**St.Andrews United Church**



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

**Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/**

**Merna Edison/Thomas Bee**

October 1st 2023 *Worldwide Communion*

# **WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Good morning! Welcome to this place: where children and

seasoned citizens sit side by side,

where heaven and earth embrace in peace,

where God has been, is, and always will be.

Welcome to this place, as we gather with all of God's children:

where we find God's love,

where we hear the tender voice of Jesus,

where the Spirit teaches us new songs.

Welcome to this place, where all is made ready by our God:

where we bring our hunger, and find food;

where we our brokenness, and find healing;

where we bring our very selves, and find acceptance.

**Acknowledging Our Kinship**

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.**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

We light a candle, to symbolize that we are the people of God.

**Let the light of one candle remind us of the good each person can do in the world.**

**Call to Worship**

Around the world people gather to break bread and pour wine.

**We gather with them in heart and mind.**

Around the world the broken body is made whole.

**As part of that body we join in its unity.**

Around the world the Banquet of God is prepared for the table.

**We, who share in the banquet, come eagerly to be fed.**

Let us worship together, let us share God’s bounty.

**Hymn - Come, O Fount of Every Blessing - 559 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

How quick we are to say yes to you, O Lord, and then we turn around and forget our bold words of commitment. We really want to serve, but we are very weak and are easily drawn away by cares and fears. We pledge ourselves to working for your kingdom but find ourselves pulled this way and that by other demands on our time and energy. Forgive us, O Lord, when we so quickly drop our commitments to serving you. Heal our spirits and give us the bold courage to truly be your disciples. For we ask these things in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.  
  
**Words of Assurance**God knows our hearts and our spirits. God sees our struggles and forgives our weakness. Know that it is in God’s healing love that you live and move and have your being. Rejoice, for God is with you always. AMEN

**Hymn - Teach Me God to Wonder - 299 VU**

**LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture reading** - Philippians 2: 1-13, Matthew 21: 23-32

**Sermon - Home Field Advantage**

**Hymn - “I Have Called You By Your Name” 161 MV**

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

Moved by your love of us, and grateful for our blessings, with joy and a generosity of spirit we offer our gifts. Amen.

**Offering Hymn** - # 541

*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.*

**Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, we pray that our offering this morning will multiply our blessings so that our neighbours next door and across the globe might be nourished in body, mind, and spirit. We pray that your reign of love and justice be made tangible and visible and that no one be left out of the banquet. Amen.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Lord as we gather around this wonderful meal

everywhere and in every place;

bless us all your children.

As we eat this bread and drink this cup

linking arms around the world,

pour your grace into us all.

Grace us with your presence

as we quietly and loudly pray to you.

May we see in each other

your light, your love and you.

May it not matter our differences,

our names, our languages,

our looks, and our way of doing things.

May what matter today and everyday be that we are one in you.

And as we pray many we call to mind our brothers and sisters

who are unable to be with us today whether in body or spirit.

May you bring comfort to those who are grieving, lonely,

heartbroken, ill or broken of spirit.

May you strengthen those whose lives feel shattered,

don’t make sense, in crisis, and experiencing  loss.

May you say the healing word to those who need it.

May you bring the human touch of love

to those who have not been touched.

May you love the unloved through us.

May you shine your light

into those whose world is covered in darkness.

May you use us to feed the hungry,

clothe the ones who need clothes,

give a cup of water to those who are thirsty,

shelter the homeless, visit the sick and those in prison.

May lives be awakened to you, Lord,

to your love and to your kingdom

whose door is always open to all.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Worldwide Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

Welcome friends and relations!

**We meet here in the house of the Creator**

**at the great feasting table.**

The Holy One who walked with our ancestors,

walks with us now, and will walk with our children

for years to come.

**In the very air that we breathe,**

in the sound of whistling wind

and in the slap of the waves on the shore,

**we give you thanks for your presence.**

In the sound of children’s laughter,

and in the songs of our elders,

**we give you thanks for your presence.**

Lift up your broken hearts:

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us honour our Creator.

**It is right to honour God.**

It is right to honour God and to give our thanks.

**We give our thanks to God.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Creator and Giver of all life, Source of love.

We bless you for all your gifts.

You brought creation to birth and sent prophets

to awaken us to your great dream—

a dream in which everyone is treated with dignity and love,

justice and mercy,

honour and hospitality.

We praise you for elders and prophets,

visionaries and leaders, teachers and preachers,

all who have shared the great truth of your love.

We praise you for our brother Jesus,

Love in Human Form,

who showed to us in womb and tomb,

in cradle and cross,

in tenderness and compassion,

your Great Heart of Love.

With the flying ones, the swimming ones,

the four-legged ones, and the crawling ones,

with rocks and trees, mountains and plains,

with all creation,

we humans raise our voices to you as we sing:

As we gather at this feasting table,

we remember that on the night before he died,

Jesus feasted with his friends.

He took a loaf of bread,

thanked you as we have thanked you,

broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Whenever you feast together, remember me.”

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks,

passed it to his friends, saying:

“Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood.

Whenever you drink together, remember me.”

Remembering your boundless love

shown to us in Jesus Christ,

we offer you our praise,

as we proclaim the great mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Holy Spirit, unite us at this feast and may it strengthen us

to live the resurrected and reconciled life of Christ in creation.

**Amen.**

**Words of Institution**

Christ’s body broken and healed for you.

The cup of rich blessing poured out for you.

**Welcome to the Table**

Come, for all things are now ready.

**Come to the table with all your kin**

**and share with all in need—**

the gift of healing for those of us in pain,

the gift of reconciliation for those of us estranged,

the gift of assurance for those of us in doubt,

and the gift of hope for those of us in tears.

**May we who share these gifts,**

**share Christ with one another and with all our kin.**

**(Servers come forward)**

**Bread is served first - eaten together - The Bread of Life**

**Juice is served - drink together - The Cup of Blessing**

**Prayer After Communion**

Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth. Through Christ our Lord.

**Hymn - We Shall Go Out with Joy 884 VU**

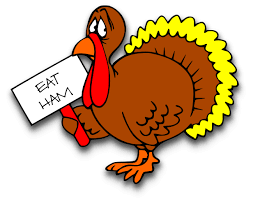
**Benediction**

Go into the world this week knowing you are anointed and blessed without limit.  
Share the blessing of God with friends, neighbours, even strangers.  
Reach out, extend yourself, and let God surprise you.  
Be blessed and be a blessing this week and all your days. **Amen.**

**Postlude**

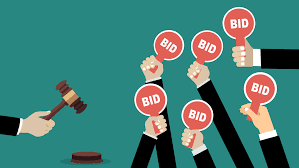
**Announcements**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 8-Messy Church Service -***Thanksgiving***

October 19th

The “Bean Blast” is back! This fundraiser is from 11:30-1pm at St. Anne’s Centre on October 19th. Tickets are $10 and Connie Parsons will have tickets.

Fun Quarter Auction at Central United Church, Oct.4 at 6pm, 135 Wellington Street. Admission is $5, bring your quarters. Proceeds to Local Community Charitable Organizations.