

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH  
**October 30, 2022 – Celebrating Our Saints**  
Joyful, Joyful We Adore You – Welcome to Worship  
Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30.  
Email [sketchingalong4@gmail.com](mailto:sketchingalong4@gmail.com) to get the Zoom link.

## Prelude

### Opening Hymn: VU 232 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore You, vv. 1, 4*

1. Joyful, joyful we adore you,  
God of glory, life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.
  
4. Mortals join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.

## Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to St. Andrew's 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.

## Inviting Holy Light

As we often do, preparing to worship, we focus on our breathing. We breathe deeply – taking in the divine love that created us, that cares for us... we breathe out the unhelpful need to succeed, to win, to matter. On All Hallows' Eve, we will turn on our porch lights and place flaming candles into pumpkins to light the way for little trick or treaters. When we gather as followers of Jesus, we light a candle to guide us in the way of Christ. *[lights candle]*

## Sung Response: VU 382 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God, vs. 3*

3. Breathe on me, breath of God,  
till I am holy thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.

## 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 gather on this Sunday closest to All Hallows' Even and All Saints' Day

**to remember saints, past and present;**

to receive the teachings they have passed down to us;

**to offer thanksgiving for their legacy of faith.**

We gather on this Sunday closest to All Hallow's Eve and All Saints' Day:

**to worship the God of all generations!**

### **Opening Prayer**

If we listen with our hearts, we can hear them: the bus driver who sang school songs with us; and the coach who whispered encouragement before sending us in to play; the teacher who never gave up on us, and the friend who talked to us when no one else would. If we look with our eyes of faith, we see them: the grandfather playing marbles on his knees with the neighborhood kids; the nana with nicked hands from hammering nails for affordable housing, and the couple who have not stopped holding hands since they first said "I do." Help us to pay attention, Weaver of Story, so we could learn from them: the single mother who opened up the world of reading to a new generation, and the nurse up sat by our child's bed after her shift ended; those who fought dragons in ancient tales, and those who face drug dealers on street corners. The saints are all around us, so make us mindful of them, God in Community, Holy in One, as we pray as Jesus has taught us, saying...

### **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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Hymn: VU 357 *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus, vs. 1***

1. Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;  
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:  
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,  
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

### **Time Up Front**

This quick story comes from a book called Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints by Daneen Akers. Rev. Wil Gafney is a very smart person who knows her Bible well. She teaches in a university, and she is a priest. When she teaches now, she asks her students: "When we talk about God, what word do we use?"

Words are important – for many years God has been called Father, or "he" or "him." But there are places where God or Spirit is a "she." Rev. Wil says we need to find new words and ideas for God: perhaps when I pray, I could say "Holy One," "Creator" or simply, "LOVE."

Here are some examples of just a few images of God. God is bigger than us. Right? God is not a man or a woman But bigger than mountains, but all around us, in us. Here is a fun video that makes us think about God.

This is a repeat-after-me prayer: We are made of stories and stardust... We tell the stories of holy troublemakers...and unconventional saints...– people of faith who have worked for love,...justice,

and compassion... May we be bold,...may we stand up for what is right,...and good, and loving, God,...thank you for the saints who inspire us. Amen.

**Hymn: VU 357 *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus, vs. 2***

2. First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,  
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;  
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,  
all in the love light of Jesus' face.

**Scripture Readings (*Geneviève Gibbons*)**

**Ephesians 1:15-21 – Common English Bible**

Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers.

This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future.

**Luke 6:20-27 – New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets."

"But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you."

Let us pray: God of Wisdom, speak to us through these words and stories, and through your Word, about love and gratitude, and this gift of faith endowed to us by the saints who came before us. Amen.

**Message: "Unconventional Saints"**

**Time for Quiet Reflection**

**Passing the Peace**

In these disorienting and disconnected times, what a joy it is to join together in worship – whether we are in the sanctuary or joining in the online sanctuary. In our tradition is the directive to greet our sisters and brothers in Christ, if we have a dispute, deal with it and be reconciled before coming to the Banquet Table of God. So, I invite you to greet one another with words like "The Peace of Christ be with you" "...and also with you" or just simply Peace. Be aware of each other's

comfort level with shaking hands, perhaps if you are not comfortable with contact, simply greet your neighbour with praying hands and a bow, a gesture offered us by the Hindu tradition, Happy Diwali, by the way to the Hindu community, the gesture means Namaste or “I bow to the divine in you.”

