

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



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Ministers: The people of St. Andrew's

Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan

August 21, 2022

Intermission-Hymn Sing

WE GATHER

Welcome

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Good morning and welcome! Music is a powerful tool that allows us to experience and express so many emotions. That is true especially in worship. Let us come together to express our praise and gratitude to God for the gifts that we have been given.

Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world, may its light brighten our spirits, may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.

Acknowledging Our Territory

One: For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on their traditional territory and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. Help us to become better neighbours so that we might live together in better ways.

All: For we are all kin in Christ, "All My Relations," with each other and this earth, its waters, air, animals, and plants.

Call to Worship (Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.**

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

Gathering Hymn - *Come Let Us Sing* - 574 VU

Prayer of Approach

Touch us, O God, through the ministry of melody,

through the sounds and senses of song,

Through the wordless wonder which fills our souls with heaven,

Through the Spirit which teaches our feet to dance

And causes our hearts to overflow.

That we might be absorbed in the mystery and magic of music,

And that, in this moment of oneness, our lives will be bonded to each other and to you. Amen.

All God's Children - Camp Video

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus Bids Us Shine

I've Got Peace Like a River

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading - Psalm 98: 1-7, Psalm 150: 1-5

Meditation - Hymns & Their Stories

I Heard the Voice of Jesus say - **626 VU**

Abide With Me - **436 VU**

Just As I Am - **508 VU**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to Offering - Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Dedication

We bring our gifts to you, O God

Here is the work of our hands and here is the love of our hearts.

Accept them and use them through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

Let us pray to our kind and merciful God that his love for us may animate all we do and that our love may become contagious. Let us say:

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

- That the Church, the People of God, may never cease to proclaim by its teaching, life and liturgy that love of God and neighbor is the heart of the gospel and that people are God's gift to us, let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

- That people may not lose their hearts in today's economic systems of profit, efficiency, production and competition, but that they may keep giving first place to human relationships of friendship and respect, let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

- That we may have room in our hearts and homes for refugees and strangers, that we may learn to share our goods and ourselves with the little people loved by God - the poor and the lonely and those who suffer, let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

- That those who don't know how to forgive, those who have not experienced much happiness in life or whose longings have not been fulfilled may encounter a bit of God's goodness in our attention and care, let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

- That in our Christian communities we may uplift one another rather than tear down, accept each other with trust and affection, forgive one another from the heart and go forward together in hope and love, let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

Our gentle God, help us to love you and one another with your measure, that is, without measure, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Sung Lord's Prayer - 959 VU

Hymn -

Blessing and Commissioning

May the God who dances in creation

Who embraces us with human love

Who shakes our lives like thunder

Bless us, and drive us out with power

To fill the world with justice.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Horatius Bonar was born in 1808 in Edinburgh, Scotland, the son of a ruling elder in the Church of Scotland. After a relatively uneventful upbringing, Bonar entered into the ministry himself, becoming pastor of the North Parish in the rural town of Kelso.

Not long after he entered the ministry there was a disruption in the Church of Scotland that resulted in the withdrawal of 451 ministers from the Established church, among whom were Bonar and a number of his friends. Together they formed The Free Church of Scotland.

Bonar spent the next 20 years pastoring the congregation in Kelso, writing, and engaging in evangelism. Throughout his life he had been strongly influenced by Thomas Chalmers, and in 1866 he planted a new church in his home city of Edinburgh: the Chalmers Memorial Chapel. He was to serve that church until the year before his death in 1889.

In Bonar's day the Scottish church had no substantial library of hymns since they sang metrical Psalms almost exclusively. Bonar had begun to write hymns before his ordination when he was serving as superintendent of a Sunday school. He found that the youth had little love for either the words or the tunes they were singing, so he set out to write a few hymns with simpler lyrics and already familiar tunes. These hymns were received wonderfully.

It wasn't long after this that Bonar, apparently having a gift and an interest in writing verse, took to writing adult hymns. This continued as a habit while he served as pastor, and in the course of his ministry he published a number of hymn compilations.

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" was one of the hymns he wrote during his tenure at Kelso. This is perhaps his most famous song, having found good reception not only in Scotland but also in the wider English-speaking world.

What makes the hymn so widely appealing may well be its focus on the gospel call of Christ to come to him, look to him, drink, and rest, and the simple call to obey and to find in him all that he has promised. It is simple, sweet and encouraging.

Abide With Me - 436 VU

“Abide with Me” is one of the best-loved English hymns of the past 150 years. We see this both in its enduring usage in churches today and in its ongoing appearances in modern culture (for example, in the [opening ceremony](#) of the 2012 Summer Olympics). What about the hymn has made it so well loved?

