

WORSHIP AT ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
November 20, 2022 – St. Andrew's and Reign of Christ Sunday

Welcome to Worship

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

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

Prelude

Opening Hymn: VU 312 *Praise with Joy*, vv. 1, 2, 4

1. Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
God whose grace shall never cease.

Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

2. Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.

Celebrate Christ's constant presence:
friend and stranger, guest and host.

4. Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.

This the world shall see reflected:
God is One and One in Three.

Welcome & Announcements

Good morning, everyone! As many of you know, I'm Alison Warner-Smith and I'll be leading worship today while Rev. Dave is away. Welcome to St. Andrew's United Church in downtown Sudbury, Ontario. Whether you are in the sanctuary or at home, we are all one community.

We are celebrating St. Andrew's Sunday today, and we will be celebrating once again with shortbread after the service! It is also Reign of Christ Sunday, the final Sunday in the liturgical year. Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent where we will be starting again, waiting and watching for the Christ-child to be born.

Please return your Pledge Cards before the end of the year for budgeting purposes for 2023. Please bring in your socks for collection. There will be an update on the Advent gifts for the schools. More information will be in the NEWS. The 2021 Financial AGMs are today after worship, in person and on Zoom. Please check your email for the Zoom link.

Those at home or in the sanctuary, if you are new here, note that our contact information is at the end of the video, and you might want to visit our Facebook page, YouTube channel, and website. You can also email me, the office manager, so you can receive our weekly e-newsletter. We also have a Social Hour on Zoom, every Sunday night at 7. You can get your Zoom link to join that time of connection by sending an email to Diane. Her email address was in the "Fellowship Times" slide, on your screen before this service began.

Inviting Holy Light

At this moment, let us take a quiet moment to prepare for worship. As you breathe deeply and calmly, be aware of the silence or the quiet sounds around you. We invite Holy Light, the light of

Christ, to deepen our awareness of what God is saying to us. May our hearts be open to hear God's message. *[light candle]*

Hymn: VU 148 Jesus, Remember Me (sing twice)

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

Nurturing Safe Space

We are all children of God. Each one of us here, or at home, have answered the call of God inviting us to worship together. All are welcome, regardless of race, age, gender identity, ability. We celebrate our differences and rejoice that we are all welcomed in this space.

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 of 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

Come Christ, it's time! Let your reign begin!
Time for us to choose world leaders who will be faithful visionaries.
Come Christ, it's time! Let your reign begin!
Time for us to consider the environment and work to combat climate change.
Come Christ, it's time! Let your reign begin!
Time for us to listen to children and answer their questions directly.
Come Christ, it's time! Let your reign begin!
Time for us to work for respect, equality, and justice.
Come Christ, it's time! Let your reign begin!
Time for us to have faithful confidence! Time for us to love unreservedly!
Come Christ, it's time, let your reign begin!

Opening Prayer

God of tender mercy, we thank you. We live in difficult times. There are moments when your kingdom seems to be far away. Many of us face struggles in our lives and need what your kingdom promises. Yet in this time of prayer, you are close to us. Your presence touches us and invites us to have hope, hope grounded in the wonder of being loved by you. This we pray along with an alternate version of the prayer Jesus taught:

The Prayer Jesus Taught

Our God, who is in the heavens, may your name be made holy, may your kingdom 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 evil to the test, but rescue us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Time up Front – The History of St. Andrew's

In Celebration of St. Andrew's Day, November 20, 2022, here are five snapshots of memorable times and events in the history of St. Andrew's. This was written by Bev Chapman. Information was obtained from *The History of St. Andrew's, Sudbury* by Dr. Graeme Mount and Mike Mulloy;

an article from the May 25, 1973, edition of *The Sudbury Star*; the 2017 Annual Report of St. Andrew's United Church; and a phone conversation with Sandra Simpson.

Although St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Cedar Street Methodist Church both became United Churches in 1925, it wasn't until June 1927 that the two became one under the leadership of Reverend W.A. Whidden who served as Minister until 1933. A number of other ministers served St. Andrew's in subsequent years but the most notable of these was surely Dr. Earl Lautenslager who was the minister from 1938-1941 and 1954-1963.

Among his many achievements, two stand out. He envisioned an Extensive Church Extension Program and under his guidance, St. Andrew's provided gifts and loans to assist other United Churches become established. St. Paul's, St. Peter's, St. Luke's, and St. Stephen's on the Hill were all recipients of this financial support. As well, Dr. Lautenslager was a key figure in the creation of Huntington University in the sixties, serving as its President until 1963. St. Andrew's is proud to have continued its connection to Huntington to this day.

"The Cathedral of the North"

By 1971 it was apparent that the original building which housed St. Andrew's was no longer structurally sound or safe. Other possible sites were looked at for the purposes of rebuilding but, ultimately, it was decided that the new church would be built on the existing site.

