

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**May 14, 2023**  
**Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday St. Andrew's Place**

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m.  
Email [smiletoday9@proton.me](mailto:smiletoday9@proton.me) to get the Zoom link.

**Prelude**

**Opening Hymn: MV 1 *Let us Build a House***

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**Inviting Holy Light**

Light.

**Hope.**

Light.

**Love.**

Light.

**Never-ending presence.**

Light.

**A guide for the way ahead of us.**

The Light of Christ.

**The Light of Christ. Thanks be to God!** [candle is lit]

**Hymn: MV 154 *Deep in Our Hearts*, vv. 3, 4**

3. Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;  
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;  
deep in our hearts there is a sacred current,  
flowing to freedom like a stream.

4. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.

### **Nurturing Safe Space**

In all we do as St. Andrew's United Church, may we celebrate the uniqueness, the quirks, the differences of one another... Such diversity, and may we nurture the beauty that God has created in each – diversity of Age, Gender, Sexual Orientation. That diversity reflects the mystery of a Creator whose wisdom is beyond anything we can imagine.

### **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator, who is both in creation and beyond it. All parts of creation, animate and inanimate, are related. All Creation is good.

**We sing of the Creator, who made humans to live and move and have their being in God. In and with God, we can direct our lives toward right relationship with each other and with God. We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life.**

We acknowledge that where we worship is on Indigenous Land, the traditional lands of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and the Wahnapiatae First Nation. We recognize that the legacy of our church has been a painful one, and that we, individually and collectively, have healing work to do. With thankfulness and respect for the First Peoples and Metis of this land, together may we work towards right relations with neighbours, Creation and with our Creator.

### **Call to Worship**

God, for this land on which we gather to celebrate, land cared for by millennia by First Peoples, for the repeated call to all of us to work towards healing and reconciliation,  
**we give you thanks!**

O God, for the vision of those who planned for, who worked to create this space, St. Andrew's Place, the congregation and leaders of St. Andrew's United Church,  
**we give you thanks!**

For those who have served so faithfully in leadership on behalf of St. Andrew's United Church,  
**God, we give you thanks!**

For those who, through the years, have worked to reinforce a healthy relationship between Church and Place,  
**God, we give you thanks!**

For the countless residents who blessed this complex by making it their home,  
**God, we give you thanks!**

For the constant prayers of this St. Andrew's congregation, and the prayers of friends of St. Andrew's Church and Place, near and far,  
**God, we give you thanks!**

With heartfelt gratitude, Creator God, for the precious gift that we call St. Andrew's Place, not given in ownership, but for you having invited us to be stewards of St. Andrew's Place for 50 years with your blessing and constant presence,  
**we give you thanks!**

### **Opening Prayer**

O God, who to an expectant courageous congregation 50 years ago the gift of a new chapter, a rather modern building to get used to, but also a space to live affordably, a space for the larger community to gather. Grant us your Spirit in all that we do here at St. Andrew's – Church and Place – and may we expect great things from you in all that we do to celebrate your radical love and care. And, all together, as your people, whether we live, or work, or worship here, or whether

we leave to go home elsewhere – wherever we go, we go as disciples of Jesus, sharing his message of love and justice and peace that cannot come from this world.

In this worship we celebrate you, Creator!

In this worship we celebrate you, Christ!

We celebrate you, Holy Spirit!

We pray this along with the traditional version of the prayer that Jesus taught...

### **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.**

### **Scripture Readings (Connor Ross)**

#### **1 Corinthians 12:4-13 (Good News version)**

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. The Spirit gives one person a message full of wisdom, while to another person the same Spirit gives a message full of knowledge. One and the same Spirit gives faith to one person, while to another person he gives the power to heal. The Spirit gives one person the power to work miracles; to another, the gift of speaking God's message; and to yet another, the ability to tell the difference between gifts that come from the Spirit and those that do not. To one person God gives the ability to speak in strange tongues, and to another God gives the ability to explain what is said. But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as God wishes, God gives a different gift to each person.

