

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**May 7, 2023**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter & Sacrament of Communion**  
**Dedication of Memorial Gifts**  
Welcome to Worship

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Welcome to St. Andrew's – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Easter season. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration is next weekend. Remember to get your tickets to the concert on Saturday evening. Social Hour is on Zoom every Sunday night at 7pm. To get your Zoom link, email Diane at [smiletoday9@proton.me](mailto:smiletoday9@proton.me). The link was also sent with the News on Thursday.

**Opening Hymn: VU 371 *Open My Eyes, That I May See***

1. Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

2. Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

3. Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

**Inviting Holy Light**

When the news is filled with stories of conflict,  
**we light a candle of peace.**

When the news is all about competition,  
**we light a candle of self-giving love.**

When the world competes for our loyalty,  
**we light the candle, holy Light that draws us to a Quiet Centre.**  
**Come, Spirit, Come.** [candle is lit]

**Sung Response: VU 368 *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine, vs. 4***

4. Holy Spirit, law divine, reign within this soul of mine.  
Be my law, and I shall be firmly bound, forever free.

## **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**

This area, as we know it today, is rich in the history and tradition of caring for the land and for one another of various First Nations and Métis peoples. These lands we now know as Sudbury are the traditional lands of the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikemeksheng Anishnawbek.

As we gather today as Treaty People of the Robinson Huron Treaty made in 1850, a Treaty that our government has yet to truly honour, we are in solidarity with indigenous brothers and sisters to honour and respect the land, air, water, all Creation and its plants and animals.

In this continuing Easter Season of stories and songs of the Risen Christ appearing in unexpected ways, may your vision of Right Relations for this land and people, the healing the wounds caused by the legacy of colonialism that Christian churches were party to – surprise us with new possibility for healing and reconciliation through us.

## **Call to Worship**

We come into this space, prepared to celebrate the God of energy, life, and truth, aware of the needs of the world, and open to the Spirit that leads us. May God guide us on our journey.

**May God support us as we seek to share life and truth with others.**

We come into this moment, aware of the variety of needs that surround us and open to a future yet to be revealed.

May God guide us on our journey.

**May God encourage us as we follow the Way, reaching out with hope and goodwill toward others.**

In words and in songs, in stories and in prayers, in quiet times and in happy times, God is with us. In this time of worship, God is with us.

**Thanks be to God. May God guide us on our journey.**

## **Opening Prayer**

Holy One, we gather to celebrate new beginnings. We give thanks for the abundance of gifts in our midst. May we use all of these gifts wisely and well, that we may witness to your love for the world. Guide our steps in the way of Jesus, who calls us to be his disciples. By your Spirit, empower us to live into your realm of justice and peace. Amen.

## **Scripture Readings (Tracey Ross)**

Let us pray: God, your word is a lamp to our feet, and the light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love. Amen.

### **Psalm 31, VU p. 758 – Parts 1 & 3 with Refrain**

**Refrain: I trust in you, you are my God.**

In you, O God, I have taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.

**Deliver me in your righteousness;  
incline your ear; come quickly to my rescue.**

**Refrain: I trust in you, you are my God.**

Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to keep me safe.

**You are indeed my rock and fortress;  
lead me and guide me for your own name's sake.**

Release me from the net that they hid for me,  
for you are my protector.

**Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth.**

***Refrain: I trust in you, you are my God.***

My times are in your hands;  
deliver me from the hands of my enemies;  
from those who pursue me.

**Let your face shine on your servant,  
and save me, for your mercy's sake.**

***Refrain: I trust in you, you are my God.***

### **John 14:1-7, 25-29 (New Revised Standard Version)**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.

Let us pray: Gracious God, send us your Spirit to guide our understanding of the Scriptures we have heard today. Help us to follow the ways of Jesus more closely, to know your truth more fully, and to share in your gift of life more abundantly. It is in the spirit of the Risen Christ, your Word made flesh, we pray. Amen.

### **Message: “I am the Dream and the Hope”**

#### **Memorial Gifts Presentation**

Good morning, I’m Kathy Brankley and I’m representing the Memorial Gifts Committee that includes Susan Darling, Alison Warner Smith and Debby Laporte. Here at St. Andrew’s, we have an annual practice of remembering those we have lost over the past year and celebrating the gifts or donations we have received in their memory.

