

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
Pentecost 2, 98th Anniversary of Church Union

Welcome to Worship

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

Email smiletoday9@proton.me to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: MV 106 / *Am the Dream*

1. I am the dream and you the dreamer.
I am the song and you are the rhyme.
You are the tune sung in ev'ry silence.
You are the now in the endless stream of time.
2. I am the bell and you the silence.
You are the yearning I cannot curtail.
I am the blest and you the blessing.
You are the wilds in which I lose my trail.
3. You are the word and I the echo.
You are the leader and I am the led.
You are the joy and I the laughter.
You are the Rock on which I lay my head.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to St. Andrew's on this 8th Sunday of Pentecost. It's also the 98th anniversary of church union to become The United Church of Canada. Social Hour is on Zoom every Sunday night at 7pm. To get your Zoom link, email Diane. Her email is in the credits at the end of this worship service, and on the YouTube page you are looking at if you are worshipping from home. The link was also sent with NEWS on Thursday.

Inviting Holy Light

Centring ourselves... anchor with breathing.
Shine, Creator, shine!
Shine, Christ, shine!
Shine, Spirit, shine!
Warm us. Transform us.
Touch others with love through our actions.
Run errands that help others with our energy.
Bless others through the words we share.
Shine through us, Holy One. [*light candle*]

Sung Response: MV 82 *Bathe Me in Your Light, vs. 1*

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.

Nurturing Safe Space

Every one of us is welcome in this space. We are blessed as a community, to be created in our diversity of ages, skin colours, sexual identity, gender, all the diverse ways in which our minds understand our world, all of us are beloved children of God, and we are welcome.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

What a blessing to be on this land! Connection with this land has been at the centre of Indigenous Spirituality for millennia – the land, the waters, the animals. It needs to be said that settlers came to this land grounded in a Christian theology that did not see the land the way the First Peoples did, sacred.

The churches interpreted the teachings of Jesus as affirming colonial interests, and the church and the First Peoples were worst for that. But, there is hope. With the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we in the church have been gifted with concrete ways to journey towards healing and right relationship. The first step is to acknowledge often that we are on traditional lands of the Wahnapiatae FN and the Atikemeksheng Anishnawbek. May God's Spirit guide us in this new chapter, that calls us to meaningful relationship with First Nation neighbours, to listen and grow, and to work towards justice and right relationship with neighbours, with the land, the animals, the waters, and right relationship with Creator God. May it be so.

Call to Worship

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,
inviting us to worship.

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,
inviting us by love.

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,
**calling us by name,
calling us to grow in faith,
calling us to be made new.**

We come to worship in this season of the Spirit.

Opening Prayer

Come to us, Holy God, as we gather here; encircle us with your love. Bless us with your sustaining presence; surround us with your grace. Draw us 'round your living Word, and bind us to one another as disciples of Christ, whose Spirit is in our midst.

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 them that 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: MV 82 *Bathe Me in Your Light, vs. 2*

2. Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,
drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.

Prayer for Grace

I invite you to say with me these opening words from A New Creed, as yesterday marked the 98th Birthday of our Denomination, The United Church of Canada. Please stay seated:

**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.

A New Creed – Full Version (1968; rev. 1980, 1995)

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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.

Dave: So, this Creed was affirmed by the entire United Church of Canada.

We know that we are God's people, we affirm this in words, but how hard it is to live it out in actions, God. When we go through troubling times, has our faith that God is with us faltered? I think we all have experienced that.

A God who created, and who is creating... How do you and I live out that truth, acknowledging that we are still works in progress, especially in our defensive times where we forget how human we are.

We believe in God:
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,

Dave: How is God's reconciling Spirit at work in your life, in mine?

We believe in God:
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,

Reconciliation – formal definition

The act of causing two people or groups to become friendly again after an argument or disagreement (www.britannica.com)

Reconcile, perhaps another way of saying it – to make things right.

The word made flesh; Jesus born into humanity to reconcile. To make things right.

To Prayerfully Ponder

How is the reconciling, healing work of God's being done in and around you and me?