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts. In the same way, all of us, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether slaves or free, have been baptized into the one body by the same Spirit, and we have all been given the one Spirit to drink.

#### **Matthew 7 (assorted verses) (New Revised Standard Version UE)**

“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For the judgment you give will be the judgment you get, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.

“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise person who built a house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish one who built a house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Let us pray: Holy One, lift our gaze and open our hearts, that we might see your love all around. As we celebrate this space given us to live and work, to make music, to discuss and worship, may your constant presence encourage us to share it and your love ever more. Amen.

### **Message: “Celebrating 50 Years of Blessing”**

#### **Dave:**

In the beginning there was a vision. The groundwork laid long before St. Andrew's Place was born. Among many stories, are those of the Rev Dr. Earl Lautenslager whose leadership nurtured a Church Extension Program – under it, St. Andrew's provided gifts and loans to assist other

United Churches as they became established, notably St. Paul's, St. Peter's, St. Luke's, and St. Stephen's on the Hill. As well, Dr. Lautenslager was a key figure in the creation of Huntington University.

### **1970s: "Birth"**

Then, there was a vision of a unique kind of church...

#### **Bev Chapman:**

By 1971, it was clear that the building within which St. Andrew's United Church existed was no longer structurally sound. They needed a new building. By this time, the Rev. Dr. Charles Forsyth had served as minister, and his vision was of not just a Cathedral of the North, but a multi-purpose building that would be home to several floors of affordable apartments, a sanctuary, an activity hall, as well as other meeting rooms and a historic space called the Peace Chapel to remind the community where they came from.

#### **Dave:**

We give thanks for the ingenuity and hard work of so many passionate and faithful people, and for the grace of God that gave birth to St. Andrew's Place in 1973.

#### **Bev:**

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.

#### **Donald Bell's Reflection (read by Dave)**

The Rev. Don Bell recalls so much going on at that time: The Fall Fair had begun, here was the St. Andrew's Concert Series, here was creative worship in this versatile space. It was a very different set up for a Sanctuary – it was versatile. There was dance and drama, and on Easter Eve. Don remembers how people could come in and experience the Easter story dramatically portrayed by actors – different scenes in different spaces. During the Inco Strike in 1978, Don recalls St. Andrew's as being a space for the workers to come together to have important conversations.

#### **Margaret Rabson's Reflection (read by Dave)**

In 1983, I was contacted by the Rev. Don Bell, and asked if I might speak with him about Christian Development and Education at St. Andrew's. Since I didn't have a permanent teaching position at the time, I was pleased to meet with Don and hear what was happening at St. Andrew's. (At that time, there were a large number of children organized into a Sunday School run by faithful volunteers. "Would I be interested in a staff position, directing Christian Education and Development for children, youth and adults?" I responded positively and thus began a 21-year career as Christian Development Staff Associate.

Jesus was a teacher; he invited the children to come to him.

The Fourth Floor of St. Andrew's Place offered wonderful space and was filled on Sunday mornings with a vibrant group of eager children. The possibilities were boundless. And yes, there

were some challenges also. With the excellent support of the Christian Education Committee, we set out to prepare programming. The 'Whole People of God Curriculum' was introduced to the Sunday School and I suggested that adults might be interested in a program called 'Telling My Story, Sharing My Faith' which we ran for three different groups. Not only was this helpful for personal faith growth but encouraged leadership development for adults in many areas of the Church.

Confirmation programs were organized. Family clusters were created, encouraging families to eat, learn and play together. There were other innovative opportunities such as Advent Events and Mission Munch, as well as poignant 'Come to the Quiet' worship services.

But the world does not stand still and as it is God's gift to celebrate our past, it is God's challenge to us as people of faith to live in the new and different now. Our history can inform, guide and inspire) our present.

