

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**October 2, 2022 – World Communion Sunday**

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2.

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

**Prelude**

**Hymn: VU 374 *Come and Find the Quiet Centre, vv. 1, 3***

1. Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

**Welcome and Announcements**

Welcome to St. Andrew's worship. This is World Communion Sunday. If you are in the sanctuary, Communion will be served from the front. If you are at home, you can choose your bread and your cup – perhaps toast and juice, or rice cake and coffee. Join us as we celebrate our connectedness in Christ together.

On October 12, Torrin will be presenting a workshop called JUSTICE FOR EVERY MIND. How do we live together when my mind and yours don't work in the same way? This workshop will be here at St. Andrew's or you may attend by Zoom. More details are in the NEWS.

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 – white candle**

We prepare ourselves for worship. We are surrounded by a cloud of followers and seekers of Jesus alike, people coming to Table. Here we are, Christ's community. 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*]

**Hymn: *Our Voices Have Been Silent, vs. 2***

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.

**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**

Reconciliation is the responsibility of every Canadian. It means acknowledging the past and ensuring history never repeats itself by respecting Indigenous treaties and rights and letting go of negative perceptions and stereotypes to work towards solidarity.

**What can we do?**

Reconciliation is not a destination.

**It's a journey that will last our lifetime and generations to follow.**

There is always prep time for a trip, contingent on the length and difficulty.

**This is where we are right now within Canadian history.**

We still have a lot to learn about the Indigenous perspective of history and Christianity, and about Indigenous worldview, culture, values, and spirituality.

**Misunderstandings in Canada about these things run rampant.**

Let's start off this journey with this acknowledgement, "You don't know what you don't know."

**And let's follow that acknowledgment with, "Now that you know, how then shall we live?"**

**With God's help, let's take the next step.**

We acknowledge, thankfully, that St. Andrew's United Church is worshiping on the traditional territories of the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.

**May we journey and act together, mending, reconciling, our relationships with Indigenous sisters and brothers.**

## **Call to Worship**

In places like Myanmar and Ukraine and Russia  
where lives are lost and voices are not heard,

**we call to mind that faith which is passed on to us,  
that justice will speak out for all people.**

In towns and communities walled in by poverty,  
where fear destroys families and scatters neighbours,

**we call to mind that hope which is passed on to us,  
that peace and reconciliation will rebuild communities.**

In neighbourhoods not known, in places never mentioned,  
where bitter tears are shed and the lonely walk the streets,

**we call to mind that love which we can pass on  
to those forgotten by the world, including us.**

## **Opening Prayer Seeking Grace**

Let us pray, It is not in the hollowness of our fears, but there in the depths of your heart, Singer of Songs, that the notes are written that can reshape our lives. Seed Planter Christ, you traveled our lonely cities, listening to the weeping of parents; reaching out to share our burdens. Spirit of love; enter our fears to open us to possibilities; enter our communities to create families. Thank you, that you empty yourself, pouring upon us your abundance, so we can share the good treasure of hope with all. Amen.

## **Hymn: MV 156 *Dance with The Spirit***

1. Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

## **Time up Front: Telling Jesus' Story based on 2 Timothy 1:1–14**

Jesus was a teacher whose love for God was true.

He showed God's love to others saying, "God loves you."

Lois was a disciple. She had no time to lose.  
She passed on Jesus' story, telling others this good news!

Eunice was a disciple. She had no time to lose.  
She passed on Jesus' story, telling others this good news!

Timothy was a disciple. He had no time to lose.  
He passed on Jesus' story, telling others the good news.

Now we are all disciples. We have no time to lose.  
Let's tell people Jesus' story, and share the good news.

*This is a repeat after me prayer:*

Dear God, we thank you: ... Thank you for this beautiful world; ... Thank you for the people who love us; ... Thank you for people who teach us; ... Thank you for Jesus teaching us... to care for others, for our world... We learning to be teachers too... That is Good News in DEED... Amen.

### **Hymn: MV 156 *Dance with the Spirit***

2. Move with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

### **Scripture Readings (Marilyn Hurst)**

#### **A Paraphrase of 2 Timothy 1:1–14 "A Letter for Timothy"**

The cell was dark and cold. Paul sat in the corner with a small oil lamp and a bit of papyrus. It was not easy to get parchment to write on, so he had spent the better part of the day thinking carefully about the letter he would write to Timothy. Serving Christ was a joy for Paul, but it was not easy to be a follower, and now he was paying the price – locked inside a cell, lonely and sick.

