

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
February 6, 2022 – Sacrament of Communion

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, November 8th.

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.

Inviting Holy Light

Creator, Sustainer, Spirit, be with us, welcome us into community. Open our hearts to welcome in all who seek. Open our minds to radical transformation this Advent. We invite Holy Light as we prepare for worship. *[Dave lights candle]*

Nurturing Safe Space

We as individuals, and collectively as God's children, we are works in progress. God's Spirit forms us, nurtures us in grace and love. As a community following Jesus, we are formed by his teachings about unconditional love, radical welcome and a yearning for justice. We seek to be and create around us safe space for all to feel welcomed, valued and loved. We seek to love our neighbours, especially those who very different from us.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

We as people of faith inherit a legacy, a history of hurt, but also journey into new chapters of healing and reconciliation. Today, here we are worshipping on the ancestral land the Wahnapiatae First Nation and of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, this land where the Robinson Huron Treaty was made in 1850, and never honoured by Canada. We live, work, play, and pray on the Treaty lands. May we live in harmony and respect with all those who share the earth with us and be thankful to God as we move into a peaceful and healthy future together.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship, today, here, you and I, in different physical spaces, but we are gathering in the same sacred space!

Update from Council: We plan to open the sanctuary to worshipers on Feb. 20 with all COVID protocols in place. Requirements: Proof of 2 vaccinations or exemption letter, mask on at all times, and no socializing.

We are so grateful to our musicians, Ralph and Debbie McIntosh, and Deb also for wearing the second hat as our Scripture Reader today. We are also thankful for Rhodine and Amelia White who will be reading the Minute for right relations. So many people, the body of Christ actively contributing so that we can worship today and do the healing, feeding, hope-giving of Christ in our community and around the world. Thank you.

Those at home, if you are new here, note that our contact information is at the end of the video, and you might want to visit our website or Facebook page, or email our office manager so you can receive our weekly e-newsletter called the NEWS. In case you were wondering, for those who do not have internet access, we send out a printed version of the liturgy, message, and NEWS every week.

We also have a Virtual Fellowship time tonight at 7. As always, 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.

For online congregation: Gather your Communion elements and type first name only in the comments box for Prayers of the Community.

Call to Worship

Thanks to God's Grace, we are who we are, and we are here:
people called by Jesus, not always certain as we follow.

Thanks to God's Grace, we grow spiritually to become followers
who are still not certain, but gifted with courage and wonder.

Thanks to God's Grace, we become who we were created to be;
people who step out in faith, generously sharing God's Good News.

Opening Prayer

O God, we have searched deep and wide for answers to our questions, for solutions to our problems and relief from those things that threaten your shalom in our world and us. You have invited us here, to the last place that the worldly-minded would think to go. Through Jesus, you filled, and continue to fill, nets to bursting, and to renew us in your Holy Spirit. Thank you, Holy One, for welcoming all who seek wholeness and healing, so here we come to worship and follow. Amen.

Hymn: MV 172 God Says, vs. 1

1. God says, "Be still so you may hear
the words I whisper in your ear.
If you will listen, you will know
I'm with you always where you go."

Time up Front

Have some fun with the children and the whole congregation with the pictures of old or unusual communication devices. Share a bit of a quiz. For example, ask, "Who knows what this device is and what it is used for?" Create room for some storytelling about older devices. Then focus on what they have in common, i.e., they are all ways that we communicate with each other. The devices may change with the context and the times, but the purpose remains the same. Then draw the analogy with a call from God. The ways in which God calls us may change with the context and the times, but the same God continues to call each of us to our task or vocation. You might choose to share your own experience of God's call.

Hymn: MV 172 God Says, vs. 4

4. God says, "Reach out! The world's in need
and wants a word, a song, a deed.
I send you forth to speak, to sing,
to asct for Christ in everything.

Scripture Reading (*Deb McIntosh*)

Isaiah 6:1-9

This is the story of the call of the prophet Isaiah, and I'm reading from the New International Version translation.

I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

So Many Fish – Based on Luke 5:1-11

This is a paraphrase of the story from the Gospel of Luke about Jesus calling the disciples while they were fishing. As with all this stories of Jesus, we can wonder: what is the core message for all of us as modern-day disciples?

The sun sparkled on the lake of Gennesaret, also known as the Sea of Galilee. On this beautiful day, Jesus stood at the edge of the lake. Crowds of people pressed close, waiting to hear him teach about God. But Jewish teachers sat down, and Jesus had no place to sit.

Jesus turned to look at the calm waters. When he turned back to the lakeshore, he noticed two fishing boats that hadn't been there before. The men who had been fishing in the boats were washing their nets nearby.

Jesus walked over to the boats and got into one of them. Here was a place for him to sit and teach. The boat belonged to Simon. "Take me out a bit from the shore, won't you?" Jesus said to Simon. Simon did as Jesus asked. From the seat on the boat, Jesus taught the crowd on the shore.

When Jesus finished, the people left. "Fisher," Jesus said to Simon, "go out into the deep water. Let your nets down, and you will catch many fish."

"Sir," Simon said, "we have been fishing all night, and we did not catch even one fish. Yet, if you say so, we will go to the deep water and try again."

Simon signalled to the fishers in the other boat. The two boats sailed out to the deep water. Simon threw his net into the water. Before the net of the other boat was tossed in, Simon's net was filled

with fish. Simon called to the other boat for help. So many fish filled both boats that they almost sank.

When Simon realized what was happening, he fell to his knees. "Get away from me, Jesus!" he cried. "I am not good enough to be with you."

James and John, the other fishers, were amazed at all that was happening.

But Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will be catching people, not fish."

And when the boats were again at the shore, the fishers left everything there and followed Jesus.