Our world is a very different place now. Christian Development goals are challenged. Technology is an exciting part of St. Andrew's today; there are many fewer children and leaders are fewer and older/tired.

As we enjoy wonderful times of remembering and looking back, I believe that the words spoken to the prophet Isaiah hold a truth for us today:

***Behold, I am doing a new thing,  
Even now it is springing to light. Do you not perceive it?***

*I look back on my time at St. Andrew's with fondness and great memories. We faced challenges together, we learned together, we grew together. So, we go forward, in different ways and God's Spirit is our guide.*  
Margaret Rabson

**1990s: Out of the Cold – History:** *Written by Jim and Joyce Dickson. Read by Donna Mese.*

In the fall of 1997 a small group of concerned church members, Rev. David Mundy, Brenda Furman and Judith Traulson, received permission from the St. Andrew's U.C. congregation to organize a series of dinners for needy people on a trial basis. Four dinners were held in the cafe beside the church during the winter of 1998. The trial was considered a success and church members agreed to a "Once a week event from November to mid-April, to provide a hot nutritious meal to those individuals from our community who are on the streets, in shelters or on social assistance and for those who would benefit from an opportunity to socialize in a caring, friendly and safe environment".

By the start of the first full season, 1998/99, Brenda Furman had moved to London, ON and Jim Dickson volunteered to assist Judith with the administration. Four teams from St. Andrew's each served six dinners for a total of 24 meals. At the end of the season, the team captains decided that six dinners/team/year were too many and so St. Peter's and St. Stephen's were invited to join the group - they accepted immediately and started the following November.

Team Captains:

Team 1: Deb McIntosh/Anne Pile

Team 2: Jim Dickson/Jim Smith

Team 3: Sylvia Carscadden/Alan Ritchie

Team 4: Ruth Mundy

Team 5: Judy Morrison - St. Stephen's

Team 6: Jean Nimmock/Anne Jeffkins - St. Peters

Other teams that joined the program over the years included Church of the Epiphany and the Church of Ascension, St Lukes United, Garson United and Trinity United. Of special note was that the Holiday Inn provided the complete dinner for 5 years for the Trinity team.

Needless to say, there were many more problems in the first several years than there were solutions. Issues centred around guests arriving too early, waiting too long outside, straying into



other areas of the building and interference with resident access to the lobby and building. Eventually guests were allowed into the dining hall after 5:00 pm and served coffee and tea until dinner was served at 6:00 pm.

Initially money for food was provided by the Lola McNaughton Fund and generous contributions from local grocery stores to our teams. In 2002 Bob Bale, concert promotor was checking with Barb Ritchie about renting the building when he noticed the activity in the gym below and Barb told him it was the OOTC program. He asked if St Andrew's would be interested in his organizing concerts to fund the program. She told him to speak to Jim Dickson. The answer was yes. Over the years Bob contributed \$10,000 a year to OOTC. In 2022 the Concert Series funding was ended and \$5,000 was given to the Food Bank and to the Mission and the remainder \$11,200 was left with the OOTC to complete their services. Sadly, COVID brought an end to everything.

Guests who came to our dinners included not only the homeless but out of town college students who had run out of money from home, residents of the building, families struggling to make ends meet, lonely people who told us it was their one night out a week. All were welcome. The program was well known and highly valued throughout the Social Service community as a safe and caring place for the clients they served.

This Outreach program brought hundreds of volunteers together not only from St. Andrew's but from outside the community like Wendy Harrington who was chief cook for two teams. Over the years as the program evolved, it helped forge ties with other Sudbury churches. It was a lot of work but fun too working together to serve the needy. Any leftover food was brought to the Mission who were always happy to receive our donations.

#### **Hymn: VU 533 *When in Our Music God is Glorified, vv. 1, 2, 3***

1. When in our music God is glorified,  
and adoration leaves no room for pride,  
it is as though the whole creation cried  
Hallelujah!
2. How often, making music, we have found  
a new dimension in the world of sound,  
as worship moved us to a more profound  
Hallelujah!
3. So has the church in liturgy and song,  
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
borne witness to the truth in every tongue,  
Hallelujah!