One aspect of the hymn which may also contribute to its significance is the story of its author and the context in which he wrote it.

The author of the hymn, Henry Francis Lyte, was an Anglican priest and vicar of All Saints Church in Brixham, England. He was also a published poet and accomplished hymnwriter who also penned “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken” and “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven.”. For most of his life Lyte suffered from poor health, and he would regularly travel abroad for relief, as was the tradition in that day. Nevertheless, he developed tuberculosis and, at the age of 54, came near to the end of his life. His daughter, Anna Maria Maxwell Hogg, recounts the story of how “Abide with Me” came out of that context.

The summer was passing away, and the month of September (that month in which he was once more to quit his native land) arrived, and each day seemed to have a special value as being one day nearer his departure.

His family were surprised and almost alarmed at his announcing his intention of preaching once more to his people. His weakness and the possible danger attending the effort, were urged to prevent it, but in vain. “It was better”, as he used to say often playfully, when in comparative health, “to wear out than to rust out”. He felt that he should be enabled to fulfil his wish, and feared not for the result. His expectation was well founded. He did preach, and amid the breathless attention of his hearers, gave them a sermon on the Holy Communion. . . .

In the evening of the same day he placed in the hands of a near and dear relative the little hymn, ‘Abide with Me’, with an air of his own composing, adapted to the words. Just weeks later, while on holiday in Nice, France, Henry Lyte went to be with Jesus. It was November 20th, 1847

Not many hymns have dramatic stories behind them. This one is not all that dramatic; but knowing that it was written by a man who was very near death at a relatively young age helps us feel its weight and sobriety all the more.

Just As I Am

“Just As I Am” is one of the few hymns for which we know not only the author’s story but also the exact circumstances in which it was written. Charlotte Elliott of Brighton, England (1789–1871) was either born, or in early life had become, an invalid. Her life was a testimony to patient endurance in suffering, not only physical, but also emotional and spiritual. This was the context in which she wrote the hymn, as her nephew the Rev. Handley C. G. Moule recounted it in 1897:

But ill health still beset her . . . it often caused her the peculiar pain of a seeming uselessness in her life while the circle around her was full of unresting service-ability for God. Such a time of trial marked the year 1834, when she was forty-five years old, and living in Westfield Lodge, Brighton.

Her brother, the Rev. H. V. Elliott, had not long before conceived the plan of St. Mary’s Hall, at Brighton — a school designed to give, at nominal cost, a high education to the daughters of clergymen. . . . In aid of St. Mary’s Hall there was to be held a bazaar . . . Westfield Lodge was all astir; every member of the large circle was occupied morning and night in the preparations, with the one exception of the ailing sister Charlotte — as full of eager interest as any of them, but physically fit for nothing.

The night before the bazaar she was kept wakeful by distressing thoughts of her apparent uselessness; and these thoughts passed — by a transition easy to imagine — into a spiritual conflict, till she questioned the reality of her whole spiritual life, and wondered whether it were anything better than an illusion of the emotions, an illusion ready to be sorrowfully dissolved.

The next day, the busy day of the bazaar, she lay upon her sofa. . . . The troubles of the night came back upon her with such force that she felt they must be met and conquered in the grace of God. She gathered up in her soul the great certainties, not of her emotions, but of her salvation: her Lord, his power, his promise. And taking pen and paper from the table she deliberately set down in writing, for her own comfort, ‘the formula of her faith.’

Hers was a heart which always tended to express its depths in verse. So in verse she restated to herself the gospel of pardon, peace, and heaven. (Quoted from Louis Benson, *Studies of Familiar Hymns, Second Series*, 201-202)

Within a matter of years Ms. Elliott had the hymn published in [The Invalid's Hymn Book](#), and from there it spread and gained in popularity.

Many people associate “Just As I Am” with the life and ministry of Billy Graham as for years it was sung during altar calls at his crusades; it is also the title of his [autobiography](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are so excited to announce, we are looking to restart Sunday School in September. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help with Sunday school. It would be on a rotation with other volunteers. This would begin in September.



New: you can now etransfer givings to St.Andrews. This can be used to make a donation, pay for camp, buy dinner tickets etc. You can do etransfers thru your bank and the email address to use is: statreasurerst@gmail.com. Feel free to ask Rev.Cheryl or Susan or our treasurer Belinda any questions you may have about etransfer.

Upcoming Services

August 28-God on Film-*Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*

September 4-God on Film-*Ghostbusters*



It's that time of year again, we are looking for donations of cash and gift cards to purchase back to school supplies! Many families in the area are finding it difficult to provide given the rise in food, gas, rent etc. Any amount is appreciated.



Don't forget to check your mailboxes in the hall!