

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
October 9, 2022 – Thanksgiving Sunday

Welcome to Worship

There will be no Virtual Social Hour on Sunday, Oct. 9.
Email sketchingalong4@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: VU 227 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to St. Andrew's worship on this Thanksgiving Sunday. 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. There will be no Virtual Social Hour this evening due to families celebrating Thanksgiving together. It will resume next Sunday, Oct. 16.

Inviting Holy Light

We prepare ourselves for worship. On this Thanksgiving Sunday, we come thankful for Creation's gift of Autumn colours. We come, acknowledging many blessings of life, of family. What are you thankful for today? Take a silent moment, breathe deeply this morning, and quietly give thanks – breathing in... breathing out. Grounding yourself within this magnificent Creation. We invite Holy Light, Christ Light, igniting our spirits after the quiet and peaceful shadows of night. [*lights candle*]

Sung Response: *Our Voices Have Been Silent, vs. 3*

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.

Nurturing Safe Space

We are all children of God, loved in our uniqueness, all backgrounds, gender identities. May we as a community of Faith work towards making our spaces truly safe and welcoming, as our Creator pours love extravagantly upon each of us.

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

Shouts of joy! Songs of praise!

Gestures of hope and love!

**These are moments of thanksgiving –
Giving thanks to our God!**

Adonia is our God. Our Creation.

We are God's people, led by God's love.

**These are moments of thanksgiving –
giving thanks to our God!**

Enter God's house of thanksgiving.

Enter God's house full of praise!

**These are moments of thanksgiving –
giving thanks to our God!**

God's love is never-ending.

God is good! Alleluia!

Opening Prayer Seeking Grace

On this day of the harvest celebration,

we bring our gifts to you, God. You have brought us into this place and shared with us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey, a land flowing with maple syrup, a land flowing with your love. Bless this thanksgiving, offered now to you! In Christ's name we ask it. May it be so.

The Prayer Jesus Taught

This we pray along with a version of the Lord's Prayer translated from the original Aramaic:

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere! Release a space to plant your Presence here. Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form. Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom. Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults. Help us not forget our Source, Yet free us from not being in the Present. From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering. Amen.

Hymn: VU 516 *Come, You Thankful People, Come, vs. 2*

2. All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest-giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

Time up Front

Basket of food at the front. Symbols of Thanksgiving. Kid friendly percussion instruments – shakers/toy drums/bells

What do you see in front of our table here? The basket full of food is probably not a surprise to you since today we celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday. We have put symbols of food and fall at the front of the Sanctuary. These are wonderful gifts from God, aren't they? Our senses are also an abundant gift from God: to be able to see, hear, touch, smell, and taste is indeed a gift. God longs for us to use this gift as often and as much as possible in worship.

We have a way to show how happy we feel in church. It is called, "Making a Joyful Noise." Like shaking the shakers, banging drums and playing bells. How about dancing. In the Bible there is a lot of dancing people do when they are thankful. Let's try it now. (Noise)

This is a repeat-after-me prayer: God, we give big thanks to you... For the food you give us,... and for this Fall season... that makes our senses tingle... seeing the colours of leaves;.. smelling the air in Autumn;... the taste of foods shared with family and friends... Help us to praise you... with our whole body. Amen.

Hymn: VU 516 *Come, You Thankful People, Come, vs. 4*

4. Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified,
in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

Scripture Readings (*Anne Pile*)

Psalm 100 – VU 824, Refrain 1

Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Shout to God, all the earth:
worship with gladness and joy.
Come before God with laughter,
our maker to whom we belong.
To the Shepherd who tends us like sheep,
let us raise our voices in song.

Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Come to God's gates with thanks;
come to God's courts with praise.

Praise and bless God's name:

**"Truly you are good:
you are always gracious,
and faithful age after age."**

Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Philippians 4:1-13 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about[d] these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Let us pray: We rejoice as we worship this morning, pondering our many blessings, individually, but also the blessing of this St. Andrew's community. May your Word of Life speak to our hearts, reminding us to be thankful. Spirit, ruffle our feathers, inspire us to work towards the peaceable kingdom. Amen.

Message: *Thanksgiving in Un-thankful Times*

Time for Reflection & Expressing Gratitude

We invite you reflect: Who would you like to say "Thank You" to?