#### **2000 – 2009**

##### **Rev. Dr. Bill Steadman: Reflections on Years at St. Andrew's United (video)**

I am happy to share some memories of my first term as Minister here at St. Andrew's United Church – 2000 to 2005. In those years I worked with Sylvia Carscadden and Marg Rabson in the ministry side of things, and I returned in 2014 to work with the Rev. Catherine Somerville. All were valued colleagues.

St. Andrew's was blessed with excellent staff, and Sylvia and Marg were and still are two of the most capable and insightful lay ministers I have ever met, so it made my transition to Sudbury relatively easy.

Two major foci come to mind in those years, though one could probably list a dozen or more events and happenings.

The first is the Out of the Cold Concerts. The Out of the Cold dinners were well established when I arrived, and they were supported by United Church members and friends from across the city,

though St. Andrew's carried the heavy burden of workers and funding for the dinners, and also had the largest number of dinner teams.

The costs continued to escalate with the growing numbers of people in need, and so Bob Bale started a series of concerts every year, sponsored by Dairy Queen, the proceeds from which went to the Out of the Cold program. It guaranteed the financial support needed for this outreach.

Bob himself was inspired to do this, he told me, because St. Andrew's sponsored a concert with Quartette, a four-person female group headed by Sylvia Tyson. Their agent at the time was a member of the choir at Rosedale United Church, from where I had come to Sudbury, and he wanted to have a concert in Sudbury. The group was excited to come -- they said during their concert that Sudbury "was the only major city in Canada they had not performed in," and such an affirmation made them a hit. The sold-out concert led to many sold-out concerts on behalf of Out of the Cold.

Another exciting activity for me were the annual Christmas plays done in the sanctuary as part of an Advent service. Many members of the congregation took part in these presentations, directed by Bert Brankley and the props were engineered by Bob Humphrey. Bob Hall always helped with creative, supportive music, and the sound and lighting crew, led by Roger Pile, made any scene believable.

Some of you may remember the themes -- a dumpster in the middle of the chancel as children found a manger scene without the baby Jesus, so they went about interviewing people to find if anyone had seen Jesus. Two miners experiencing the sense of the power of Mother Earth in the midst of their shift underground. One of my favourites was a garage that transformed into a manger scene half-way through the story. Bob Humphrey engineered the garage and the transformation into a manger scene by making the structure become barn-like -- like the same manger prop that has been used as a focal point for Advent and Christmas ever since, as far as I know.

These were fun but demanding projects that showed the immense talents of the congregation. It was a delight to write the stories that then were transformative when undertaken in the sanctuary space -- a space that lends itself to new ways of communicating the message of Christmas.

Congratulations on this historic milestone. I am sorry I am unable to be with you as I lead worship at Copper Cliff United Church and celebrate Baptism for two young girls and their family. I wish St. Andrew's many more years of sharing the good news with others.

**Hymn: VU 533 *When in Our Music God is Glorified* vv. 4, 5**

4. And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night  
when utmost evil strove against the light?  
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:  
Hallelujah!

5. Let every instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always  
Hallelujah!

**Bea Arnill's Reflection: (in person) "My Time at St. Andrew's"**

It was the experience of a lifetime to come back to my home church as your minister. The building had changed since my youth. The faith and caring of the congregation had not. You welcomed me and every effort was made to make me comfortable. I only needed to ask Roger. Folks dug around for furniture to fill my apartment in St. Andrew's Place, even a TV set. I felt at home.

I was delighted to see long-time friends from the past like Margaret and Ludo Winckel, Barb and Bill Thornley. I made new friends like Diane Trollope. She had a birthday party for me during my stay.

My secretary Barb Ritchie and pastoral care worker Elaine Brummer were supportive and fun to be with. I often had lunch with Barb, and I found it moving to take part in a healing liturgy with Elaine.

