**ST. ANDREW’S UNITED CHURCH**



**February 28, 2021**

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

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

**Minister: The People of St.Andrew’s**

**Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome and Announcement**

Welcome this day to the second step on our Lenten Journey. Today’s journey will demand much of us.

Come, let us begin again the wondrous excursion.

Let us place our lives in God’s abiding love. AMEN.

**Lighting the Christ Candle -**

**May the light of Christ, light our path as we journey to the cross.**

**Call to Worship**

**Lord of presence and power, be with us on this second step of our Lenten journey to the Cross. Help us to make a commitment of our lives, our spirits, our hearts to ministry in your name. AMEN.**

**Gathering Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You - 232 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

Guiding Lord, even though we hesitated on our Lenten journey; we vowed to come with you through all the trials and fears toward the Cross. Today we face the challenge which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you in service? We would like to think that we can do that, but we are aware of how many times we have turned away from service and instead focused on our own desires. Remind us again of the commitment you would have us give if we are to become disciples. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, up these steps toward the Cross. AMEN.

**Words of Assurance:**

The journey of discipleship is never easy; but you can be assured that you will not be on this journey alone. Place your trust in Jesus. AMEN.

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading**: Mark 8: 31-38

**Meditation**: Lord, you want me to do what?

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

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Compassionate God,

we pray for vulnerable people all over this world,

people without power who live in places of terror and violence, fear and oppression.

Protect them, God; we feel so powerless ourselves to help them. Encourage and empower us to work for peace and freedom from fear in our own contexts.

God of grace, we pray for those whose lives have been turned upside down by various disasters: floods, fire and drought-driven famine. Bring courage and hope to them; through their pain, may they remain connected to you in prayer.

We pray for those say there is no God; may we through the living of our own lives demonstrate the joy and peace of a Spirit-centred existence.

God of community, we pray for our own congregation; may we be a source of hope for our neighbourhood.

Help us to discern needs and work to fulfill them. Strengthen and unify our congregation and show us how we can be the disciples you envision us to be. Return the sick to health and well-being

and relieve the suffering of those who have lost loved ones,

are unable to find meaningful employment

and fear the challenges of old age.

Guide us, Great Shepherd, into your paths of right relationships. In Jesus’ name we pray; Amen.

 **Lord’s Prayer**

**Final Hymn: Jesus Christ is Waiting - 117 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**The step of discipleship requires commitment and faith. Go now in peace, bringing the good news of Jesus’ love to all people. Do not be afraid. God is with you. AMEN.**

**Announcements**

If you would like a copy of the book study “The Cup of Our Life” please contact the office and we will be sure to send it with your bulletin. It is designed to do on your own or if you are able you can join our weekly discussion group.

You can phone in by dialing:

 **+1 647 374 4685**

**Then when prompted enter the Meeting ID: 830 1433 0922**

** Annual Reports will be available in the office for pick up starting March 2nd. They will also be distributed with Mailbox Ministry next week.**