### **Hymn: VU 593 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love***

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.

2. Neighbours are rich and poor,  
varied in colour and race,  
neighbours are near and far away.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.

3. These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love,  
all are neighbours to us and you.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.

4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.

### **Minute for Mission**

For parents or grandparents with children at home for summer vacation who were looking for healthy, screen-free, and imaginative ways to engage them and nurture their Spirit at the same time, there was “The Scribblers Story” a new Christian children’s podcast.

The podcast takes a creative approach to encourage children to explore their imagination and faith without using screens. Described as “Narnia with kid actors and a soundtrack,” the adventurous storyline released in 15-minute episodes every Monday through the summer, takes children on a purposeful and fun journey to engage with deep spiritual questions.

“Especially over the past few years, children have been spending more time on screens. Podcasts and audiobooks inspire the use of imagination and creativity in children, and are more portable than TV shows and movies. Perfect for bedtime or car rides!” says Amy Van Wensem, the show’s Executive Producer.

Not only are the podcasts convenient, portable, and allow listeners to relax or multi-task while tuning in on their own time, they also give blossoming young actors like Paige, Isaac, and Jakob (you can see their picture on screen), an opportunity to grow their faith and skills in a professional, exciting environment.

Supported by Vision Fund and Embracing the Spirit grants, The Scribblers Story is one of a stellar lineup of exciting projects to receive funding. Both grant programs are designed to inspire innovation and are supported by generous gifts to Mission & Service.

Best of all, The Scribblers Story is a free resource for children and families, and it's available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeart, and Buzzsprout. Please share it widely with your communities and networks!

And, as always, thank you for supporting innovative ministry projects through Mission & Service.

### **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 540 *Grant Us, God, the Grace***

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.

### **Dedication Prayer**

**We could lock away our inheritance of grace, hope, peace, and life so that no one else might ever touch them. Or we could simply share them with others through you, Gracious God. Take the gifts we offer in this moment and bless all who are looking for your gifts, your presence in their lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Community**

O Ancient of Days, we thank You for the faith of our ancestors in Christ.  
We pray for that great cloud of witnesses:  
saints of fame and of obscurity;  
holy people both ancient and contemporary;  
the faithful persecuted for Your sake;  
righteous ancestors, and those whom we might not immediately call saints,  
all who, in their unique ways, brought Your Gospel Good News through their living.  
God, hear our prayers,  
**and in your love, answer.**

As we pray for all the saints in all their forms, living among us and those who have been welcomed into your new life;  
we also pray that we may be as faithful as they were, and, in so doing, may we become more like Jesus each day.  
God, hear our prayers,  
**and in your love, answer.**

We now lift up your children, near and far, who struggle today. Those who face prejudice, those who carry the burden in love of caregiving, those who face uncertainty each day because of health issues, or economic woes, or injustice of any sort. Hold them in your love, Gentle Creator God. In silence we offer our own personal prayers quietly...[silence]  
God, hear our prayers,  
**and in your love, answer.**

We pray with the hope of the Resurrection and the Life, whom for us is Christ.  
In Creator, Sustainer and Spirit – one God – we pray. Amen.

### **Lighting the Candles for the Cloud of Saints**

**As we speak the names of these our Saints, and light this candle, we give thanks and praise to you, O God, for their legacy. Amen.**

## Blessing

God has fed us on grace,  
**so let us go to share the kingdom with everyone around us.**

Jesus has filled us with compassion and grace,  
**so let us go to be with others in the days to come.**

The Spirit has poured hope into our lives,  
**so let us go to be a blessing to those in our world.**

## Closing Hymn: VU 705 *For All the Saints*, vv. 1, 5, 6

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!

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!

## Postlude

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**Inviting Holy Light** and **Call to Worship** written by Catherine Eldson, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2, p 46.  
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**Prayers of Community** written by Morgan Bell.

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