Ian Sloane and I worked together. We were very different people, but we listened to each other and tried to understand.

The children were a happy part of the service. They took turns walking up to the front with me to light the Christ candle. When I told them stories, they sat captivated.

I volunteered for the Out of the Cold program. The event was done with such grace and warmth. Sylvia Carscadden gave a welcome and prayer at the beginning of the meal. Looking into the faces of the people we were serving was a holy experience.

I was fortunate to be asked to lead a confirmation class. There were five or six High School students that I think were all boys. Two of them were brothers and played football. They went to the Catholic High School. Their priest was interested in what they were learning and asked them questions. I had a copy of the front page of the Toronto Star from 1926, which had two long articles on the birth of the United Church. The boys borrowed it to bring to their class for discussion. And so, education spreads.

I invited Dave Le Grand to talk with the students about his faith and spiritual experience when he travelled overseas to Israel and Palestine. The boys were fascinated. At the end of confirmation, we celebrated with a BBQ at the camp of one of the parents. I felt that was an appropriate Sudbury ending.

When I left, you gave me money for my sauna and a beautiful, framed picture of the old church, the one I grew up in. The sauna has provided years of enjoyment for my family and friends. The picture hangs above my desk at camp.

My time at St. Andrew's gave me a rocket boost to continue on in active ministry for seven more years at Massey and St. Mark's. It seems that God is never done with us.

May the energy and faith that called you to newness and adventure fifty years ago bless you in the future.

### **Ian Sloan's Reflection: (read by Dave)**

My time in ministry with you was from the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of the Place to its 36<sup>th</sup> year. I recall Scott Darling telling the story at the time of the tough negotiations a few years before with the mortgage holder – the Government of Ontario – in which the Place got out from under an impossible-to-service mortgage. That put you in a position where you could address the growing pains of owning a not-for-profit residential rental building. You could then begin to pursue your own post-construction mission and ministry.

If I have learned anything in my ministry subsequent to my ministry with you about beginning new things, it is that new things in the church have a long runway. My hunch is that in the 15 or so years since we did our work together, you are still in process as you become that new or renewed thing, that is to be St. Andrew's United Church.

One of my fondest memories of my time with you was the regional Worship Matters Conference that the Manitou Intentional Learning Community organized and led there. One moment particularly spoke to me: our keynote speaker C. Michael Hawn called the last verse of 'For the Fruit of All Creation' the most wondrous hymnody he had ever encountered:

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.

And we sang the whole hymn together.



I salute St. Andrew's United Church's courage and leadership in forming and nurturing the partnerships that have borne fruit as the Place. I commend you for it, and anticipate with you the harvests of the Spirit you have yet to bring in.

St. Andrew's has truly been a place for creativity...  
And the Place has been where we had a lot of fun too...

## **2010 – present**

### **Rhodine White:** (in person) **“THE LARCH STREET COMMUNITY KITCHEN”**

In 2015, St. Andrew's Reaching Out Team applied for a bursary being offered by St. Paul's United Church when they unfortunately had to close their doors. Our proposal, for a community kitchen, was awarded a \$6000 bursary.

The first session, held during the winter of 2016, was run by the Sudbury Public Health Unit. Jill Bennett, Anne Pile, Jeannine Zadow and I learned how to run a community kitchen. That spring the four of us lead an enthusiastic group of participants from St. Andrew's Place, St. Andrew's congregation and the neighbourhood and the Larch Street Community Kitchen was born.

Kitchens were held for three six-week sessions each year from 2016 until March 2020. We started again in the fall of 2022. Over this time the participants began to assume leadership roles in deciding the menus and leading the group. The community kitchen belongs to them, and we have become facilitators.

My husband Marcel stepped in when Jeannine was unable to attend. Other volunteers have joined us over the years. When the bursary money ran out, this St. Andrew's congregation has supplied the funding to keep the community kitchen operating. Thank you.

