

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
July 3, 2022 – Love Your Neighbour Week 2, Communion

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, July 3.

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

Prelude

Hymn: VU 567 Will You Come and Follow Me, vv. 1, 3, 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?
3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean 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?

Inviting Holy Light

We prepare our bodies and minds for worship. (*silence*)

We can do many things to prepare – meditation, prayer, listening to quiet music. Whatever you do, feel. Feel your feet, your body supported from below. Breathe deeply. Feel the cleansing of life-giving oxygen that breathes life into you. We give thanks for Creation, for Life. As we invite holy light, we recognize that we are interwoven in this wondrous universe – created, of value, interdependent with all creation. In wonder and gratitude. [*Dave lights candle*]

Hymn: VU 371 Open My Eyes that I May See, vs. 1

1. Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Nurturing Safe Space

Everyone who is seeking, who wants to follow Jesus - for healing, hope, inspiration, or just looking for community - all are welcome. We God's love, the neighbourly love that Jesus taught and modelled, is grounded deeply in diversity.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

We as people of faith inherit a legacy of hurt caused by our church ancestors, but we also journey into new chapters of healing and reconciliation. Today, here we are worshipping on the ancestral lands 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 the first Sunday of our shared summer worship, shared between St. Peter's, St. Mark's and St. Andrew's United Churches here in Sudbury. We at St. Andrew's will host the first 3 Sundays in July, then St. Peter's will host the next three and St. Mark's will take that last three

Sundays of August. Thank you to the many who make this worship possible, especially our coordinating team who planned these summer worship services from the three partner churches.

The Downtown Churches are collecting needed items for Sudbury Action Centre for Youth (SACY). SACY is asking for help in replenishing their supply of personal and hygiene items for both males and females. The list of what is needed is over on the bin and baskets (*point*). If you'd like to help, you can bring your donations to church on July 3 and 10 and put them in the bin and baskets. Thank you from the Reaching Out Team.

Here at St. Andrew's, we have explored the biblical directive to love our neighbour that Jesus elaborated on many times – loving your enemy, love those who hate you. Loving people who are not at all like us – who don't think/pray... like us. We focused on what that really might mean, to love someone who is utterly unlike us, but nonetheless we are taught to love them. For the next 3 Sundays we will touch on how to love neighbours who do not love like us. Let us turn to wonder together.

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.

We also have a Social Hour on Zoom, every Sunday night 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. We are also sharing in Communion today – absolutely everyone is welcome at God's Table, especially those who want to follow Jesus, to learn and grow together. For our online congregation, please gather your Communion elements, and type first name only in the comments box for Prayers of the Community.

Call to Worship

Moses said to God, "I am slow of speech and slow of tongue..."
but God sent him anyway.

Jeremiah said, "I am just a boy..."
but God spoke through him anyway.

Mary was perplexed by the angel's visit,
but God still invited her to give birth to Jesus.

God invites us to understand that we have gifts and we are needed:
whether old or young;
tired or energetic;
quick or slow.
Whoever we are, however we are,
we hear your call, O God. We have come.

Opening Prayer

Holy One we come to you, because we need healing. We come to you, for we need teaching. We come to you, for we need leading. As we gather; as we sing; as we pray; as we listen; as we speak: may we open ourselves to your balm, your blessing, your word. Amen.

Prayer for Grace

When Moderator of the United church, the Robert Smith, apologized to Indigenous sisters and brothers for the great harm caused them by the United Church's system of Residential Schools, he said:

We did not hear you when you shared your vision. In our zeal to tell you of the good news of Jesus Christ we were closed to the value of your spirituality. We confused Western ways and culture with the depth and breadth and length and height of the gospel of Christ.

As we ponder the former Moderator's words, made to the First Peoples of this land, I wonder if they describe the ways, yes, even we self-proclaimed followers of Jesus. In our daily lives, so we stubbornly, even at times arrogantly, impose our ideas, our philosophies, our beliefs on others, mistaking our evangelizing for Christ's Call to share good news?

