**WORSHIP AT ST. ANDREW’S UNITED CHURCH**

**January 23rd, 2022 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Fellowship Time Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

Email sketchingalong4@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

**Prelude**

**Hymn: VU 402 *We Are One (vv. 1, 2, 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.

**Inviting Holy Light**

We breathe. We ground ourselves in Grace and Love, as our lungs flourish when washed in lifegiving oxygen, so our souls flourish as we open our hearts and minds to God’s Grace. Holy Light – light to soften the shadows. Light to warm the air. Light to warm our hearts. Light of presence, reining light, light of Christ. [light candle]

**Nurturing Safe Space**

We seek Holy Spirit and Love to help us nurture safe space in this place where all can participate in worship and life regardless of age, ability, race, cultural background, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

**Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

Long before settlers came to this land we call Canada, many nations of people already lived on the land and cared for it. We recognize them as the First Nations. Here at St. Andrew’s, we are worshipping on the traditional territories of the Wahnapitae First Nation and the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. We recognize the long history of our First Nations and Metis peoples. We give thanks for their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. Let us, all of us, Treaty people, commit ourselves anew to the work of healing, justice and reconciliation.

**Call to Worship**

Come, Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove; come, fire of love.

Spirit is upon, within, and all around us.

**With hearts open to receive the good news of God’s good ways, let us worship God.**

**Opening Prayer**

God who calls, inspire us to share in the fulfillment of your good news

as stories of your teaching and your ways flow forth from the page and into our lives. This we pray along with the prayer taught to us God’s beloved child, Jesus..

**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.**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Welcome again to St. Andrew’s United Church on the fourth Sunday of the new year. Yes, we worship together whether we are in person in the sanctuary and if we are joining online. We are together in Christ.

Thank you today to someone I know and love, Tracey LeGrand, for offering leadership in music today. Thanks also to our readers, Allison Desormeaux and Suzanne Nykilchyk.

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. If you are new here, please say hello and allow us to get to know you. We also have a Virtual Fellowship time tonight at 7 with hosts Bev and Diane.

**Hymn: VU 646 *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.

**Time Up Front**

Paul talks about the church being like a body with many parts that work together. Let’s try a fun experiment. I’ll tell you a story.

Please cover your ears tightly with your hands. *(Dave speaks in a soft voice with gestures.)* What was my story about? *(Someone who reads lips might share how they “heard” the story with their eyes.)*

Now don’t cover your ears, but close your eyes tightly. Can you describe what I have here? *(Someone might share how they could answer the question by touching the object.)*

Our body parts work together in their own way to help us in this world. Each one of us has our body to use, just the way it was created. We adapt and interact, using the parts that work best to accomplish what we want to do.

I bet someone has a story about how a project needed different people with different talents to finish it – sharing stories. When we bring our gifts together, we can do great things. We all are important parts of the body of Christ.

This is a repeat after me prayer:

*God, thank you for make each of us different. Not better, just different.*

*Help each of us to be thankful for why we are different. May we work together to make this world more loving; like the colours go together in a rainbow. Amen.*

**Hymn: VU 646 *We Are Marching***

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**Scripture Reading *(Allison Desormeaux)***

**1 Corinthians 12:12-31** (New Revised Standard Version)

*A reading from first Corinthians, talking about how we are diverse, but all connected by God, like body parts in a body.*

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?

But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

**Jesus’ Hometown** (Based on Luke 4:14–21)

*This is a paraphrase based on a story told in Luke’s Gospel. Did you ever go back to the place where you grew up, but going as an adult? It can be startling, seeing how people react, and startling to realize how we have changed too. This story is entitled, “Jesus’ Hometown.”*

“Have you heard the news? Jesus is back in town. Everyone is talking about what he’s been doing.”

The news of Jesus’ return spread quickly through the town of Nazareth, Jesus’ hometown. The people had heard about all the wonderful things he had been doing in other cities. Today was the Sabbath, and now they hoped to hear and see for themselves what Jesus had been saying and doing. They were sure Jesus would come, for this was the synagogue where he had gone so often as a little boy.

Everyone arrived early. They removed their sandals, covered their heads with their prayer shawls, and quietly sat down. In the middle of the room was a platform where the reader stood. The scrolls of God’s law were kept in a little cupboard behind a curtain at the front of the room. The leader took out a certain Bible scroll and chose several people to read parts of it and then say a few words about that reading.

Soon Jesus entered with his disciples and indicated to the leader of the synagogue that he would like to be a reader.

The leader nodded his head and then handed Jesus the scroll that the prophet Isaiah had written. Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the place where he wanted to read.

“God’s spirit is with me. God has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor, to tell everyone that the prisoners are free, to give sight to the blind, to free people from their suffering, and to tell people about a new time. This is the year God has chosen.”

And then Jesus added, “Today these words have come true.” Jesus rolled up the scroll, returned it to the leader and sat down. The eyes of the people were fixed on Jesus. They were impressed with Jesus and were amazed at the words he spoke. This was no ordinary rabbi!

