

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
November 6, 2022 – Remembering & Seeking Peace Sunday

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, November 8th.

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

Prelude

Opening Hymn: *Let there be Peace on Earth*

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator, we are family;
let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to this space, whether you are joining this worship online or physically in the sanctuary – we all enter holy ground. Thank you to our guest musician, Gordon Brown. Also, thank you to Warrant Office Michael Young and Dick Perras for their contributions to worship.

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.

For online congregation: gather Communion elements and type first name only in the comments box for Prayers of the Community.

Inviting Holy Light

Jesus said (Matthew 18:20): “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” We light this candle as a reminder that we are not alone. May its flame warm our hearts and inspire us to live the message of the gospel. *[light candle]*

Hymn: *MV 10 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom, vs. 1*

1. Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.

Nurturing Safe Space

We seek Holy Spirit and Love to help us nurture safe space in this place where all can participate in worship and life regardless of age, ability, race, cultural background, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Long before settlers came to this land we call Canada, many nations of people already lived on the land, cared for it. We recognize them as the First Nations. Today, here at St Andrew's, we are worshipping on the traditional territories both of the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. We recognize the long history of our First Nations and Métis

peoples in Ontario. We give thanks for their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. Let us, all of us, Treaty people, commit ourselves anew to the work of healing, justice, and reconciliation.

Call to Worship

Peace be with you,
and also with you.

In a world of war,
we search for peace.

In a world of confusion,
we search for calm.

In a world of pain,
we search for healing.

In a world of isolation,
we search for communion.

Communion with each other,
and communion with God.

Let us search together,
and let us worship our God.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray, we pray for peace, Holy One:
peace in our hearts,
peace in our homes;
peace in our families;
peace in our world;
peace for all peoples.
May your realm of justice and peace be known everywhere. Amen.

Invite the Children to Come Forward

*Bring a globe or world map out. With poppies or poppy stickers, ask the children or the congregation to think of different places in the world where there are still conflicts, and a great need for peace. As they put their hands up with suggestions say,
“Creator God, hold the people of ... in your love, and bring them peace”.*

We Remember, Seeking Peace – Words of Remembrance

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.

Laying of Wreath: Warrant Officer Michael Young

Last Post: Dick Perras

2 Minutes of Silence

Rouse: Dick Perras

Anthem: *In Flanders Fields*

Scripture Readings (*Maureen McGuinness*)

Philippians 4: 4-9 – New International Version

Let us listen to these words from Paul to the Philippian Church, speaking to the ancient faithful as to us in modern times – about how our daily practices of faith can achieve God's peace. What does that peace look like?

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

John 15:9-17 – Common English Bible

As we reflect on the horror of war and the Holy Vision of peace laid out for us by Jesus, let us hear these words from Jesus in the Gospel of John. Love, the foundation of peace, is profoundly relational, and only comes for us when our roots are in God's love. Jesus said...

“As my Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete.

This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I don't call you servants any longer... Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask from God in my name, God will give you.

I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

Let us pray: Spirit open our hearts to your teachings on love and the hard work of reconciliation and peace, and justice. Help us not to take the easy road that leads to human fixes, but may we be invested in following your longer and richer path to Shalom, peace for all. Amen.

Message: “Peacemaking Perspective”

Message will be posted on the website once it becomes available.

Time for Quiet Reflection

- How can you live out this call to work towards God's peace this coming week?

Anthem: *Light a Candle*

Offering Moment

There are opportunities to give every day, certainly through gifts of dollars and cents, but also through courageous action, faithful service, and loving devotion. Let us share of ourselves and of what God has so graciously given.

Thank you for all that you do to bless your world and the time and your treasure that you already dedicate to St Andrew's. If you haven't yet supported us, check out our website and Facebook page. The addresses are at the end of this video. Consider subscribing to our weekly emailed newsletter by emailing Alison at church@st-andrews.ca.

Communion Hymn: MV 198 *When We Gather at the Table*, vv. 1, 4, 5

1. When we gather at the table,
wine is poured and bread is broken.
Then love claims us, offering healing,
we hear welcome, gently spoken.

4. Come, invited, now draw nearer,
join this holy celebration.
Here be strengthened, called to justice,
living now God's new creation.

5. Christ, your coming and your hosting
gives us place at widening table
now embracing world and neighbour,
Spirit strong, by love enabled.

