**St. Andrews United**

**Church**



**60 West Avenue, St. Thomas 519- 631-4558**

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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**

**March 10th, 2024**

**4th Sunday of Lent**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Good morning and welcome friends of God!

You are welcome here just as you are.

Come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements;

come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings;

come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God’s love and mercy.

Come, in friendship to God and to each other,

and in friendship to the world, to listen for God’s Word to us,

to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling.

Friends of God, welcome! Let us worship!

**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 Liturgy**

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injustice in the world. (Time of silence)

**All: Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, give us strength and courage to make the changes that are needed in our lives. Open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

L: Give thanks to God!

**P: Proclaim God’s goodness throughout all the world.**

L: Let all of us, gathered here, celebrate God’s absolute love.

**P: Let us offer our lives in service to others.**

L: Thanks be to God for the blessings which have been poured on us.

**P: Lord, enable us to use our gifts to serve you in your world. AMEN.**

**Gathering Hymn - Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love - 574 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

O God of Comfort and God of Challenge,

we come to you this morning the way the Israelites did,

full of complaints and dissatisfaction.

Nothing is enough;

we do not recognize your blessing at work in our day to day lives.

**Forgive us when we become so comfortable**

**that we moan and groan about**

**the most insignificant details of our lives.**

In our complaints, challenge us as you did the Israelites,

to consider the bigger picture

of oppression, injustice, and inequality around us.

**Forgive us when we close our eyes for fear of what you might show us;**

**keep sending loving and compassionate leaders**

**to open our eyes until we see what you see in our world.**

**Words of Assurance**

You are blessed because God’s image resides deep within each of you.

So return God’s blessing by the way you love others.

**Reflection - Who Me?**

**Hymn - Jesus Loves Me - 365 VU**

**We Hear God’s Word**

**Scripture Reading - Numbers 21: 4-9, John 3: 14-21**

**Sermon - Are We There Yet?**

**Hymn** - **O God, How We Have Wandered - 112 VU**

**We Respond to God**

**Offering Invitation -** We are created in Christ Jesus for good works, and this is his gift to us. Let us now do the loving, good work of giving our gifts back to him. Let us bring our gifts of thanksgiving to celebrate his deeds and his wonderful works to humankind.

**Offering Hymn - Grant Us, God, the Grace - 540 VU**

 Grant us, God, the grace of giving,

 with a spirit large and free,

 that ourselves and all our living

 we may offer faithfully.

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - What Wondrous Love Is This - 147 VU**

**Commissioning & Benediction**

Let us rejoice: God so loves the world!

May God your Maker

send you back into the world with creative energies refreshed.

May Christ the Light

illuminate your darkest moments.

And may the Holy Spirit of steadfast love

guide you until we worship together again.

This day and forevermore. **Amen!**

**Postlude**

**Announcements**

**Upcoming**

**March 12-UCW-10:30am**

**March 14-board meeting 10:30am**



During the season of Lent we will collect food for the food bank & personal hygiene items for the Inn. Please place items in the baskets in front of the sanctuary.

Broadview (formerly known as Observer) Magazine is available at a cost of $30. Please see Marg Hutchison or give her a call(519-633-1105) if you are interested in a subscription.



