

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**September 1, 2022 – Season of Creation (Cosmos Sunday)**

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11.

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

**Prelude**

**Hymn: *Our Voices Have Been Silent***

1. Our voices have been silent far too long;  
just listening in worship felt so wrong.  
God's people need to shout their praise,  
to celebrate God's wondrous ways,  
to pray, lament and grieve when things go wrong  
– God's people need to lift their hearts in song.
2. But though our tongues were still, the Spirit prayed  
for us in sighs too deep for words, and stayed  
close by our side, until the night  
gave way to radiant morning light  
and in the storm's retreat the Spirit bade  
us sing once more, robust and unafraid.
3. With thankful hearts and voices glad and free  
we bless the Source of rhyme and melody  
for Love's devoted, steady beat  
that nothing ever can defeat,  
and pledge anew God's choristers to be  
in faithful, joyous music ministry.

**Welcome and Announcements**

Welcome to St. Andrew's worship. This coming week, a city-wide time of prayer by Christian communities for peace in Ukraine will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 7 p.m. at Saint Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, across from Elm Place. The program will include seventeen representatives from nine different Christian denominations from Greater Sudbury. All are invited to attend and join in prayer for Ukraine.

Those at home or 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 our phone number. You can contact us in many ways to say hello and allow us to get to know you. We also have a Virtual Fellowship time is tonight at 7:00 with hosts Bev and Diane. Diane's email is also in the credits so you can request your Zoom link to Zoom Social Hour. Please join us. We'd love to see you there.

**Inviting Holy Light**

We prepare ourselves for worship. We ground ourselves, supported, so loved every one of us, by our Creator. We feel our feet supported by the ground, our bodies supported by our chair, or sofa.

Today, as we Creation, and praise the Creator, we imagine together ocean. The beauty, the majesty, the sounds, the creatures nurtured within ocean. We join the voice of ocean, giving thanks to Creator God as we invite holy light.

*[lights candle]*

**Nurturing Safe Space**

We are all children of God. All are welcome in worship here – all backgrounds, gender identities – this space is open to all.

## **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

Here we are worshipping on the traditional land of the First Peoples. Across Turtle Island, Treaties were made between colonizers and those who had lived on the land for millennia. Here at St. Andrew's, we give thanks to the Wahnapiatae First Nation and to the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, this land where the Robinson Huron Treaty was made in 1850, and never honoured by Canada.

We have a responsibility implied by those ancient and sacred Treaties to share the caretaking of this land with Indigenous neighbours. We give thanks for the current and historic contributions that First Nations and Métis people have made. May we journey and act together towards reconciliation.

## **Call to Worship (Connecting)**

Risen Christ,  
**Your presence fills the universe.**

Cosmic Christ,  
**Your presence pulses through all galactic space  
across light years of time.**

Living Christ,  
**With us in this moment 'now', in this place we call 'here',**

We invite all creation to worship with us.

**We invite glittering galaxies high in the sky  
to radiate the splendor of God's presence.**

We call distant domains of space to celebrate with us.

**We invite nebula, nova, and red giant stars  
to thank God for their formation in the universe.**

We summon that domain of stardust called Earth,  
**to pulse with the rhythm of God's presence  
and celebrate God's glory in this planet garden.**

We invite millions of living species to dance with life,  
**the turtle, the toad, and the elephant,  
the earthworm, the ant, and the dragonfly.**

We invite every creature in the web of creation  
**to consciously connect with others  
in this cosmic community called the universe.**

Dance, creation, dance!  
**Dance with life and cosmic energy!**

We name, silently or aloud, other creatures or parts  
of the universe and invite them to join us in praising our Creator.

**Dance, creation, dance!  
Dance with life and cosmic energy!**

## **Opening Prayer Seeking Grace**

Let us pray. Great galaxies and tiny insects; giant pine trees and tiny plants growing in forests and on plains; a speck of sand, and planets beyond our comprehension – all of this is the stuff of your making, O God. We can feel so very small in the context of all you have made, and yet you care for us – you love each of us as if we were your favourite. Help us acknowledge you in the world around us, celebrate your presence, and honour you in all we do. Amen.

## **Pre-Baptism Hymn: MV 30 *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker, vs. 1***

1. It's a song of praise to the Maker,  
the thrush sings high in the tree.  
It's a song of praise to the Maker,  
the gray whale sings in the sea,  
and by the Spirit, you and I  
can join our voice to the holy cry  
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

## **Baptism**

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. By water and the Spirit, we are called, claimed, and commissioned: we are called God's own, welcomed as children of God; we are claimed by Christ, united with Christ, united with one another and the Christ community of every time and place; we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace and justice, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.