Dedication Prayer

Just as the poppies of Flanders' fields display life and beauty, may you, O God, bless what we offer back to you from our abundance today. In that blessing, O Christ, may what we scatter abroad in your name become sources of new life and of beauty for an aching world, rooted in your peace, which passes all understanding. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

God of Life, you shared your peace with us when you gathered and formed us from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into us. But life with you was not enough for us. Even in our rebellion, you clothe us and provide a way in the world. We are thankful that you continue to seek us, even in our wandering ways.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, you separated us from our transgressions in a way we never could – in a way we never can. You were a vessel of peace in a world that did not welcome you. But you persevered in love in the face of hatred. You taught us that forgiveness is possible even in the midst of extreme suffering. We are thankful that you continue to love us, even in our unrepentant ways.

Holy Spirit, you hold peace within us despite our circumstances. You tend to the deepest parts of our inmost being, nurturing peace so that it may grow. You lead us in paths of righteousness, showing us the way to bear love to the world. When hatred speaks its convincing lies, you show us the truth. We are thankful that you continue to sanctify us, even in our careworn ways.

So that we may become instruments of peace, able to sow love so that hatred does not take root, we pray, Holy Spirit, that you would move in this place today. May our meager offering of bread and cup become our communion with the Triune God and one another. May peace and love abound in us and through us.

In the certain hope that love overcomes all, we join our voices to pray:

Prayers of Community

Dear God,

We have to admit that we are frightened by our sense of helplessness in the face of natural disasters like hurricanes and human disasters like war. We pray, dear God, for our safety and the safety of our loved ones. We pray, dear God, for the safety of all who stand in harm's way.

Comforter in Turmoil, Source of Shalom,

hear our prayers.

But if there is no escape from the tumult, we pray that we will never forget that you are standing in the midst of it with us, that you will never desert us, that you will offer us unlimited comfort and strength to face what must be faced, and do what must be done.

Comforter in Turmoil, Source of Shalom,
hear our prayers.

We pray, dear God, that you will help us to remember that in times of storm or calm, in war or in peace, we are all neighbours, dependent on one another for this global community's survival – for Creation to live and breathe. And before the next storm comes, Creator, remind us to ask the questions that are ever on your heart: Are the storms that come a product of our sinful disregard for your world? Help us to open our eyes to humanly created disasters, and our complicity in them; global warming, undrinkable water and unbreathable air, shocking economic injustice both near us land villages and cities far away. Transform our thinking and acting, to seek reconciliation and work with you towards a healthier, more just, world.

Comforter in Turmoil, Source of Shalom,
hear our prayers.

Holy Love, hold us in your care, guide our hearts and minds as we try to love one another, and especially to honour the voice of Christ, calling us to love absolutely every neighbour, no exceptions. Help us to love ourselves first, to be open, truthful, merciful and vulnerable in ways that open each of us to our neighbours helping us. We need you, God.

Comforter in Turmoil, Source of Shalom,
hear our prayers.

We take a moment now to pray for all those people, including ourselves, who are weighing on our hearts and minds at this moment. We pray for your presence as we and others walk in stormy spaces and navigate a very uncertain future. (*silence*)

This we pray along with the traditional version of the prayer that Jesus taught...

The Prayer 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, forever and ever. Amen.

In the face of betrayal and impending death, Jesus ate one final meal with his disciples. As he did so, he broke the bread, gave thanks for it, and then offered it to each one there, saying:

Take. Eat. This is my body broken for you.

Likewise, he took the cup and gave thanks for it. Then offering it to his disciples, he said: Take. Drink. This is my blood shed for you.

The bread broken, [Break]
and the cup poured, [Pour]

are a continuation of God's covenant of peace with us. They are also the signs of a new covenant – a covenant where love is the rule, and hatred can be overcome.

Every time we share this meal, we proclaim the triumph of peace and love until the day when hatred is gone forever.

All are welcome. All has been prepared. Come and eat as we share in the peace of God.

Prayer After Communion

Holy God, the bread and the cup remind us how good you are. You nourish us in our journey of faith, reminding us that you are always with us. As we journey from here, prepare us to hear your call.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

As we receive your peace, may we see where we can share it with others. Guide us in our words and actions.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

We give you thanks for who you are and the blessing of being called your people.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 684 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*, vv. 1, 3

1. Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

3. Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Blessing

Let us go trusting in God's never-ending care.

Let us go seeking to be God's people.

Let us go enfolded in praise and prayer.

Let us go to be people of peace, justice, and right relationships.

Amen.

Blessing Hymn: MV 221 *I Am Walking a Path of Peace*, vv. 1, 4

1. I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
lead me home, lead me home.

4. I am walking a path of hope,
I am walking a path of hope,
I am walking a path of hope,
lead me home, lead me home.

Postlude

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In Flanders Fields written by Lt.-Col. John McRae, May 3, 1915.

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