The last time he tried to get word to Timothy, he had asked him to come and visit him. He had so much he wanted to tell him and teach him, and writing was getting more difficult. But there had been no word from him, and now Paul knew that with his time running short, he needed to write him one last inspired letter. After much praying and thinking, he was ready to begin:

*I, Paul, a teacher for Christ by the will of God, write to my beloved Timothy. I wish you grace, mercy, and peace.*

*Every night, just before I go to sleep, I pray. As I pray, I think of you and how grateful I am for you. I think of your sincere faith, a faith that has been passed down from your grandmother Lois to your mother Eunice and now lives in you. I long to see you to explain this in person, but this letter will have to serve.*

*Remember that feeling when we prayed together, and I laid my hand on your shoulder? That feeling of deep faith and wonder? I want you to remember it always and continue to rekindle that feeling. God didn't give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and love, and self-discipline. Don't be ashamed of these feelings or the fact that I, who share them, am in prison. We have both been called by the grace of God to spread the word of Jesus the Christ.*

*I put my trust in God, serve the best I can, and teach all who are willing to hear. I have taught YOU, Timothy. I have given you all the teachings that have been entrusted to me by God, and now they are yours as well. Hold to them and share them in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.*

*Guard this treasure well, Timothy, and share it with all who are ready to accept the gift.*

Paul was tired, he turned down the wick of the lamp and closed his eyes, praying to God and remembering warmly his dear young friend, Timothy.

## **Luke 17:5–10 (Common English Bible)**

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

“Would any of you say to your servant, who had just come in from the field after plowing or tending sheep, ‘Come! Sit down for dinner’? Wouldn’t you say instead, ‘Fix my dinner. Put on the clothes of a table servant and wait on me while I eat and drink. After that, you can eat and drink’? You won’t thank the servant because the servant did what you asked, will you? In the same way, when you have done everything required of you, you should say, ‘We servants deserve no special praise. We have only done our duty.’”

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: *The Story***

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

### **Time for Quiet Reflection**

- What Story or Stories of faith form the foundation of your beliefs?
- Do you remember who first shared the Story (or Stories) with you?

### **Anthem: *There is a Season* by Greg Gilpin**

#### **Passing the Peace**

Passing the Peace is an historic Christian tradition, an act dating back to the first followers of Jesus who bore witness to the presence of Christ within one another and in community. In the context of brokenness and division too often displayed in our world, we – whether we say peace of Christ, or just Peace, to one another, we are reminded of our call to reconciliation and Community. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

#### **Offering Moment**

God has given us good gifts: the gift of life, the gift of love, the gift of mercy, the gift of this good Earth, our home. The gift of teachers, the gift of presence, the gift of people to love, the gift of a call to serve, and the gift of hope for the future of God’s world. God has given us good gifts. With the amount of bad news we see in this world, how blessed we are to be a community called to bring good news of compassion, generous hospitality, and God’s dream of a world made new spoken to us over and over again. Let us return for God’s use a portion of what God has given us, to further God’s purposes in this world.

#### **Communion Hymn: MV 200 *You Are My Body*, vv. 1, 2, 4**

1. “You are my body!” Joy and wonder!

Assembled in our Saviour’s name,  
our scattered spirits gladly gather  
the Way of Jesus to proclaim.

Come Spirit, weave us into one,  
to show and tell what God has done.

2. “This is my body!” Simple Glory!

A cup of wine, a loaf of bread  
feed us, and join us to the story  
of Christ, arisen from the dead,

whose life, forever flowing free,  
enlivens all: O taste and see!

4. We are you body! One is Spirit,  
dear Christ, with all your church we pray  
your body language to inherit.  
Come, lead us in your truthful way!  
To seek for what is fair and right  
shall be our duty and delight!

### **Dedication Prayer**

Think about the gifts you offer today – yourself, your time towards the collective work of love here at St. Andrew's, and in your everyday life, as well as your treasures. I invite you to hold out your hands, palms up as we pray – we are called to give, but we also receive. Let us pray:  
Holy One, may our hearts be attentive to your voice. Open our eyes to the needs of the world. Strengthen in us the mission and spirit of this faith community. Accept and use this offering towards furthering the reality of your realm on Earth. In the Spirit of our risen Christ, we pray.  
Amen.

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of God, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the One who cradles our hearts in loving hands.**

People of God, let us give thanks to the God who sets a Table for us.

**We praise our God who welcomes us with open arms.**

How lonely was chaos, Gardener of the Universe,  
until you spoke a Word, and your Spirit created:  
leaves that burnish gold and orange and red in autumn,  
snow that drifts lazily in winter skies,  
frozen brooks that burst in spring,  
ponds splashing with children in summer.  
You planted the seeds of joy in our ancestors  
hoping they would pass them onto us,  
but they, and we, often walked another path,  
ignoring the call to community and love.  
Though the prophets came  
to remind us of your great faithfulness,  
your children continued to celebrate idols of this world.  
But you never did, never will, forget us,  
and so you sent Jesus to bring us home to you.  
Therefore we join our voices,  
as we sing of your mercies made fresh in every moment:

### **Sung Response – melody VU 409 *Morning Has Broken***

God of Creation, Lord of all beauty,  
All creatures join in singing your love;  
Holy Compassion, Joy of our mornings,  
Fill us with grace which comes from above.