Dear Paul used the metaphor of our Christian Community being like a Body in Christ in his ancient letter. He said that every body part has an importance, each different, but equally important. An arm can't tell an eye, for example, "I am of more importance than you."

Imagine if a Body was all hands or all heads. That would look strange, and would not be able to function. In the same way, our Body needs diversity, different people with different talents and passions. Today we celebrate this.

**Leader:** On behalf of the congregation of St. Andrew's United Church, I present Cooper Diane for initiation into the body of Christ through Baptism, daughter of Saunders and Lorie.

### **Profession of Faith and Promises:**

Do you believe in God, Source of love; in Jesus Christ, love incarnate; and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

**Parents: I do, by the Grace of God.**

Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

**Parents: I will, God being my helper.**

Will you follow the Way of Jesus Christ?

**Parents: I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

**Parents: I will, God being my helper.**

Will you pray for Cooper, encourage her by your words and actions, and walk with her in the way of Jesus?

**Parents: I will, God being my helper.**

### **Commitment of Godparents**

Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support Cooper and her parents as they grow in faith?

**Godparents: I will, God being my helper**

### **Congregational Commitment**

**Minister:** Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

**All: As a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the community of faith.**

**Minister:** May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

**All: Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith: VU 918 A New Creed (revised 1995)**

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water**

God be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give our thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Therefore, eternal and present God,  
we thank you for the water with which you bless us.

We pray that those who are baptized,  
into the death and resurrections of Jesus,  
may live in your grace...

Pour out, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us,  
and upon this water, that this font may become your womb  
of new birth, our fount of blessing and source of grace.

**Blessed are you, O God.**

All glory, praise, and honour be to you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**The Act of Baptism:**

What is the name of this child?

Cooper Diane Bergeron. we baptize you in the name of God, the Creator, Christ the Redeemer  
and the Holy Spirit, our teacher and guide.

Cooper, child of God, with the sign of the cross you bear the sign of Jesus Christ forever.

May the blessing of God, Source of Love,  
Jesus Christ, Love incarnate, and the Holy Spirit, Love's power,  
be with you today and always.

Cooper has been received into the Holy Catholic Church. God bless you and keep you and give you grace.

**All: Amen.**

**Laying on of Hands:**

*Minister and family may rest their hands on the head of the newly baptized child.*

Cooper. may the Holy Spirit, Love's power, guide you, inspire you, and work within you, all the days of your life.

**All: Amen.**

**Presentation to the Congregation**

**Presentation of Certificate, Candle, and Bible**

**Time up Front**

What an amazing thing to consider – that our earth that seems so big, so many people, but we are just a tiny but beautiful part of a universe filled with trillions of planets, suns, and galaxies. Maybe one day you will decide that God has given you a passion for space. Maybe one of you will be an astronaut.

Look at these photos. It was a project in England where they had children in a school there from many countries and took pictures of them in space suits. Our world is amazing, isn't it.

This is a repeat after me prayer:

We give thanks for space,

Its galaxies and planets and stars, God,

Thank you for the amazing show we see at night

As we look up in the night sky.

Thank you for reminding us that we are part of all this.

We are made of stardust.

Help us to love the oceans, to love our universe.

Thank you God for people who study space,

Thank you God for people who teach us about the universe.

This universe rocks! Amen.

**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.

**Scripture Reading (*Jill Bennett*)**

**John 6:41-51 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

Then the religious leaders began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Creator who sent me, and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in

the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Creator comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Creator except the one who is from God; he has seen the Creator. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Let us pray:

God of Wonder, you shine from the heavens and call from the depths. You light up the world with the passion of a flame and gently cover it in frost. The mountains and hills portray your peaks, the animals and birds your boundless realm. Draw nearer to us, Creator of Nebula, so we may experience your infinite and limitless wildness as freedom and love. Amen.

**Message: Look Up**

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

**Question for Quiet Reflection**

God is a cosmic concept. We speak of an invisible, spiritual being embodied in Christ, that created all and is somehow present in the midst of that creation.

- Where or when do you most powerfully experience the cosmic Creator and/or Christ in your daily life?

**Choir Anthem: You're Going to Be Lifted Up by Jerry Estes**

**Offering Moment**

Your donations will help St. Andrew's to partner with people who help the most vulnerable downtown. 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.

**Communion Hymn: VU 457 As We Gather at Your Table**

1. As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's victory known.

2. Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.

3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us

nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.

### **Dedication Prayer**

All that exists is yours, great God. Now we give a portion to your church to continue doing your work in the world. Take these gifts and use them. We pray the spirit and love of Christ. Amen.

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion, Words of Inclusion**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome at this table with its symbols of God's Creative Presence.

**In company with all who seek nourishment at this table,  
we come to celebrate community,  
and to share these life-giving symbols.**

It is right and our joy to give thanks  
world-gazing, hope-cheering God, our cherisher.