What practical reconciling work (making things "right") needs to be done in concrete ways this coming week?

Words of Affirmation

In all that we do, and wherever we go, God is so close to us, offering courage and strength. May we never ever forget that God is with us – through the moments we celebrate, and though those moments we regret or lament. God, thank you for the Good News that we received through Jesus, the reconciliation message, that transforms lives, that transforms us – and through us, can transform our world. Amen.

Hymn: MV 82 *Bathe Me in Your Light, vs. 3*

3. Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing;
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,
fill me with your promise of a love that knows no length.

Scripture Readings (Tracey, Sophia, and Benjamin Le Grand)

Psalm 33 (assorted verses), VU page 760

Refrain:

**A new song to our God proclaim,
from age to age to age rejoice!**

Shout to God for joy, you righteous!
Praise is fitting from loyal hearts.

**Give thanks to God with the harp;
sing praise to God with the ten-stringed lute.**

Sing a new song to God;
play skillfully and with shouts of joy.

**For the word of God is true;
God's every deed is faithful.**

Refrain:

**A new song to our God proclaim,
from age to age to age rejoice!**

You love what is right and just;
the earth is full of your constant love.

**By your word the heavens were made,
the countless stars by the breath of your mouth.**

Your counsel, O God, shall stand forever;
the purposes of your heart through all generations.

**Happy the nation who has you as God.
Happy the people you choose as your own.**

Our heart rejoices in you, O God,
because our hope is in your holy name.

**Let your steadfast love be upon us
as we put our trust in you.**

Refrain:

**A new song to our God proclaim,
from age to age to age rejoice!**

Matthew 9:18–26 – Paraphrase, “A Dead Girl & a Sick Woman”

If you long for something with your whole heart, sometimes you have to reach out and grab for it. When his daughter suddenly fell ill, Jairus snatched at the only shred of hope he had. He had heard stories about Jesus – both good and bad. As a leader of the local synagogue, Jairus heard plenty of complaints that Jesus spent too much time with the wrong people, that he broke the laws of Moses, and that he did not follow the ways of God. But he also heard that Jesus healed the sick.

So Jairus went in search of Jesus.

When he found him, he begged, “Please help me. My daughter is dying. I know you have healed others. Come and lay your hands on her so she may get well and live.” Without a word, Jesus went with Jairus. A large crowd followed them.

On the way, they were interrupted. Among the crowd was a woman who had been sick for 12 years. She was bleeding from inside. This made her weak and dizzy. Doctors charged her a lot of money for fake cures. Took all her money. So she was poor too. And she was terribly lonely, because in those days no one was allowed to touch or spend time with a bleeding woman. Can you imagine? Twelve years without a hug or a kiss or another human touch. She had almost given up. But when she heard about Jesus, a tiny flicker of hope ignited inside her.

She was sure Jesus would not want to touch her. But had he not healed others with a word? What if he didn't even know she was there? What if she just snuck up close to him and grabbed the edge of his cloak – just for an instant? Maybe some of that healing power would flow through her. Then she could just melt back into the crowd. No one would ever know.

So that is what she did. Silently, she worked her way through the crush of people around Jesus. She crept close. Reached out. Grabbed his cloak. Drew back.

But then Jesus stopped and looked around. “Who touched me?” he demanded. “Somebody touched me.”

“Look at the crowd,” replied his disciples. “Everybody’s touching you!”

“Please hurry,” begged Jairus.

But Jesus kept searching. At last, the woman came forward. Trembling with fear, she told Jesus the whole truth.

“Daughter,” he said, “your own faith has saved you. Go in peace and be well.” And she was.

Meanwhile, Jairus could hardly stand still. He urged Jesus to come before it was too late. But at that very moment people came to break the news that his daughter was dead.

“Don’t be afraid,” said Jesus. “Trust me.”

Jesus continued on his way with Jairus. Outside the house, a crowd had already gathered, weeping and wailing loudly. Passing through them, Jesus went inside and found the girl, still as death, cradled in the arms of her mother.

He took her limp hand in his own and said, “Little girl, it’s time to get up.”