You alone are holy, Speaker of Love,  
and we are blessed through Jesus, life's Promise.  
When we would wander the lonely streets of the world,

he would take us by the hand,  
to lead us into your joy.  
Daughters of despair, sons of sadness,  
he gathers all of us up in his arms of mercy  
wiping out death,  
sitting us down at the family Table.

As we remember his grace and love,  
as we dare not forget his sacrifice for us,  
we sing of that mystery we call faith:

### **Sung Response – melody VU 409 *Morning Has Broken***

Christ of the outcast, Comfort of mourners,  
Neighbor to strangers, Love without end;  
Bearer of burdens, Grace ever with us,  
Blessing our children, Brother and Friend.

### **Prayers of Community**

God of steadfast love, our faith was born in ancient prisons,  
kindled from ashes, sustained amidst mourning, and passed to us to light our paths.

We recall with tears and joy the ones in whom our faith first lived.  
We name them now in our hearts. I invite you to offer either out loud or in the silence of your hearts those names.

This is their testimony: that your love is unceasing, your mercies are new every morning, and you are the portion for those who wait for you.  
We recall their testimony with tears and joy.

God our earth community struggles around us. We feel helpless at times to help, practical gestures that might ease pain, might heal Creation's wounds that humans, that often we, have caused.

God, we pray for victims of political and economic injustice near and far and we name those situations in our hearts...*[silence]*

Healing Hope, we pray for those who struggle through their days caregiving with love grounded in fragile hope, we lift up those in our families, neighbours, perhaps strangers who live with mental illness or other health concerns, those weighed down by financial burdens, or relationship breakdown. In silence we offer those names and situations... *[silence]*

God of steadfast love, write our lives as living love letters to those who will come after us, just as our mothers and fathers in the faith passed love letters of their lives to us. This we pray...

### **The Prayer Jesus Taught**

... along with traditional form of the Prayer that 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

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]

Holy Spirit, as we offer the gifts of the bread and the cup  
for your blessing, so we present ourselves:

our accomplishments, our failings,  
our hopes, our realities.

Make us weak, so we might rely on your strength.

As we have heard the Word, may we listen  
to the cries of the poor.

As we are family with those sitting beside us today,  
may we love our sisters and brothers  
in every corner of creation.

As you hold out  
the bread and the cup to us,  
may we reach out to enemies  
to clasp hands as friends.

God in Community, Holy in One,  
all honor and glory are yours, Amen.

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**

All are welcome at this Table, come for all is ready.

Bread, blessed and broken for us.

The cup of blessing, poured out for us.

### **Sung Response – melody VU 409 *Morning Has Broken***

Spirit of kindness, Breath of forgiveness,  
Faithful Companion, just as Christ said;  
God's little children gathered together,  
Drink of salvation, feast on your Bread.

### **Closing Hymn: VU 580 *Faith of our Fathers***

1. Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy,  
whene'er we hear that glorious word:  
faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
we will be true to you till death.

2. Faith of our mothers, daring faith,  
your work for Christ is love revealed,  
spreading God's word from pole to pole,  
making love known and freedom real:  
faith of our mothers, holy faith,  
we will be true to you till death.

3. Faith of our sisters, brothers too,  
who still must bear oppression's might,  
raising on high, in prisons dark,  
the cross of Christ still burning bright:

faith for today, O living faith,  
we will be true to you till death.

4. Faith born of God, O call us yet;  
bind us with all who follow you,  
sharing the struggle of your cross  
until the world is made anew.  
Faith born of God, O living faith,  
we will be true to you till death.

### **Blessing**

Now, God sends us forth into a sometimes lonely world.  
**may we be mindful of the call as we go,  
and as we embrace the rejected and forgotten.**

Jesus sends us forth into the bitterness around us,  
**may we sense that call as we seek to enable all voices to be heard,  
and all grief to be comforted.**

The Spirit sends us forth into the brokenness and joy of others,  
**so may we carry peace and love to neighbors,  
familiar and strangers alike. Amen.**

### **Blessing Hymn: VU 359 *He Came Singing Love*, vs. 1**

1. He came singing love and he lived singing love;  
he died singing love.  
He arose in silence.  
For the love to go on we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.

### **Postlude**

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**Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory** litany thanks to Metropolitan United Church, Toronto ON.

**Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Communion liturgy, and Blessing** © Thom M. Shuman,  
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**A Paraphrase of 2 Timothy 1:1–14 “A Letter for Timothy”** and **Prayers of Community** from  
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**Luke 17:5–10** from *Common English Bible* (CEB). © 2011 by Common English Bible.

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