

## WORSHIP AT ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Social Hour Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

Email [sketchingalong4@gmail.com](mailto:sketchingalong4@gmail.com) to get the Zoom link.

### Prelude

#### Hymn: MV 10 *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom, vv. 1, 2, 3*

1. Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,  
she who danced when earth was new.  
Follow closely what she teaches,  
for her words are right and true.  
Wisdom clears the path to justice,  
showing us what love must do.

2. Listen to the voice of Wisdom,  
crying in the marketplace.  
Hear the Word made flesh among us,  
full of glory, truth, and grace.  
When the word takes root and ripens,  
peace and righteousness embrace.

3. Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;  
nurture all who seek rebirth.  
Spirit-guide and close companion,  
bring to light our sacred worth.  
Free us to become your people,  
holy friends of God and earth.

### Inviting Holy Light

Will you take a moment with me to prepare for worship.

Grounding ourselves – our feet on the ground, our bodies supported. We are held within holy love now, in this sacred space.

As we light this candle, we invite holy love breathe new life into us, to open our hearts and minds to that holy voice calling us, inviting us to new possibility, new hope. [*light candle*]

### Nurturing Safe Space

We are all children of Creator God. This is space created in the name of Jesus, the one who unconditionally welcomed all people into God's abundance. Spirit, create in us that radical community where every neighbour experience love and welcome.

### Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Lands that have sustained countless peoples from time immemorial to the present. We gather as a people of faith seeking to find ways to live with justice and respect with all those who call these lands home, we are called to honour the land, to live with respect in creation...to love and seek justice for all peoples. To that end, we acknowledge gratefully that here we worship on the traditional territories of the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. We recognize the long history of our First Nations and Metis peoples. Let us, all of us, Treaty people, commit ourselves anew to the work of healing, justice and reconciliation.

### Call to Worship

Blessed are those who trust - in God!

**We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.**

**Blessed are those who hope - in God!**

We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.  
Blessed are those who delight - in God's Word!  
**We come to hear God speak, hoping for healing and joy.**

### Opening Prayer

Happy are you who speak to God, you shall be heard.  
**Bless us anew, O God.**

Happy are you who are honest with God, you shall be forgiven.  
**Grant us a fresh start, O God.**

Happy are you who open up your real self, you shall be loved.  
**Open us to deeper connection with one another, and you, O God.**

Happy are you who long for change, your living shall be renewed.  
**Transforming Spirit, blow through us, O God.**

Happy are you who put yourself in God's hands, you shall be held.  
**Give us the courage to trust, O God.**

Happy are you who long for a fairer world, you shall be given vision.  
**Grant us conviction and character, O God.**

Happy are you who seek God always, you shall be shown the way.  
**Open our spiritual eyes to see you, O God.**

This we pray along with the prayer taught to us by 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 to this sacred space, and yes, I said space. You might be physically in a different space from me, here, but your space becomes sacred when you make it sacred. Like Moses when he met Yahweh in the burning bush, he took his sandals off because, he said, that truly he was on holy ground. Feel the holiness of this moment. (silence)

There is a lot going on in our city, our country and world. As the health situation changes, we at St. Andrew's look to the medical authorities and science for our guidance about how to keep you safe and healthy. So next week, carefully, we will welcome people back into the sanctuary for worship, beginning Feb 20. All the usual covid precautions in place – masks at all times, no singing or socializing, and sitting only among those of our bubbles. Those who come must be double vaccinated, and we hope you will seriously consider getting the booster shot if you haven't gotten it.

We plan to continue indefinitely to live stream, so if you can't make it to worship, physically coming, join us online every Sunday...

I want to offer a special invitation to you to join our virtual walk for Coldest Night of the Year. We are online under Sudbury Area Faith Communities, you can make a donation or if you want to join the walk to help the Samaritan Centre, contact me and I will sign you up. I will be actually doing a walk on the 26<sup>th</sup> at 4pm and any who come will be distancing as we walk and pray for all the important downtown agencies, staff, volunteers and those who face homelessness, poverty and addictions.

We are so blessed today in worship to again have the musical leadership of Tracey Legrand. Thank you for your gifts today. Also, thanks to our Reader, Genevieve Gibbons.

We also have a Virtual Social Hour tonight at 7 with hosts Bev and Diane. You can get your Zoom link to join that time of connecting by sending an email to Diane. That email address will be part of the credits after this worship.

**Hymn: MV 62 *There is Room for All***

1. There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;  
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.  
And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."  
There is room for all, there is room for all!

**Time Up Front**

Today's story follows last week's in that it involves discernment. How do we figure out WHO and WHAT we can trust?

*Discussion with the children about trust.*

What is trust?

How do we know when to trust someone?

