alone in discipleship. Not at all. The generosity of Huntington University in revitalizing the Peace Chapel, reminding us of the heritage of St. Andrew's and your Grace. We give heartfelt gratitude.

Thank you! 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 church website at the end of this worship, so you can learn about what we are up to and how you can help.

Dedication Hymn: VU 543 *We Give Thee But Thine Own, vs. 1*

1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God, from thee.

Dedication Prayer

Let us pray: Source of Love and Generosity, we dedicate ourselves and our gifts to your work in our neighbourhood near and far.

And I direct your attention to the plaque that together we will now dedicate. Rock of Ages, Source of Wisdom, hearts filled with thanksgiving we acknowledge a symbol of our St. Andrew's tradition, the Peace Chapel, which now stands as powerful testimony to the close partnership between Huntington University and St. Andrew's United Church. God of community, we are not created to be alone, bless this Space that all who worship, who meditate, who sing, who meet, may they feel your Spirit lift hearts and minds. We dedicate this Huntington University Peace Chapel to your glory and wisdom, Lord our God. Amen.

Prayers of the Community

Here I am, praying within the shiny new Huntington University Peace Chapel, but steeped in a rich heritage, a legacy given to us by a long history of St. Andrew's leaders. It feels sacred to pray here, so will you join me:

We acknowledge, O God, that the title of greatness is often bestowed on famous athletes, celebrities, or political or institutional leaders. But today we seek to understand the term "greatness", not as a title conferred upon the powerful, the brilliant, strong. But for Jesus, greatness is found in the expression of daily service; the quiet giving for the well-being and benefit of all. Thank you, Holy One, for your power that shines through generosity, humility, trust of those who work for good and leave it to you.

We give thanks for those who serve the community. We thank you for educators in our public system, and academics in post secondary education who expand our minds, build leadership, those who see the bigger picture even as some show us the minutest molecules that would never have been imagined decades ago. We pray for the administrators, professors, staff and students of Huntington University, and those of academic institutions across Ontario, Canada and around the world. Thank you for their dedication to their craft, and the gifts they offer our world.

We also thank you, Loving Creator, for those who serve by tending of Creation – fauna and flora, protecting endangered species. Bless them, God.

We pray for frontline workers, nurses, doctors, teachers, social workers, cashiers, cooks, and restaurant workers. We pray for new parents who dare to entrust their children to make our world better, may we the adults do our part to support those children, nurture them and to make amends in a world that has been badly damaged, by our generation and those who came before us.

We pray for those caring for older relatives or people with disabilities. Added to this, in the presence of this community, we pray for the leaders of St Andrew's, and the countless volunteers who have dedicated time and talent to service within this church and in its powerful outreach to the larger Sudbury community.

We humbly acknowledge the many who care, who encourage, who offer love in powerful, often unrecognized ways, to family, friends and even strangers, even loving those who think, pray, love differently.

We pray for those whose situations weigh on our hearts today, they might be family or friends, even ourselves, or those we may never have met but have heard about their situations. WE include this prayer list among those prayers, and I invite you to quietly offer the names and situations that you are concerned about [silence]

Giver of Life, lead us further into the ways of servanthood, affirming each other's gifts in the process. May our love of Christ and fidelity to God's way, help to positively transform the world, to turn what our world calls common sense upside down, in your kin-dom vision grounded in radical love and peace. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 117 *Jesus Christ is Waiting*, vv. 1, 2, 4

1. Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

2. Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

4. Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

Blessing

Jesus said to his followers,
"Whoever wishes to become great among you,
must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you

must be servant to all.”

Friends, go with courage and peace,
and travel well with your desire
to be all you can be in the service of the Gospel.
Be prepared to be humbled;
be open to great but needed change.

**And so may the creative power of God,
the redeeming power of Christ,
and the sustaining power of the Spirit,
be in you and uphold you on this day
and into the days ahead.
Amen.**

**Benediction Hymn: MV 30 *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker, vs. 4*
4. It's the chorus of all creation; it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation, a song the universe sings,
and by the Spirit, you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.**

Postlude

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Thank you to: Michael Barber for his musical leadership; Sue Nykilchyk for assisting with liturgy preparation; Anne Pile for reading the scriptures; Scott Darling for creating the pre-service Huntington University PowerPoint slide show; and Jen Bruneau and Sue Nykilchyk for their assistance with obtaining graphics for the worship service PowerPoint presentation.