The participants started a voluntary collection of toonies that they donate at the end of each session to the Baby's Breathe program at Better Beginnings, Better Futures. They take on the food preparation and cooking tasks each week with enthusiasm and always help each other. They are very proud of the wonderful meals they create and make sure to bring food to members who were unable to attend.

They have helped make soup for church events and brought a big tin of their cookies to Réseau Access Network this past Christmas.

The Community Kitchen has grown from a “cooking class” to a joyful time spent with friends. The group shares information and good news. We take time to enjoy a cup of tea and a cookie and catch up on what is going on in our lives. It is a wonderful caring community that also cooks great food. Food has brought us together. Community keeps us together.

### **Dave continues:**

This multipurpose building called St. Andrew's has hosted a wide range of events, from the Sudbury Music Festival to Bel Canto concerts, to a Nativity Walk that ran in November for several years. The Place and Church, together, have adapted to the fast-paced changes around us. With the pandemic came the challenge to connect with people in their homes. We “pivoted” and pre-recorded worship and presentations to share with people in their homes, then we live streamed.

St. Andrew's Place served as the Venue for the most recent Annual General Meeting of our United Church's Canadian Shield Regional Council, in the Fall of last year. We give thanks for the privilege of offering these spaces to welcome the community in many versatile ways.

## **Choir Anthem: *At Home, Let There Be Love***

### **Greetings from Regional Council: Barbara Nott**

Dear Rev. David Le Grand and my Friends in Christ at St. Andrew's Place,  
Warm greetings from the Canadian Shield Regional Council.

I want to congratulate you and express great thanksgiving on behalf of the Canadian Shield Regional Council. I am so pleased to be with you today for the celebration. Today marks an exciting day for St. Andrew's Place - the 50th Anniversary of this building. I know that many people across the Region are with you in spirit.

St. Andrew's Place is a wonderful multi-purpose facility, incorporating housing for seniors, events and commercial space, as well as the home of St. Andrews United Church. We are part of The United Church of Canada. Collectively we are one body. For all intents and purposes, though, we are part of the Canadian Shield Regional Council, United Church Communities of Faith from just north of Huntsville to the south to Thunder Bay and Marathon to the North and West. It is a privilege to invite the Chair of Canadian Shield Regional Council, Barbara Nott, to bring greetings from The United Church of Canada.

Blessings, Barbara Nott, Chair, Canadian Shield Regional Council

### **A New Creed**

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Welcome to St. Andrew's – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Andrew's Place  
Social Hour on Zoom every Sunday night at 7pm. To get your Zoom link, email Diane. Her email is on the YouTube page you are looking at, in the credits at the end of this worship service. The link was also sent with NEWS on Thursday.

### **Invitation to Offering**

We are first blessed, and gratitude is the birthplace of generosity. Out of that place of gratitude, whether we have already shared our treasures, whether it is our talents or our financial treasures, or maybe we are pondering sharing a gift. We are invited in every way to overflow with generosity of ourselves out of our sense of the Creator's generosity with us. As we bring forth the offerings, you might hold out your hands, as we offer ourselves and our gifts to God's healing work.

### **Dedication Hymn: VU 541 *Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Gloire à Dieu, notre Créateur;  
gloire à Christ, notre rédempteur;  
gloire à l'Esprit consolateur!  
Louange et gloire à Dieu, sauveur.

### **Dedication Prayer**

O God of unending and faithful provision, accept these portions of our bounty blessed with our gratitude and willingness to share. May these gifts be consecrated for your purposes. Amen.

### **Prayers of Community**

*In each part of the prayer, you will be invited to move your body as you are able. You are welcome to follow the actions, or not. Let the Spirit move you.*

God within (invites people to put *hands on heart*)  
God without, (*leader with hands to sides, palms out*)  
God of all creation,  
(*creating a globe with their hands, fingertips touching*)  
we offer you our prayers... (*leader moves hands to create a cup*)  
for ourselves, and for all creation  
(*leader places one hand on heart, other in front, palm out*)  
(*pause for silent prayer*)  
for the creatures of the sea, for the birds of the air  
for all that lives on the land, or in it...  
we give thanks!