The Reverend Dr. Charles Forsyth was called to come to St. Andrew's to provide the vision and leadership necessary. And what a vision it was! Under Dr. Forsyth's guidance, the new St. Andrew's that took shape was a church unlike any other in the north. On May 27, 1973, the first service was held in the sanctuary. But the structure, formally named St. Andrew's Place, was composed of much more than a sanctuary.

Truly a multi-purpose venue, it is home to several floors of apartments for seniors, retail spaces, a social group called "Club 111", a large activity hall suitable for receptions, a fully outfitted kitchen, several meeting spaces, and a Peace Chapel. Moreover, the sanctuary can readily be used for concerts and other community events. Over the years those occupying commercial space in the building have included a restaurant, social service agencies, a barbershop, the YMCA, Laurentian University's School of Architecture, and a coffee shop.

A Fair to Remember

In 1975 some enterprising souls at St. Andrew's conceived the notion of a fall fair which would replace stand-alone teas and bake sales. Not only would the fair serve as a significant fund-raiser for the church but also provide St. Andrew's with an opportunity to reach out to the community by hosting a weekend-long event to which everyone was welcome. And so, the St. Andrew's Community Fall Fair was born, a tradition that remained in place for twenty-some years. Attractions included a bake table, a dining room, a silent auction, a rummage table, a sewing and knitting stall, a children's area, an ice cream parlour, and a book table, to name only a few. Local crafters were invited to rent tables to sell their wares. And there were always unusual offerings such as a weight guessing booth. One year our minister at the time even went around selling hair! Every year the fair had a theme such as an English country garden, a castle, a world tour, and a science fiction wonderland.

Hosting Our Neighbours – "Out of the Cold"

For many years running, St. Andrew's, along with the Church of the Epiphany, provided a venue where people could come on Friday nights between November and April and be served an excellent meal. Several area churches provided teams which took on this work on a rotating basis. The teams welcomed an average of 175-250 guests each week. Several businesses and institutions within the community provided generous sponsorship. As well, the revenue generated by a series of concerts acted as an ongoing sponsor for the dinners. Each week our guests expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation. Regrettably, despite the ongoing needs of the

community, the “Out of the Cold” program has had to be suspended at present because of the pandemic. However, St. Andrew’s continues to support our mission partners using remaining Out of the Cold funds by providing vitamins to clients at the Mission and nutritious snacks at the shelters and warming centres.

“And Unto Us This Day a Child is Born”

In 2017 Sandra Simpson envisioned a Nativity Walk to be held at St. Andrew’s after reading a magazine article about a Walk held by a church in the U.S. Members of the congregation were invited to share their nativity scenes – new, old, store-bought, handmade, etc. Over 100 exhibits were brought in and a display was set up in the sanctuary and staffed with over 30 volunteers.

On November 24 and 25 of that year the community was invited to come and take part in “the walk”. 236 visitors came, including 16 children, for whom some interactive nativity scenes were provided. Although there was only a goodwill offering, as opposed to a set admission fee, over \$600.00 was donated. Visitors were offered a chance to share their responses to the experience on a reflection board. Comments included “inspiring”, “awesome”, “beautiful”, “holy”, “just what I needed”, “the true meaning of Christmas”, and “my heart is filled”. Inspired by the response, the organizing committee decided to hold the event again. Unfortunately, the Nativity Walk” has had to be discontinued indefinitely because of the pandemic.

But, despite the pandemic, many activities still took place. And now we’re into our Advent Projects by the Fun-D-Raising and Reaching Out teams. Thank you for being part of this wonderful St. Andrew’s Community! And thanks again to Bev Chapman for writing “The History of St. Andrew’s” for the service today.

“St. Andrew's Day – A Toast” by Jean Blewett (Read by Betty McFarlane)

Wha cares if skies be dull and gray?

Wha heeds November weather?

Let ilka Scot be glad to-day

The whole wide warl' thegither.

We're a' a prood and stubborn lot,

And clannish – sae fowk name us –

Ay, but with sic guid cause none ought

Tae judge us, or tae blame us,

For joys that are we'll pledge to-day

A land baith fair and glowing –

Here's tae the hames o' Canada,

Wi' luv and peace o'erflowing!

For joys that were, for auld lang syne,

For tender chords that bind us,

A toast – your hand, auld friend, in mine –

'The land we left behind us!'

Ho, lowlanders! Ho, hielandmen!

We'll toast her a' thegither,

Here's tae each bonnie loch and glen!

Here's tae her hills and heather!

Here's tae the auld hame far away!

While tender mists do blind us,

We'll pledge on this, St. Andrew's day,

'The land we left behind us!'

Scripture Readings (Connor Ross)

Colossians 1:9a-20 – New International Version

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Luke 23:33-43 – New International Version

³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Let us pray: Holy God, you speak words of challenge and words of comfort through the Scriptures. Send your Spirit to open our understanding to the word we need to hear this day, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Message: “The Kin-dom of Christ”

The message will be posted on the website next week.