What might keep us from trusting someone?

What do we do if we aren't certain we can trust someone?

If everyone else says to trust someone, but something doesn't feel right to us, we need to follow what we feel. *Leave the children with the assurance that when something feels wrong, they should talk to a trusted adult, like a parent or a grandparent.*

Jesus... Some of the grown ups didn't like Jesus, because he was, well, a little radical. His idea of the world seemed completely different from the ideas of people who were in charge of things in his world.

Jesus said that the people who are sad, they are going to be blessed. Those who are weak, or who suffer, or are bullied, God loves them and will do something special for them. Just hang on... Jesus said.

Now, adults might say to their children, that man is a little crazy. But when you hear Jesus, does he sound crazy or inspiring? Would you trust Jesus? I would too.

This is a repeat-after-me-prayer:

Jesus, help us to listen to your words... Help us to believe, yes we can!... With God's help,... we can make this world better... Be caring of those who suffer, who are sad, who are afraid.... And when we are sad,,,, help us to know that you love us SO much. Amen.

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**Scripture Readings (Genevieve Gibbons)**

**Jeremiah 17:5-8** New International Version

This is what the LORD says:

"Cursed is the one who trusts in people,  
who draws strength from mere flesh  
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.  
That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;  
they will not see prosperity when it comes.

They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,  
in a salt land where no one lives.  
“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD...  
They will be like a tree planted by the water  
that sends out its roots by the stream.  
It does not fear when heat comes;  
its leaves are always green.  
It has no worries in a year of drought  
and never fails to bear fruit.”

**Luke 6:17-26** New Revised Standard Version

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from across the country. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Let us pray: Creator, nourish us in life so that we, your people, can bear the fruits of justice and peace for our communities and our world. Amen.

**Message: “Another Interpretation – The Beatitudes”**

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

**Another Interpretation of the Beatitudes:**

And this is what Jesus had to say to them all.

If you feel very small inside,  
be happy.  
God’s love is yours.

If you feel sad inside,  
be happy.  
God will help you feel better.

If you think you are not very smart,  
be happy.  
God has a promise for you.

if you try very hard to be good,  
be happy.  
God will help you feel good inside.

If you care about other people,  
be happy.  
God cares about you.

If you try hard to work for peace,  
be happy.  
God says, "You are my child."

If people are mean to you because you love God,  
be happy.  
You will always be part of God's family.

### **Question for Quiet Reflection**

Sometimes, when we listen to these beatitudes, we may feel that God only loves us if we are "poor in spirit", "hungry", lonely, or miserable. What does today's paraphrase teach you about God's true love for us?

### **Hymn: MV 28 *God of the Bible, vv. 1, 2, 5***

1. God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,  
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,  
freedom or prison, you are our home.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

2. God in our struggles, God in our hunger,  
suffering with us, taking our part,  
still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,  
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

5. Hope we must carry, shining and certain  
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,  
bonding us gladly one to the other,  
till our world changes facing the Cross.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

### **Invitation to Offering**

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.

### **Dedication 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.

### **Prayer of Dedication**

May these gifts be consolation for all who are in need. May we be more blessed by the giving than we have been blessed in receiving.  
And may we desire only the power of Christ's resurrecting love. Amen.

### **Prayers of the Community**

Gracious God, you call us to be like trees planted by streams of water. Planted firm in our faith, we offer you our praises. In our worship, we seek to glorify you – to tell through song and shouts of praise that you are a great and loving God, that you bless us with your presence, and that we are overjoyed to be your people.

The fires of your passionate spirit burn within us. As we know, you care for all of your people, so we offer to you the concerns that are upon our hearts: for the sick and hurting, for the grieving and anxious, for the oppressed and downtrodden. We ask you to be with your people, all of your people – those we know and those we do not know. Help us all to feel your all-embracing love.

We trust in your presence, loving God. Help us share justly of our resources and be good and faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to us. And help us to share smiles, compassion, concern, forgiveness, and hope with those we meet each day.

Help us never to forget your presence in our lives. May we sense you with us always, and so be moved to live in your ways. Help us to have faith in you, that like trees planted by the water. Our faith is grounded in the knowledge of your love for us. Amen.

### **Closing Hymn: VU 684 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*, vv. 1, 3**

1. Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your healing power,  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

O Spirit, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

3. Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to all that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

O Spirit, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

### **Blessing**

Go. Bless and be blessed.  
Go. Love and be loved.  
Go. Renew and be renewed.

**We will go with God's blessing to the world.**

**Benediction Hymn: VU 424 *May the God of Hope, vs. 2***

2. May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

**Postlude**

**Slides**

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**Call to Worship** written by Thom M. Shuman, [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com). © Thom M. Shuman, February 17, 2019.

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