In our zeal for speaking truth, have we ever neglected to listen to others who might have very different truth? I invite you to think of moments when your smugness and certainty were not tempered well with humility and respect for another person's reality...

Forgive us, God,
and open us to Deeper Love and Respect.

Have we ever inserted our personal agendas into our beliefs about God/Jesus – perhaps warping the teachings of Jesus in ways that harmed others or reinforced harmful systems? ...

Forgive us, God,
and open us to Deeper Love and Respect.

Words of Assurance

God's love never leaves us. We are loved, understood,
forgiven, and freed to begin anew.

God, for your great grace toward us,
with all Creation, we praise you! Thank you, Creator God.

Scripture Readings (Marilyn Hurst)

Galatians 6: 1 - 10 (NRSVUE)

My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

Luke 10: 1 – 11, 17-18 (Common English Bible translation)

[The] Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place he was about to go.

He said to them, "The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest. Go! Be warned, though, that I'm sending you out as lambs among wolves.

Carry no wallet, no bag, and no sandals. Don't even greet anyone along the way. Whenever you enter a house, first say, 'May peace be on this house.' If anyone there shares God's peace, then your peace will rest on that person. If not, your blessing will return to you. Remain in this house, eating and drinking whatever they set before you, for workers deserve their pay. Don't move from house to house. Whenever you enter a city and its people welcome you, eat what they set before you. Heal the sick who are there, and say to them, 'God's kingdom has come upon you.' Whenever you enter a city and the people don't welcome you, go out into the streets and

say, 'As a complaint against you, we brush off the dust of your city that has collected on our feet. But know this: God's kingdom has come to you.'

The seventy-two returned joyously, saying, "Lord, even the demons submit themselves to us in your name."

Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning..

Let us pray: God of compassion, open us to hear messages from near and far, from the familiar and the unfamiliar, as we seek the healing and wholeness you promise. Amen.

Message: "Modern Christian Etiquette"

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

Questions for Reflection

- What are times when you have enthusiastically wanted to share a story of good news and been met with resistance?
- What did you do? Could you have acted or spoken differently?

Offering Moment

Your donations will help St. Mark's, St. Peter's, and St. Andrew's to partner with people who help the most vulnerable. Giving to the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service allows us collectively to reach out to Ukraine and other places needing love and community. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and treasures.

Dedication Hymn: VU 509 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky, vv. 1, 3

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Dedication Prayer

Holy God, your generosity inspires us to say: Thank you.
In this place and in these plates, we offer a portion of our treasure, our talents, our time...even our very selves. We ask you to bless our offerings, bless these gifts of Communion, that through all your gifts we might build you kin-dom – building community, working for justice, and loving our neighbours. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

All are welcome at this table. No conditions, no rules, only that you want to follow Jesus. For you joining online, if you don't already have your elements – your cup of something and your bread to share with us – please hit the pause button and bring those over.

May the Lord our God be with you.

And also with you.

Children of God, lift our hearts.

We lift them to the One who heals us at the Table of brokenness.

Children of God, give thanks to the Lord our God.

We will sing our praises to the One who restores us to life.

We do not bring silence to you, Holy One,
But instead shouts of praise and laughter
for your gracious love.

Your healing river flowed through creation,
bringing life and joy to all who drank from it.

But too often your children splashed
in the sewers of the world, rejecting your love.

Yet, you never grew weary
of bearing the burdens of your children.

Joining with those who sing your praises,
lifting our voices with faithful ones of every time and place,
we sing of our thanks to you forever:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God the Creator!

The mountains sing your praises, the valleys echo your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

We welcome the One who comes in your name, who calls us to life.

Hosanna in the highest!

God of compassion,
for when death threatened snuff out life for your children
you sent your beloved Son, Jesus,
to heal the brokenness of the world.

He did not grow weary of loving
even as others turned to violence, and disinformation.

Jesus endured, and loved,
and witnesses carried love along the journey to Jerusalem,
bearing the violence on a cross.