Let us pray, Creator God, you have drawn us from deep within ourselves into your loving net of grace. Strengthen us to cast such a net of justice and mercy into the depths of this community and world, that all might feel enfolded by your realm. Amen.

Message: "...O'er the Tumult"

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

Time for Quiet Reflection

1. How do you discern God's call when there are so many demands in your life competing for attention?
2. God calls *all* of us to use our gifts as we follow Jesus. What are the costs of following the call of Christ? What is the cost if we choose *not* to answer?

Offering Moment – "Have a Heart Day" (Rhodine and Amelia White)

Dave: I use the word "reconciliation" regularly in worship. I wonder what reconciliation means for you.

Rhodine: It is righting the wrongs of the church's and our country's history with First Nations peoples. I think it is about repairing relationships – that's why we call this work Right Relations.

Dave: Hey Amelia, this Have a Heart Campaign was spearheaded by a really amazing organization. Can you tell me about it?

Amelia: The First Nations Caring Society was created in 1998, to work for the safety and well-being of First Nations youth and children and their family. Have a Heart invites everyone to be an ally.

Dave: Something smells pretty good in the sanctuary today.

Amelia: We made cookies today. Heart cookies that allow us to give them away, to be generous, but also to show others that Every Child Matters.

Rhodine: Reconciliation work can taste good and be fun. This week, we are inviting all our friends to bake cookies and share them with neighbours, send a valentine to Prime Minister Trudeau and your local MP, take a photo of your creation and post it on social media with hash tag "HaveAHeartDay". All the information is in weekly NEWS, and you can find more information at the end of this service among the credits.

Dave: Let's all have fun doing this next Valentine's Day weekend, one more baby step towards Reconciliation.

Dedication Hymn: VU 467 *One Bread, One Body*, vv. 1, 2

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.

Dedication Prayer

You pour out your abundance on us, Loving God, as we can alleviate the sufferings of others, turn their woes into blessings, and their emptiness into overflowing grace and life. Take the gifts we offer and use them in the work of your new life which is in our midst. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

May the God of all blessing be with you!

And with you!

Let us lift our hearts to the One who plants us by living water.

We open our hearts, and we are filled with God's grace.

Let us sing glad songs to God, who takes delight in us.

We will sing of our blessings to the One we trust in all things.

You opened your heart, God of every wonder,
and creation flowed forth

transforming chaos into a garden of delights:

trees stretching to touch the sky,
rivers tickling the floors of valleys,
stars twinkling your message of joy
to those staring into space.

Your Spirit of generosity offered
all these gifts to those shaped in your image,
inviting us to picnic by the waters of life.

But we choose, time and again, to sink our roots
in the sandy clay of fear.

You blessed the prophets with your words,
sending them to proclaim your healing words
to all who would come and listen.

When our hearts refused to budge,
you sent Jesus, your Hope, your Life
to become one of us.

Preparing to come to your Table,
we join our voices with all who delight
in you, in every place and time

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who blesses.
All creation trusts in your goodness.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who has been raised from the dead.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, God of living waters,
and you bless us through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Gardener of your grace, Jesus came,
so we would not be like lonely desert shrubs.
He spoke, blessing us as your beloved children.
Bearer of your life, he went
into the unpitying arms of death,
so we would not be imprisoned by sin.

As we remember the blessings he has brought to us,
as we recall the curses he endured for us,
we speak of that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, trusting himself to your love;
Christ is risen, so we can trust in resurrection faith;
Christ is with us, trusting us to proclaim the good news.**

Prayers of Community

For all those who follow,
we give you thanks, O God.

God who calls, we give you thanks for the courage of prophets of the past and present, who
champion your desire for justice and peace, and who speak truth to the rich and powerful, even in
the face of danger.

For all those who follow,
we give you thanks, O God.

We give you thanks for the courage of people in our local community, whose selfless acts of love
continue to inspire our hearts. We give thanks for the unknown and unnamed people who, with
disregard for recognition, have acted selflessly in the interest of others. We pray for those people,
ones we know who need a special boost, encouragement, healing, rest, people both near and far
in this silent moment (silence)

For all those who follow,
we give you thanks, O God.

And we thank you for ourselves, for the energy you give us, empowering each and every one of
us to be prophets, ministers, and disciples. Inspire us to follow in the footsteps of these faithful
ones, that we may heed your call and carry out the work that you would have us do.

For all those who follow,
we give you thanks, O God.

And we pray the words that Jesus taught us, saying...

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.

Here at this Table of life, Spirit, flow into the gifts
of bread and the cup;
your grace, your joy, your peace
seeping and trickling into all gathered,
so we become trees planted by your waters.

May we:

share your kin dom with the poor,
feed all who hunger,
wipe away the tears of all who grieve,
lifting up all who are despised by the world.

When our journeys have ended in you,
gathered with our sisters and brothers
around the feast prepared for all time to come,
we will join in singing our praise to you,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

We remember Jesus, who on the night before he died,
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."

The Bread of Life (Breaks bread)
The Cup of Blessing (Pours cup)

Holy Spirit, let us eat and drink together for our strengthening in the faith,
and for the sake of the world. Join in the banquet, for all is ready.

The bread broken, [Dave and all take bread]
and the cup poured, [Dave and all drink]

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. Thank you, Creator God. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 563 *Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*, vv. 1, 3, 4

1. Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

3. You need my hands, full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

4. You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

Blessing

God provides abundantly.

We will live without fear.

God has filled our nets to bursting.

We will live in joyful gratitude.

God has a great purpose for us all.

We will follow God's lead.

Let us trust God, who has been ever steadfast.

We will be bold and answer God's call. We go in God. Amen.

Blessing Hymn: MV 216 *Wherever You May Go, vs.1*

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

1. Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,
we will travel side by side
and God's love will be our guide.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

Postlude

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