We offer our prayers for our world in flux and sometimes violent turmoil. Change is everywhere, Creator. In the midst of anxiety, fear, even paranoia, give us the inner peace and courage to speak and act in ways of peace with all whom we meet. Bless our world, and hold it in love, may your healing Spirit come.

We pray for the leaders and members of St. Andrew's United Church who contribute their gifts of so many sorts to help your Church, to help the Place to flourish. We give thanks for all the visionaries and bold leaders who helped the concept of St. Andrew's Place become a reality. Bold in its time, how needed it is, today, a place where people can come together, to connect. How desperately needed, affordable housing in a time when inflation has forced too many to impossible decisions, whether to eat a healthy meal or pay the rent. Thank you, Place Board and the staff who maintain this multi purpose complex, on behalf of the church, and ultimately on your behalf.

As grand as this occasion feels, today, help us to understand that we are ONE part of your majestic creation. Help us to remember that there is no power greater than your love, that can overflow through us into the world that needs love so very much.

Help us to remember, that, like St. Andrew's is a complex interweaving of communities – church, businesses, and residents who live here – we are part of a complex and wonderful ecosystem called earth.

I invite you, if you wish, to interlace your fingers...

Remind us yet again that we are all connected, interwoven by your love that connects, that feeds, that heals.

In silence, we offer our silent prayers for people that we are concerned about. People near and far – we offer celebrations in prayer as well as prayers of concern. We might give thanks for all those here at St. Andrew's who left the legacy that is gently placed before us.

I invite you finally to give yourself a warm hug....

Finally, we pray that you might wrap us within the warmth of your spirit, and help us never to be afraid of offering a hug, or a kind gesture, or comment of concern to a friend or a stranger,

knowing that these are yearnings of your spirit that coax us into action. All these we pray in the name of Jesus, our friend and Christ. Amen.

**Closing Hymn: VU 509 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky**

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,  
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

**Blessings on the Way**

50 years of life and ministry in this place, our story continues. 50 years that are a part of 2,000 years gone by. My friends, know this – in the coming year, in the coming decades, St. Andrew's will continue to nurture love as Jesus taught, living out his call to love all neighbours. We don't know where that call will take us. We don't know what it will look like. But we do know this—we will never be alone in this journey.

God is with us. All ways. And Always.  
The peace of Christ holds us,  
and the love of the Creator enfolds us,  
and the wings of the Holy Spirit carry us,  
carry all creation, now, and forever.

**ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**  
**AMEN!**

**Choral Blessing: *May Your Roads Be Straight and Narrow***

**Postlude**

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**Dedication Prayer**, written by Jani Francis. *Gathering*, page 50, Lent/Easter 2023. Used with permission.

**Information in videos** read by Bev Chapman, drawn from Mount/Mulloy book *A History of St. Andrew's United Church Sudbury* by Graeme S. Mount and Michael J. Mulloy, 1982.

**Thank you to:** Rev. Dave Le Grand for leading worship; Ralph McIntosh for his musical leadership; Connor Ross for reading the scriptures; Suzanne Nykilchuk for assisting with liturgy preparation; Jen Bruneau for assisting with graphics for the PowerPoint presentation; Myfawny McIntosh for arranging the Sunday readers; Jen Bruneau, Maureen McGuinness, and Suzanne Nykilchuk for the sanctuary décor; and Mallon Appianing and Roger Pile in the audiovisual booth.

**Special thanks to:** Bea Arnill, Rev. Donald Bell, Bev Chapman, Jim and Joyce Dickson, Barbara Nott, Margaret Rabson, Rev. Dr. Ian Sloan, Rev. Dr. Bill Steadman, and Rhodine White.

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