But that was not the end. Not at all.
Resurrection and Fullness of life has vanquished death.

As we dance to the Table to be filled with hope,
we remember all that Jesus has done for us,
and all that we have been called to do in his name.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ died, bearing our burdens.

Christ was raised, mocking death's power.

Christ will return, for the good of all.

Prayers of Community

Healing God, we bring to you our wounds in our hearts and in our bodies:
illnesses and griefs;
difficult relationships;
financial problems;
harsh words said that we cannot retract;
pain we have inflicted and pain we carry. We
seek your help, Source of Life and Love.

We lift to you prayers:

For our friends and family members;

For our congregations and our greater communities;

For those we do not know, here and abroad, especially those who continue to struggle for women's rights as well as LGBTQ2+ rights and many more under threat, as well as those lawmakers that they might understand better the great responsibility that have. We pray for the people of Ukraine fearing for home, family and life, we pray for the diaspora abroad, and we pray for the people of Russia, that your wisdom and mercy and justice might prevail.

We ask that your tender arms surround those in pain - May there be healing where healing is possible. May all know your loving, caring presence.

In silence, we offer now our own personal prayers for those needing your care and healing, perhaps we pray for ourselves also.

Remind us that we can, each of us, be the means of carrying your love to others. We can be your hands and feet in this world, no matter how strong or how smart we feel that we are. May we shine with Love's light in all we do...

The Prayer Jesus Taught

We pray together a modern translation of the prayer that Jesus Taught:

Our Father-Mother, who is in heaven, may your name be made holy, may your dominion come, may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today the bread we need; and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors; and do not put us to the test, but rescue us from evil. For yours is the dominion, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Flow through us, Healing Spirit,
as we drink deeply of Christ's cup of Grace.

You never grow weary of feeding us with the Bread of Life.

Use these simple gifts to transform our brokenness.

As we go from the Table, send us forth:

to bring healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed,
to speak peace to the human household,
to carry the Kin-dom with us wherever you would lead us.

No, we will not keep silent, but praise you forever and ever,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

The bread of life, broken and shared,

[Dave and all take bread]

The cup of blessing poured out,

[Dave and all drink]

Prayer After Communion

Thank you, O Christ, 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
into the visions God has laid on our hearts.**

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: VU 510 *We Have this Ministry*

1. We have this ministry and we are not discouraged;
it is by God's own power that we may live and serve.
Openly we share God's word, speaking truth as we believe,
praying that the shadowed world may healing light receive.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.
2. O Christ, the tree of life, our end and our beginning,
we grow to fullest flower when rooted in your love.
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay, called to service by your grace,
different cultures, different gifts, the young and old a place.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our giving.
3. The yoke of Christ is ours, the whole world is our parish;
we daily take the cross, the burden and the joy.
Bearing hurts of those we serve, wounded, bruised and bowed with pain,
Holy Spirit, bread and wine, we die and rise again.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our loving.

Blessing

Big or small, old or young, may we each know ourselves as blessed and loved by our Creator God. May God's Love encircle you.
May the call of Jesus to unconditionally love all be ever on your lips.
May the Spirit lead you along the path of righteous living and courageous, extravagant, loving.

Blessing Hymn: VU 575 *I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me, vs. 1, 3*

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
2. I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Postlude

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Words of Assurance, Prayer after the Scriptures, Dedication Prayer, Prayers of Community, and Blessing from *Seasons of the Spirit, Fusion*. Pentecost 1. © 2022 Wood Lake Books Inc.

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Thank you to: Gordon Brown, our special guest, for his musical leadership; Marilyn Hurst for reading the scriptures; Jeannine Zadow for preparing the Communion elements; Suzanne Nykilchyk for her assistance with liturgy preparation; Myfawny McIntosh for arranging the readers; Jen Bruneau for assisting with graphics for the PowerPoint presentation; Jen Bruneau, Maureen McGuinness, and Suzanne Nykilchyk for the sanctuary décor; and Mallon Appianing and Ralph McIntosh in the audiovisual booth.
