

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH  
October 16, 2022 – 19<sup>th</sup> After Pentecost

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16.

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

## Prelude

### Opening Hymn: VU 371 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*, vv. 1, 3

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!

3. Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.

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

## Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to St. Andrew's worship. Thank you for the donations for our Thanksgiving Food Drive. 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 have a Virtual Social Hour every Sunday night on Zoom. Please email Diane to get your Zoom link. The email address is in the credits. All are welcome.

## Inviting Holy Light

We prepare ourselves for worship. Feel supported for a moment, wherever you are. In a seat in this sanctuary or at a computer in your den or living room or kitchen. Feel your body supported by Spirit and by the Love we share as a Body of Christ across the Earth. Take a breath. Let it go. Breathe in love and peace that only God's Spirit can give, breathe out that peace and love. Let it flow now, as we are invited to allow that flow – in and out, the Breath of God – in our everyday lives. We invite holy light. [*lights candle*]

## Sung Response: MV 28 *God of the Bible*, vs. 1

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.

## Nurturing Safe Space

We are all children of God, loved in our uniqueness, all backgrounds, gender identities. Here we are invited to consider how diversity is a strength, a refraction of Holy Light in all its rainbow colours. Let us make this space radically hospitable for all.

## Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Here we are worshiping 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.

Implied in this acknowledgment is our responsibility to work towards honouring those ancient and sacred Treaties, thankful for the Land cared for by First Peoples long before European immigrants came to this land. May we work towards the healing of broken relationships, Reconciliation and just sharing of the land.

## Call to Worship

We have gathered in God's holy presence,  
the One who etches grace on our hearts.

**This is the place where God  
will transform us into disciples.**

We glorify our God, who yearns for justice,  
not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

**This is the place where God  
will write compassion on our souls.**

We give thanks to God for unceasing grace;  
we remember God's persistence in saving us.

**This is the place where God  
will breathe the Word into our lives.**

## Opening Prayer

Open our spirits, Source of Life and Love, to Wisdom calling: calling us not to stand still, not to believe in static truth, but to seek understanding in relationship, to find love in action, to achieve justice in engagement. Open our ears that we may hear the cries for peace and equality and move towards them. Open our mouths that we may speak. Speak out in wisdom, in love, in justice, in truth. Let our speaking be our worship of you, O Just Spirit, O Divine Love, O Peaceful Wisdom, O God, our touchstone and our redeemer.

## The Prayer Jesus Taught

This we pray along with a modern version of the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

## Hymn: VU 570 *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands, vs. 1*

1. Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,  
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,  
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;  
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

## Prayer for Grace

Seeking to follow Jesus, we often wander down the wrong roads. Impatient with God's schedule, we rush off to do things our way. Let us confess our foolishness, that we might receive God's hope for our lives.

Will you pray with me: Your words are given to us, Author of Life, so that we might borne anew into your vision for us. But alas, we do want our own ways, don't we. We see ourselves as just and righteous, too often others the culprits. Help us to be honest with ourselves, knowing when we are the culprit, the tone deaf one not listening to the voices of those knocking incessantly on our spiritual door, needing our ear, our compassion. As we struggle to cope with our world, its many machines that tire our souls, lead us by our hands and hearts into new life as you see it.

Forgive us the many times when we give up too easily to change the things that break our hearts. Forgive us for those moments when our hearts grow cold and indifferent because we cannot take more stories of injustice, images in the news of tyrants and bullies getting their way. Remind us that you were so tenacious in your love for us that you sent Jesus to heal, to bring teachings of miraculous acts of love. Help us to focus on you, God.

### **Moment of Reflection**

Where do you see God's Love most powerfully reflected in your life?

Is it a person, or in nature, a poem or perhaps a life experience that moved you?

### **Words of Hope**

Time and again in the Bible, God's people made mistakes, the word used for when we harm others, or our relationship with God or with one another is "sin". Over and over again God's children sinned, they chose their own way. Each time, the Creator turned to love and reconciliation.

The prophet Jeremiah used these words in describing how God felt:

This is the covenant I will make with [my children], says God: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [Jeremiah 31: 33-34]

Our relationship with the Creator is mended, reconciled, even before we admit our wrongs. May we do the same for ourselves and for others. Amen.

### **Hymn: VU 570 *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands, vs. 2***

2. Take my hands, O Jesus, let them work for you,  
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;  
let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,  
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

### **Scripture Readings (*Kathy Brankley*)**

#### **2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5 – Common English Bible**

You must continue with the things you have learned and found convincing. You know who taught you... Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.