Choir Anthem: VU 705 For All the Saints. vv. 1, 2, 5, 6 (CHOIR ONLY)

1. For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

2. You were their rock, their fortress and their might;
you were their captain in the well-fought fight;
you, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

5. But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day,
the saints triumphant rise in bright array
as God, to glory, calls them all away.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

6. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Offering Moment

As an invitation to the offering, let me offer you two very important words: THANK YOU. Thank you for your gifts, because I know that they come from your faith in Jesus. Your financial donations, and donations of time and talent, 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 the ways you live your faith and share yourselves. Now, together, as Christ's church, let us thank God with hearts full of thanksgiving.

Offering Hymn: MV 191 *What Can I Do?*

What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Offering Prayer

Tender God, we pray that these gifts of time, talent, and treasure that we offer to you will witness to the world that we are a people of faith. We have faith in your love that one day there will be an abundance of your peace, justice, and mercy so all of your creation will share in your blessings. Until that time, these gifts we offer are a sign of our faith that your kin-dom will come. Amen.

Prayers of the Community

Jesus Christ, our Saviour, we give you thanks that you reign through love as the power that embraces the world with mercy and hope. Thank you for revealing that to trust is wisdom, to forgive is the best way to deal with enemies, and to serve is the best way to lead. We pray that, through the grace of your kingdom, each beloved creature and citizen will know safety and satisfaction in their homes. Let the vision of your peaceable kingdom take root in our hearts, bringing healing to families and communities, and in every place wounded by violence or destruction.

Jesus, Prince of Peace,
reign in us and among us.

Jesus, we give you thanks for reaching out to those on the margins and those others shunned, so that each one knew they belonged in your kingdom. We pray for those who face discrimination or insecurity in our communities, longing for respect and a change to thrive. Teach us how to live differently as neighbours, to acknowledge and work with others we've never worked with before. Lead us by your Spirit to share in your work of mending the world.

Jesus, Prince of Peace,
reign in us and among us.

Jesus, thank you for enduring the pain of the cross and the darkness of the tomb to show us there is life beyond death through your resurrecting love. We pray for those who are grieving a loss this day, the loss of someone beloved, the loss of love or hope or trust, the loss of opportunity or security or future plans. We pray to you in the silence of our hearts. (*silence*) Be present with all who the sadness and disruption of a loss, and bring each one comfort and courage.

Jesus, Prince of Peace,
reign in us and among us.

And finally, Jesus, this day we pray for your church at work in the world, confronting the challenges and changes of these times. Unite us in witness and service, and encourage us when difficulties arise, for we are your people, committed to the unfolding of your reign among us.
Jesus, Prince of Peace,
reign in us and among us.
Amen.

Closing Hymn: MV 12 *Come Touch Our Hearts*, vv. 1, 2, 4

1. Come touch our hearts
that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice;
to seek a world more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts.

2. Come touch our souls
that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.

4. Come touch us in
the moments we are fragile,
and in our weakness
your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve,
steady now our nerve,
come touch and bless our wills.

Blessing

Let us go into this new week sustained by our faith in the risen Christ,
a faith that will make us strong.

Whatever troubles we face,
let God's mercy lift us up.

Whatever joy we are blessed with,
let God's grace leap in our hearts.

And may we praise God and witness to God's love in each and every moment of our days.
Amen.

Blessing Hymn: MV 216 *Wherever You May Go*, vs. 1

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

1. Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,
we will travel side by side
and God's love will be our guide.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

Postlude

Opening Prayer and **Offering Prayer** from *GatheringWorship.ca*, Pentecost 2, 2022 Year C. Written by Sandy Ferguson, Strathearn United Church, Edmonton, Alta.

Inviting Holy Light written by Suzanne Nykilchyk.

Call to Worship from *GatheringWorship.ca*, Pentecost 2, 2022 Year C. Written by David Sparks, Summerland BC.

Time up Front: Written by Bev Chapman. Information was gathered from *The History of St. Andrew's, Sudbury* by Dr. Graeme Mount and Mike Mulloy; an article from the May 25, 1973 edition of *The Sudbury Star*; the 2017 Annual Report of St. Andrew's United Church; and a phone conversation with Sandra Simpson. All sources are gratefully acknowledged.

"St. Andrew's Day – A Toast" written by Jean Blewett, from canadianpoetry.org/2016/06/29/poems-9/#standrewsdaytoast

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Prayer after scripture reading from Presbyterian Worship Planner, November 13, 2022, presbyterian.ca/worship

Prayers of Community from Presbyterian Worship Planner, November 20, 2022, Reign of Christ, presbyterian.ca/worship

Blessing adapted from a prayer written by Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont.

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