Let us pray:We long for news that is good, O God – good for this earth, good for our hearts, good for communities. Teach us to listen for your good news about how we are to be in this world – your ways shown to us by others, and your ways that are called forth from us. Amen.

**Message: “Good News, Bad News”**

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

**Time for Quiet Reflection**

1. Jesus proclaims, “God’s Spirit is upon me.” Have you ever experienced that reality and been confident that the Spirit was guiding you into a way of being or living?

2. What actions can you take to share and bring God’s dream of release, recovery, and setting free to our communities?

**Hymn: MV 171 *Christ Has No Body Now but Yours, vv. 1, 2, 4***

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work,

to serve with the joy of compassion.

1. No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,

no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,

no touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work,

to serve with the joy of compassion.

2. No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,

to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;

no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work,

to serve with the joy of compassion.

4. Through ev’ry gift, give back to those in need;

as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,

with ev’ry gift a benediction, be to the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work,

to serve with the joy of compassion.

**Minute for Mission *(Suzanne Nykilchyk)***

Nothing prepares us to lose the people we love most in the world. Lisa’s husband Steve was in and out of palliative care for years. “It was a difficult journey. He wasn’t ready to leave this life,” Lisa says. “The week before he died, he said, ‘I’ll surprise you yet. You’ll see me walking around that circle with my cane.’ But that didn’t happen.”

After Steve died, Lisa attended a widows’ support circle facilitated by ORA, a Mission & Service partner. ORA, named after a Maori word meaning “life,” helps people move through grief and loss using workshops and support circles. “Hearing the stories and wisdom shared, the laughter and the tears, brought me to a place where I felt comfortable in sharing a bit of my own pain and my own journey. And there was this sense of solidarity in our pain. Because being a widow is a different kind of loss than losing a parent, a child, or a friend,” Lisa says.

In the widows’ group, there was an understanding that surpassed words. “The support helped me work through things like ‘What do I do with the wedding ring now?’ Do you still wear it? Do you not wear it? And on a practical level, do you change the sheets because you can still smell your partner on the sheets? The first time you have to check that box on the government form, that you are no longer a Mrs. but a widow, I just burst into tears. ORA, just like other outreach ministries we have, is a tangible way of showing faith in action.”

Your gifts through Mission & Service help people like Lisa rebuild their lives after loss. “At one of the most difficult times of my life, your generosity through Mission & Service provided care, love, and comfort. Indeed, we are not alone. We live in God’s world. Thank you for your support,” says Lisa.

**Invitation to Offering**

Life is blessing. We know that, sometimes we don’t see it easily. As modern-day disciples, let us be the words and actions of our Creator. Let us come to offer our talents, our skills, and our very being as an offering for the call of Jesus to follow… and here we are!

Our gifts are many and varied, depending on the gifts God first gave us. We give locally, our volunteering and our treasures to bless the ministries of St. Andrew’s. We give globally, towards ministries in Canada and around the world, through the United Church’s Mission and Service.

Thank you for all you do, your generosity and joy in giving.

**Offering Hymn: VU 949 *Grant Us, God, the Grace***

Grant to us, O God, a heart renewed;

speak to us afresh your forgiving word.

**Prayer of Dedication**

O Great Dreamer: inspire us in your ways, that in our imaginings, hopes, and prayers, we become the fulfillment of all that is possible in our world,

our neighbourhood, this place, and in each of us. Amen

**Prayers of the Community**

We dream of a world where everyone has enough and pray that we might live simply and justly to create an equal distribution of your goodness. [silence]

We imagine creation in all its beauty, and pray we will walk lightly on this earth living as co-creators and caretakers of your gift. [silence]

We envision inclusive circles of dialogue, holy conversation of study and prayer that inspire inquiring minds and discerning hearts in all of us. [silence]

We picture a place of hospitality, and pray that we will respond compassionately as we welcome in the brokenness of our world. [silence]

In silence, now, we hold in love and prayer all those people near and far, and situations that make God’s children feel isolated, fearful, helpless or uncertain about the future. [silence]

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

**Closing Hymn: MV** **154 *Deep in our Hearts, vv. 1, 4***

1. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;

deep in our hearts there is a common song;

deep in our hearts there is a common story,

telling Creation that we are one.

4. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;

deep in our hearts there is a common song;

deep in our hearts there is a common story,

telling Creation that we are one.

**Blessing**

Now, we are scattered by our God,

**to go carry grace into a broken world.**

Now, Jesus scatters us,

**to bring justice to the outsiders,**

to visit all who are alone and lonely.

**Now, filled with the Spirit, we are scattered,**

to gather up the dispirited,

**to take hold of the lost and embrace them as family.**

**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.

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.

**Postlude PPT: Several slides**

**Inviting Holy Light** written by Peter Chynoweth. **Gathering**, Epiphany 2022, page 43, Used with permission.

**“Jesus’ Hometown”**, **Prayer of Dedication**, and **Prayers of the Community** from *Seasons of the Spirit, Fusion*. Epiphany Year C. ©2021 Wood Lake Books Inc.

**Blessing** written by Thom M. Shuman, lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com © 2019.

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