I'm giving you this commission in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus... Preach the word. Be ready to do it whether it is convenient or inconvenient. Correct, confront, and encourage with patience and instruction. There will come a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching... They will turn their back on the truth and turn to myths. Keep control of yourself in all circumstances. Endure suffering, do the work of a preacher of the good news, and carry out your service fully.

#### **Luke 18:1-8 – New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.

He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.'

For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, Or so that she may not finally come and slap me in the face.' ”

And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Let us pray: Faithful God, remind us of our power and urge us to use it for the good of all people. Grant us the courage to speak and stand tall in the face of injustice, and assure us that you are with us so that we do not lose heart.  
Amen.

### **Message: “Tenacious Spirituality”**

#### **Time for Quiet Reflection**

#### **Hymn: VU 595 *We are Pilgrims*, vv. 1, 3, 5**

1. We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

#### **Minute for Right Relations (*Kathy Brankley*)**

Alberta Billy, We Wai Kai Elder and a fierce defender of Indigenous rights, died on June 13, 2022. Alberta played a pivotal role in influencing The United Church of Canada in its journey towards reconciliation. At a meeting of the General Council Executive, on behalf of the Native Ministries Council, Alberta asked Moderator, Rev. Bob Smith, to issue an apology to Indigenous peoples for the Church's role in colonization and assimilation, particularly through the Residential Schools system. This led to The United Church of Canada offering the first apology on August 15, 1986 – the first church to do so.

After receiving concerns from Alberta, Edith Memnook, and other Indigenous peoples that the first apology was too vague, the Church issued a second apology in 1998 which directly referenced and apologized for the 15 residential schools run by The United Church of Canada. Both of these apologies have been heard and acknowledged, but not accepted. Alberta was also instrumental in advocating for the Aboriginal Ministries Circle receiving equal governance within the United Church.

Prior to her death, Alberta traveled Canada leading workshops on Indigenous and European contact, with a specific focus on the history of Residential Schools. In 2021, after the discovery of the unmarked grave site at a former Residential School in Tk'emlúps, British Columbia, Alberta called on the churches and Government to act rather than just deliver pretty words and empty promises.

Alberta's work calls on us, as a church and community, to commit and make concrete steps toward reconciliation. In a conversation with the Very Rev. Bob Smith, Pam Hart, Sara Stratton,

and Lawrence Sankey at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apology in Sudbury, Alberta stated that she believes the church has taken action, but there is still a lot to do. She believes that the church must show that Indigenous peoples and their ceremonies are accepted, welcomed, and respected. The conversation with the Very Rev. Bob Smith, Pam Hart, Sara Stratton, and Lawrence Sankey is found on The United Church of Canada's YouTube Channel. A link to this video is in this week's NEWS.

Alberta's words remind us that the apology is an ongoing process – a commitment to reconciliation, reparation, and repatriation. The apology must be heard and carried into the future through continuous action. As we know very well, the first apology was commemorated with the building of a Cairn at the site. The Apology Cairn, Parking Lot #15 at Laurentian University, has become a gathering place to remember and reflect on reconciliation.

### **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.

### **Offering Hymn: VU 539 *God of All Good, vs. 3***

3. Maker, whose bounty all creation shows,  
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live,  
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows,  
to you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

### **Dedication Prayer**

Like your words, O God, the tangible gifts with which we are blessed are not to be hoarded or hidden away for rainy days. Rather we offer them so they might bring healing, hope, grace, and peace to all around us, your children. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### **Prayers of Community**

Creator of justice and covenant, hear the voices of those who cry, "Grant me justice,":  
in our homes and our churches;  
in our histories, both personal and political;  
in our communities and countries;  
and in our world.

We lift up these voices now...

Holy One, tune our hearts to hear those whose voices have been silenced. Give us the courage to listen to the stories and voices, even if they might break our hearts. In our shared brokenness, God, bring healing, not just to one part of Creation, but to the whole of Creation. Tune our hearts now, to consider those voices and stories that speak to us today, in this silence...

Encourage us through that widow of Jesus' parable, never, ever to lose heart. Amen.

### **Closing Hymn: MV 171 *Christ Has no Body Now but Yours, vv. 1, 3, 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.

3. No feet but yours to journey with the poor,  
to walk this world with mercy and justice.  
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace  
for the children 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.

## **Blessing**

To quote the letter writer to Timothy in ancient times:

The time is coming near. Speak boldly the Good News of Christ, be persistent, whether it is easy or difficult. Encourage with patience, and live out Your call from God fully. You are blessed, go and bless all those you meet. Love them – strangers and friends – no exceptions. Amen.

## **Blessing Hymn: VU 639 *One More Step Along the World I Go*, vv. 1, 3**

1. One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.

3. As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.

## **Postlude**

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