Donations come into the Memorial Gift Fund in two ways: at the time of a funeral, or in a bequest—which is a donation left through someone’s will or estate. First, funerals. Families often suggest that a donation to St. Andrew’s Memorial Gift Fund would be welcomed; or sometimes the deceased’s family might direct people to donate to a specific fund at the Church. If a service is held here, we have volunteers in the narthex to accept donations.

Then there is another opportunity for families to donate and that is through a will with a legacy gift known as a bequest. The donors have the option of setting up a restricted fund with a specific purpose, for example as the Thornton family did through the Lester B. Thornton Fund which was specifically designated towards the provision of pastoral care. Most bequests are received as

unrestricted, and go into the Memorial Gift Fund and are spent according to the needs of the church.

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I’d like to highlight another aspect of our work and that is awards. The Lola McNaughton Bursary was established with monies left to us by long-time parishioner Lola McNaughton who was an educator. It is awarded for students entering their second year of post-secondary education who have a relationship to our church to or to another United church. Its value is \$1000. This year it so happens we did not have applicants.

Another award coming from one of our restricted funds is the Dr. Earl and Elizabeth Lautenslager Memorial Scholarship, named for Dr. Earl Lautenslager, a former minister of ours who became the first president of Huntington University. It is for students associated with Huntington who show high academic achievement. Other considerations are carrying out volunteer activities in community or on campus and financial need. This year’s recipient is Luc Couture, a resident at Huntington University. He has completed his third year in Kinesiology with a 91% average.

Let us take a look some of the many aspects of church life supported by Memorial Gifts funds: For example, maintaining our pianos and organ, and purchasing music; helping to pay church operating expenses, refurbishing our sanctuary worship spaces, and funding special projects; maintaining the planter display in the Narthex and supporting worship; Church School, audiovisual equipment or other technology purchases, and pastoral care; as well as the Scholarship to support academic excellence and community involvement among students at Huntington University.

Today is a time to remember that we receive these funds or gifts in memory of someone we have lost. We will take time to commemorate those whose passing led to these donations. We would like to now share a minute of silent reflection as we view the *In Memoriam* list on our screen.

John Arbuckle – July 1, 2022 \*

Pamela Church – October 28, 2022

Ilse Jakelski – February 9, 2023 \*

Dr. Terry Carscadden – February 14, 2023 \*

Ruth Buell – April 13, 2023 \*

Howard Simpson – April 22, 2023 \*

\* Denotes member of St. Andrew’s United Church

I now invite Rev. Le Grand to light candles.

Candle Lighting – Rev. Le Grand will light two candles, stating:

1. “To honour those in whose memory we have received these gifts.
2. To thank those who have given.”

## **Communion Hymn: VU 469 *We Gather Here***

1. We gather here in Jesus' name,  
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;  
for through the loving son God fashions us as one:  
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.  
No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs;  
finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

2. He joins us here, he breaks the bread,  
the One who pours the cup is risen from the dead;  
the One we love the most is now our gracious host:  
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.  
We are now a family of which Christ is the head;  
though unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

3. We'll gather soon where angels sing;  
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;  
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:  
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.

## **Dedication Prayer**

Generous God, we bless you for life renewed through Christ's love and through springtime growth in fields and gardens. Use the gifts we offer to bring hope and renewal to the world you love in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

## **Sacrament of Communion**

May the God of every way be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift your hearts to the One who is the Truth for God's own people.

**We offer them to the One who warms them with love.**

Sing praises to God, who is our Life.

**Glad songs are offered to the One who provides shelter for us.**

You made a way through chaos, Creative One,  
your Word echoing on mountaintops, and whispering in valleys;  
you, Spirit teaching songs to the stars,  
and breathing life into those created  
in your image as your precious children.  
You longed to cradle us in your lap,  
to breastfeed us with grace and hope,  
but we slipped out of your grasp;  
our ancestors long ago, but even today,  
we your children cover our ears as you call us  
to come home to you.

Prophets came to remind us that you would not forsake us,  
psalmists sang to us of your longing  
to cut us free from systems of sin and death, and set us free.

but, alas, your children, we, rush  
into the open arms of temptation.

Then you sent Jesus, so that in knowing and believing in him,  
we would know and believe in you.