With a gasp, the girl began to breathe again. Colour flooded her cheeks and her eyelids fluttered open. Her mother and father held her close, crying for joy. More than two lives were changed that day.

Message: “Restorative Love. Irrational Hope”

Hymn: MV 89 *Love is the Touch*

1. Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.
2. Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.
3. Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road:
God is where love is, for love is of God.
4. Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;

love is the path which the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Mission for Mission

Youth ministry isn't just about nurturing young people it's about being led by their vision and their passion as the United Church's team leader for Faith Formation and Mission Amy Crawford who supports Youth and Young Adult Ministry. I caught up with her to talk about why this work is so important.

So good to have you here Amy so I would love to start with just a bit of an overview in terms of what is the United Church of Canada doing when it comes to Youth and Young Adults.

I actually think that our youth ministry in the United Church in many ways has grown we took it for granted that young people and children were going to be in the Church and we can't take that for granted anymore they're here because they choose to be, and they're here because they find a place for themselves here.

One piece of the work that we're doing with a group of 40 interns is they're working on passion projects and so they're taking some of the social justice initiatives named in our strategic objectives and they're developing projects to help teach the church about: Climate Justice about indigenous; Justice about anti-racism and racial Justice, and about LGBTQ 2is and gender justice.

Is there a face or a story that sort of stands out for you of a young person whose life was changed by the gift of mission and service?

I'm thinking of a young woman who, I believe it was in 2011, went on one of our youth for peace trips to Israel and Palestine. It was not an easy experience for her there were many times in her life and journey when Mission and Service supported her and now she's giving back so much to the United Church and to the Church in the world.

And if there was something you would want to say to the donors, if you had a donor here to Mission and Service, that you'd want them to know what would that be?

Be generous. It's going to better the lives of people in the Church and beyond the Church, in Canada and beyond, and it's also going to make you feel so good. Generosity is a spiritual gift and it nurtures the giver as much as the receiver so giving to Mission and Service is a joy.

Your gift for Mission and service will help Inspire and support youth programming and engagement. Thank you for your generosity.

Offering Moment:

Dave gives the Offering Moment.

Dedication 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.

Dedication Prayer

You have given us all our gifts, God,
and we are thankful.

You have shown us how our gifts may be used, God,
and we are challenged.

You are with us as we put our gifts to work in the way of Jesus Christ,
and we are blessed. Amen.

Prayers of Community

O God, you have called us from the highest peaks and the lowest valleys.
We have heard your voice interrupt our work when we thought we were too busy in the marketplace, or too stressed in the office or the schoolyard. We have felt your gentle

encouragement invite us and nudge is to face challenges we would rather avoid. Even when we have doubted that we have been called to serve, you whisper into our ears in creative ways that we are...indeed... called. We haven't felt worthy or ready. We've made many excuses, but your voice could still be heard if we dared to listen. We are listening now, O God... Silence.

Assure us, God of every call and response, that there is work we can do. There is healing for hands to offer and grace that our words can create. Help us, O God, to find the strength to care for our world and its people. We offer to you now our personal prayers for people close to us, perhaps for people who are far away, strangers and loved ones alike... Silence

In this silent moment, we offer our joys, the things we are giving thanks for today, things that too many times we get busy and forget to thank you for... Silence

Give our hope a song to sing as you call us to proclaim your good news. Bring us together in this community to share in the work of healing and transformation. With hearts overflowing with gratitude and love, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 639 *One More Step Along the World I Go*, vv. 1, 3, 4, 5

1. One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

3. As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

4. Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

5. You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me,
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

Blessing

Let us go into this new week, ready to be surprised by God.
May God startle us from complacency into compassion,
Awaken us to understand all that we have to give,
And amaze us with the awe-inspiring scope of God's care
Not just for us, but for all Creation.
Creator, Christ and Spirit go with us,
Into the adventure of another week. Amen.

Blessing Hymn: VU 427 To Show by Touch and Word, vs. 1

1. To show by touch and word
devotion to the earth,
to hold in full regard
all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.

Postlude

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