We celebrate the changing mood of nature:  
for the chill at night, the dew on the grass in the morning,  
the trees changing colour.  
It is a time for walks to experience the wonder of Creation;  
Transformation at work around us, and in us.

And we celebrate our knowledge of the one called Jesus,  
who taught all to care for the birds of the air, and lilies of the field.  
These are all living expressions of the Spirit of Life in our midst.  
We celebrate the Source of Life who set the universe in motion;  
And saw that it was indeed good.

We who hold all such good things in trust,  
in the company of each other,  
and in company with people throughout the world  
declare as generations before us have declared:

**Holy, holy, holy, hope-breathing God,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Prayers of Community & Creation**

Cosmic Creator, you have made an awe-inspiring world: a place of rocks and minerals, trees and grasses, plants that feed us and flowers that please us.

We pray now for those who are unable to experience the fullness of Earth's beauty and majesty.  
We pray, too, that we might find ways to preserve the dignity, value, and beauty of this fragile planet.

Cosmic Creator, you have made oceans, brimming with life in so many exotic forms. We discard plastic, oil, and human waste in the sea, and we pray now that you will move deep within us to change us. May we turn from destroying to preserving, that the oceans, the coral reefs, the precious islands threatened by rising sea levels, might live without fear, and know that they have a future.

Cosmic Creator, you made the sky beyond us. Let it be a reminder to us of the need to dream, to stretch our minds to think and hope far beyond the day-to-day.

As we gaze tomorrow at stars as yet unknown today, remind us that you are always revealing new worlds in our very midst. We pray now, also, for the places on this planet that face uncertainty about tomorrow. People near and far for whom every day brings exhausting work. Grant them strength and determination and the fullness of your presence. Those who groan under the yoke of political or economic injustice. May your kin-dom come, Holy One, and may we be a part of that work of reconciliation in our world. In silence we offer now our own personal prayers of concern for people and creation, near and far (silence). This we pray...

### **The Prayer Jesus Taught**

... along with a newer version of the Prayer that Jesus taught:

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, We pray that your good will be done, Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need, Give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, From each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence Beyond the evil of our days — Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One. Amen.**

Through his sayings and parables,  
Jesus broke down existing biases and opened a way  
for more humane ways of living.

Jesus at supper is a demonstration of this teaching.  
He urged his followers to include a wide variety of people  
in what he called the realm of God,  
and he encouraged them to be open  
to the insights and understandings  
that come from honest and respectful dialogue among  
those who seek a worthy way of life.

We are here to carry on this tradition  
of seeking for truth and recognizing goodness  
wherever they may be found.

Source of Love, may your Spirit envelope us now, and this bread and cup. Transform them, and us, that we might find new purpose in the world of bringing Christ's unconditional love and peace to your world.

On the night that he was betrayed,  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

"This is my body, which is for you.  
Do this to remember me." [break bread]

In the same way, he passed the cup after supper saying:

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
Do this whenever you drink it, to remember me." [elevate cup]

So we take and break this bread, and pour out this wine  
mindful of the Spirit at work in our lives,  
making our living a source of renewal and hope.  
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

*We Share in Communion*

Bread, blessed and broken for us.

The cup of blessing, poured out for us.



### **Closing Hymn: VU 238 *How Great Thou Art*, vv. 1 & 2**

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars; I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

### **Blessing**

Christ calls us to be his disciples, to serve with love and compassion,  
to serve by caring for creation, to serve by caring for all creatures.  
Hold again the symbol in your hands and go forth to serve.  
Will you care for creation?

**We will care for one another, we will care for creation.  
We will celebrate with the universe!**

May the Spirit of God, who is the cosmic power  
above all and in all and through all,  
fill you and me with an awareness of Christ's presence  
permeating the universe and pulsing within us.  
Go in peace! Serving Christ and loving Earth!

**We go in peace, surrounded by the Creator's love,  
serving Christ and loving Earth.**

### **Blessing Hymn: MV 135 *Called by Earth and Sky*, vv. 1 & 2**

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.

## Postlude

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**Call to Worship** from [seasonofcreation.com](http://seasonofcreation.com). USA version.

**Opening Prayer, Dedication Prayer, and Prayers of Community & Creation** from *Seasons of the Spirit, Fusion*. Season of Creation, Year C. © 2022 Wood Lake Books Inc.

**The Prayer Jesus Taught** by Parker J. Palmer, found in *Peace Prayers*, eds. Carrie Leadingham, Joann E. Moschella, and Hilary M. Vartanian.

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**Sacrament of Holy Communion** adapted from Rev. Rex. E. Hunt, [rexaehuntprogressivelgy.com](http://rexaehuntprogressivelgy.com), Creation1/Pent13c492022.

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