With those who have nothing  
and with those who give everything away,  
we lift our voices to you:  
**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who pulls us to safety.**  
**All creation kneels down to worship you.**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**  
**Blessed is the One who shows us the Truth.**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

You shape a safe place for us, Imaginative God,  
and send your Child, Jesus, to show us the Way.  
Born a tiny baby as we are, he shows us how to grow into your people.  
The cornerstone of your kingdom,  
your Beloved teaches us to build a spiritual home for all.  
Committing his spirit to you, we proclaim  
that he entered the emptiness of death,  
so we might stand on the solid ground of the resurrected life.

Even as we celebrate the Life which was his,  
as we claim the Truth that all are one with you,  
we take refuge in that mystery called faith:  
**Christ died, trusting in God's promises;**  
**God raised him from the dead, promising the same for us;**  
**Christ will come, fulfilling all the promises of God.**

Once, we were nobodies, alone and hopeless,  
but by your mercy, Living God,  
we are now a family,  
gathered in your love around this Table,  
where the Spirit sanctifies the bread and cup.  
You lean over to serve us the bread,  
enveloping us in your grace  
so we might go to be your people.  
You offer to us the cup of hope,  
which can heal our troubled hearts  
and strengthen us to serve our world.

Let us once again remember together that vision of God's reign  
shown to us in Jesus at table:

**he shared food with followers and friends,**  
with saints and sinners,  
**with crowds of thousands on the hillside,**  
and a few friends in an upper room.

**On the night before he died,**  
**he had supper with his companions.**

He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks,  
he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

**"Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me."**

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks,  
he passed it among them, saying:

**"Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me."**

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.

**In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.**

Gesture to *Bread*

Gesture to *Chalice*



## Prayers of Community

Holy One, in Christ, you show us the Way that leads through paths of service. We pray for those who feel lost or alone, those who live with anxiety or doubt their own value, and all who cannot imagine a purpose for themselves. God of the Way, lead those who are struggling to find the hope you offer through the assurance of your love.

Holy One, in Christ, you show us the Truth that is revealed costly love. In these days when lies are easily disguised, we pray for those who have put their faith in false hope and flimsy promises, those deceived by empty promises from the power hungry, and any misled by conspiracy theories that circulate each day. God of the Truth, reveal the shallowness of things that distract or mislead us and give us courage to stand for truth, even when it is unpopular.

Holy One, in Christ, you show us the Life that overcomes death through your resurrecting power. We pray for those facing illness or grief, any who live with deep sadness, depression or despair, and those whose lives are diminished by discrimination in action or attitude.

And so, we pray this along with the Traditional version of the Prayer that Jesus taught...

## 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.**

In the evenings of our lives, you send your Spirit to fill us with peace,  
as the bread and the cup are filled with the life and grace of Jesus.

Cradling the broken bread *Lift Bread*

in his nail-scarred hands, Jesus shows us  
his grieving brothers and hungry sisters,  
so we may go to serve them.

Handing us the cup of living hope, *Lift Cup*

we are invited to drink deeply  
and then go into the world to offer peace to those wearied by war,  
to give freedom to all who are oppressed,  
to share grace with those who need it most. Amen.

These are the Gifts of God, for the people of God.  
Come, for all is ready.

## Choir Anthem: VU 186 *Now the Green Blade Rises*

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

2. In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
thinking that he would never wake again,  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

3. Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
your touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

### **We Partake in Communion**

The Bread of Life...

The Cup of the New Covenant in Christ

### **Prayer after Communion**

**When the Way leads us home to you, gathering us with all sisters and brothers around the Table, we will sing glad songs of praise to you forever. Thank you for creating space for us, here, and for the gift of hospitality you plant in our hearts to ever widen this circle to include the grieving, the hungry, the imprisoned, and all who yearn for community. Thank you, God in Community, Holy in One and in Three. Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn: VU 567 *Will You Come and Follow Me*, vv. 1, 4, 5**

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,

will you let my name be known,

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found

to reshape the world around,

through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

5. Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go

where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

### **Blessing**

We are God's own people who have received mercy.

**We hear the words of Jesus, "Do not let your heart be troubled or afraid."**

Jesus waits for you in each new day.

**As he also waits for you.**

May the spirit guide us in the Way;

May Christ reveal truth in you and me;

and may God grant all God's children life abundant now and forever more.

**Amen.**

### **Blessing Hymn: VU 424 *May the God of Hope Go with Us***

1. May the God of hope go with us every day,

filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,

bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,

singing, share our joy with all,

working for a world that's new,

faithful when we hear Christ's call.



2. May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

## Postlude

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