There are Thank You cards on the table you passed as you came in. Feel free to write a heartfelt Thank You. You can send or give the card yourself, or, if it is a leader or congregant at St. Andrew's, we will give it to them. Please write the name of the intended recipient on the envelope and drop it in the box at the entrance. Thank you.

Anthem: *Now Thank We All Our God*

Minute for Mission

You have likely been there. A million and one things to do: errands, housekeeping, food prep, work, volunteering. Sometimes we can be so busy checking off our to-do list that we forget to pause and appreciate all that God has blessed us with in life.

Enter Thanksgiving. A time to stop and catalogue what we are grateful for. You top our list. This Thanksgiving, the Mission & Service team of the Philanthropy Unit is pausing to give thanks for you—our donors. Without you, we wouldn't be able to help transform so many lives.

Thanks to your support, we were able to provide 9,996 full vaccinations to those who need them most around the world. What's more, since the pandemic struck, your generosity has helped raise over \$525,000 in emergency gifts to help Mission & Service partners deliver personal protective equipment, distribute food, install sanitation stations, and support education programs to help prevent and control the spread of the disease.

As the war in Ukraine continues to devastate lives, your generous gifts of over \$1.3 million are helping to provide emergency shelter, clean water, food, and medical attention. The recently unveiled gift of food hampers and dignity kits for refugees in Ukraine featured in the Gifts with Vision catalogue is adding to this total (you'll see these new gifts starting Sept. 26!). These are just some of the tangible changes you help make possible. Behind each one of them is a changed life.

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he begins with a statement of thanksgiving: "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world."

Ultimately, Jesus charged us with helping build a better world. On behalf of those we serve, thank you for rising to the challenge.

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 542 *We Give You but Your Own*

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

Dedication Prayer

As a people who yearn for new opportunities to put our faith into action,
we give thanks for God's presence in our lives.

As a congregation that seeks to build community and to serve with a common purpose,
we give thanks for the Spirit's presence in our lives.

As individuals who seek to follow the teachings of Jesus and to make a difference in our community and in the world,
we give thanks for Christ's presence in and through our lives.

We seek to share both hope and love through our mission, our service, and our offerings.
Bless all that we offer, Gracious God. Thank you. Amen.

Prayers of Community

Rejoice in our God always. Gracious and loving God, we long to rejoice always. But we have so many cares on our hearts. Our worries weigh us down. Again, we know the refrain. We try to rejoice.

Yes, God. Open our hearts that we may rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. Yes, God, open our hearts to your gentleness. Remind us again that Christ is near, and we do not need to worry about anything, but only let thanksgiving, praise and wonder be on our hearts as we make our requests known to you, God. You know what sustains us, O God. We have shared with you the things that have given us life, and we hope that our praise continues into eternity.

It is a joy to know that you are near. Yes, God. It is a joy to know that you are listening: to every need and worry; to every pain and heartbreak; to every injustice and frustration; to every lament and sob. All this you hear, as much as you are paying attention to every joy and wonder, every laugh and every sigh. You know it all, God. You are present in everything, and this – this – is a reason for praise.

Creator, with hearts of gratitude we come seeking your Spirit, your Love as we and our world continue to struggle for wholeness, for Peace, for Shalom. Surrounded by the beauty of Creation, sustained by the Grace of this world you have planted us within, we pray for all who yearn, all who groan in pain, or in their sense of loss, or weighed down by injustices. Whether they are near or far, we offer to you now our heartfelt prayers in this silent moment. *[silence]* Thank you, God. Thank you for your faithfulness. Amen.

Closing Hymn: MV 182 *Grateful*

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

1. You are more than we imagine, Ancient, Holy, Living Lord.
Even when we doubt your presence you are faithful to your Word.

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

2. May our lives proclaim your justice, may our voices sing your praise.
May our hands work in your service to the glory of your name.

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

Blessing

Go into the world again, all of us, sharing the bread of life with all whom we meet. Let us share by doing as we have others do for us; let us share by offering love and mercy; let us share by extending forgiveness and understanding; may we share by loving God with all our hearts, and by loving our neighbours as ourselves. Amen.

Blessing Hymn: MV 185 *Ev'ry Day is a Day of Thanksgiving, vs. 1*

Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
God, you've been so good to me.
Ev'ry day you're blessing me.
Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
I will glorify you, O my God, today! *(repeat verse)*

You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
You opened the door that I might see, you're blessing me.
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
I will glorify you, O my God, today! *(repeat verse)*

Postlude

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