**St.Andrews United Church**



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**Website:** [**www.standrewsunitedchurch.com**](http://www.standrewsunitedchurch.com)

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

**Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton**

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

 **Merna Edison/Thomas Bee**

October 22nd 2023

# **WE GATHER**

**Welcome**

Welcome in the name of the Christ.
Welcome to this place of worship, if you come here today full of cause for celebration, you are welcome. If you come here today full of questions, you are welcome.
If you come here today full of sorrow or grief, you are welcome.
However you have come, from wherever you have come, you are most welcome here.
Let us prepare to worship the God who welcomes everyone.

**Announcements**

**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.**

**Candle Lighting**

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**

One: Sometimes, God, we need to gather to lament.

 **All: We come ready to trust you with our grief.**

One: Sometimes, God, we need to gather to rage.

**All: We come ready to trust you with our anger.**

One: Sometimes, God, we need to gather to witness and to weep.

**All: We come ready to trust that you will comfort us in our time of need.**

One: Sometimes, we just need to be here together and sit in the pain.

**All: And so we come ready to just be, together, and to trust you with all of who we are.**

One: Let us worship the God who loves the whole of us beyond measure and without exception.

**Gathering Hymn - Amazing Grace - 266 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

Gentle Shepherd, You guide us in right paths, You lead us in the ways of righteousness, but we have allowed our anger, our rage, our greed, and at times even hate, to direct our paths. We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share, we have despised others that seem to have it all. Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways. Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep, and You are our Shepherd. Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice and instead have acted in the ways of the world. Guide us back to Your path, to loving You and loving our neighbors. Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. In the name of Christ our Shepherd we pray. Amen.

[**Assurance of Pardon**](http://rev-o-lution.org/2011/05/07/worship-resources-for-may-15-2011-fourth-sunday-of-easter/)

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The Good Shepherd knows the sheep, and the Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep so that the sheep may live. We are part of the flock, we are part of Christ’s body. In Christ we find wholeness and restoration. Go forth and share this Good News. Amen.

**Reflection - Bucket Filling**

**Hymn** - **I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy**

**FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Psalm 23, Matthew 19: 16-21**

**Meditation - *Follow the Leader***

**Hymn - The Lord’s My Shepherd - Psalm 23 – pg.747 VU**

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

When our hearts are heavy and our challenges feel daunting, it can be transformative to give to others. Let us proclaim together the power of God to sustain and bless by taking up our offering for the ministry of this community of faith.

**Offering Hymn - Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow - 541 VU**

 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.

**Offering Prayer**

**Holy and gracious God, we pray that these gifts help to bless and sustain the work of this church and its mission and ministry in our neighbourhood and in the wider world. Amen.**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Merciful God, thank you for hearing us when we cry out to you. When pain and suffering, ours or someone else’s, seem too much to bear, help us remember that you are there with us. Loving God, please help us to remember that this church is your church. Help us to live faithfully into the mission of the Church universal. Gracious God, please touch our hearts that we might love the world as you do.
Help us to steward resources faithfully, live generously, and serve others cheerfully. Compassionate God, help us to accompany and care for those who are dealing with illness of the mind or body. May they receive all they need to heal and regain vitality.

Spirit of God, we take a moment now to remember aloud or in silence those we know and love who are suffering or celebrating in some way….
(*time of silence*)
Lord, in your mercy, receive the prayers of all our hearts this day. Let us now pray together the prayer that Jesus taught:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - I Heard the Voice of Jesus - 626 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

May the grace of God enfold you,
may the light of Christ shine upon you,
and may the power of the Holy Spirit move in and through you,
today and all your days.
Amen.

**Announcements**

UPCOMING

October 26-Euchre 1:30pm

October 27/28-Regional Meeting.



A few volunteers are needed on October 28th at 4pm to assist in the worship service(greeters etc) for ordination of Janine Lunn. Please see Cheryl if you can help out.

**Please remember as of November 5th, St. Andrews worship on Sundays will be starting at 11am! This is the date we will begin our collaborative ministry with New Vision**. **Please let all your friends and family know!**

HARVEST BOUNTY BAZAAR

New Vision Community Church (38 Aldborough) is having a bazaar on Oct.28th from 9am till 1pm. Country Store Preserves: Jellies, Jams, Pickles, Jewelry, Bake table, Books, Puzzles, Attic Treasures, Knitting, Plants, Gifts Baskets, Christmas Table, Quilt Raffle, Snack Bar with Ham/Back Bacon Sandwich!

