**ST. ANDREW’S UNITED CHURCH**



**60 West Avenue, St. Thomas**

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**website: www.standrewsunitedchurch.com**

**Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s**

**Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan**

**April 24, 2022**

 **2nd Sunday of Easter -Camping Sunday**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Camping is one of the largest youth ministries in the United Church. Camps do everything from building campers’ confidence to growing leaders in our church. Each summer at United Church camps, over 20,000 children, youth, and young adults come together to create relationship in community; relationships with one another, with creation, and with God. We invite you to participate in this Camping Sunday service as a time to reflect and renew your call to ministry in the rich traditions that feed you, as well as in new and exciting ways that inspire.

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

We light this candle to remind us that we are here in Jesus’ name, and that our faith is like this flame. It flickers and changes, and sometimes needs to be relit, but its brightness can fill a space.

**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**

One: We are summoned here by our holy God**,**

**All: who calls us each by name,**

**and gathers us together in the unity of Jesus Christ.**

One: From home and community, from camps and classrooms,

**All: we are called into God’s presence.**

One: Young and old and middle-aged, individuals and families,

soft-spoken and outspoken**,**

**All: we hear our names being called to join in worship.**

One: This house of worship is a place to pursue God’s vision for all people:

**All: unity and joy and faith expressed through different gifts. Let us worship together!**

**Gathering Hymn -** The Church is Wherever **- 579 VU**

**Prayer of Approach**

**Creator God, we hear your wilderness cry from the depth of our souls and long to answer. We seek you out in the silence and beauty of nature, in the sound of the birds, the rustling trees, the lapping water, and the crunching of branches. Our eyes and ears are opened to your presence in the newness of day, the brisk air, and the colours of the sunrise. Be with us in this time of storytelling and memories, guiding us along the forest’s edge into oneness with you.**

**All Children of God - I AM CAMP**

**Hymn -** I’ve Got Peace Like a River **- 577 VU**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Psalm 46, Matthew 8: 23-27**

**Meditation - All in the Same Boat**

**Hymn of Meditation -** It Only Takes a Spark - **289 VU**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Dedication**

Compassionate God, thank you that you are our strength and our song, you fill our hearts with joy. May we give our offerings to you with gladness and joy. Everything we have belongs to you and we rejoice to give some of your abundant gifts back to you. Bless the tithes and offerings we give today. May God's light guide us, the compassion of the Son be the love that inspires us and the presence of the Spirit be the influence that empowers us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

**A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Divine Source in whom we live and move and have our being, we celebrate your presence this day. We give you thanks for the many years of vibrant ministry shared in the camps within our United Church of Canada. Thank you for the unique ways each camp shares your presence and call to be loving co-creators with you in this world.

Inspire us today to hear your call and to participate in the ministry of camp in concrete ways. Ever-present God, this day and every day we pray for peace. We dream of a world in which peace with justice is the norm: peace in the world, peace in our communities, peace in our homes, and peace within our beings.

Compassionate God, empower us to be more active in our concern, more generous with ourselves and our resources, that we might actively participate in the creation of peace within our world, community, church, workplaces, schools, and camps. Give us the courage, the patience, the honesty about ourselves, and the gentleness of spirit that are needed in a world filled with turmoil.

As our work requires the balance of worship to be sustainable, remind us to also “be still” in meaningful ways. Remind us to breathe deeply and to centre ourselves in your unfailing presence with and within us. Help us to see you in the faces and the actions of all whom we meet. These and the prayers that we hold within our spirits we offer to you with the prayer of Jesus…

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Final Hymn:** Will You Come and Follow Me **- 567 VU**

**Blessing and Commissioning**

Let us go in peace to be agents of peace,
knowing that we never go alone,
for the grace of Jesus,
the love of God,
and the peace of the Spirit are always with us.

**Special Thank you to Nicky “Neon” Bolton for her help and service today! Thank you Neon!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On May 7th, there will be a celebration of Life for Jack Bell here at St.Andrews in the hall. All are welcome to drop in from 1pm-4pm.