

# ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



**March 21, 2021**

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

**e-mail: [standrewsucgra@rogers.com](mailto:standrewsucgra@rogers.com)**

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

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

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

## **WE GATHER**

### **Welcome and Announcement**

Welcome to this fifth Sunday of Lent. This is the fifth step on our Lenten journey, the step of sacrifice. Be with us, Lord, as we take this step. Be with us, Lord, as we commit our lives to you. Come, let us worship and offer our voices of praise to God. Let us open our hearts and spirits to God this day. AMEN.

**Lighting the Christ Candle** - Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, sacrificed his life to provide light for our journey.

### **Call to Worship**

Lord, be with us this day as we commit ourselves to being your disciples. Help us to face the future unafraid, trusting in your loving care and presence with us. We pray this in Jesus' name.  
AMEN.

### **Gathering Hymn: In the Bulb There is a Flower - 703 VU**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives and we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy.  
In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

## **Words of Assurance:**

Even though the future is clouded; God is with us, guiding, healing, comforting, restoring.

Rejoice! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and healed.  
AMEN.

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Reading:** John 12: 20-33

**Meditation:** *“Those Who Serve Must Follow”*

**Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - 149 VU**

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

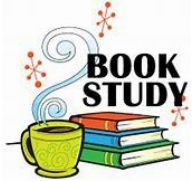
You know us too well, Lord. You know that we would like the ways of discipleship to be easy; to have the paths laid out in a neat line with the future clearly visible at all times. But part of our journey is obscured by our own greed and fear. You do not block the way to hope and peace. Our own fears provide the barriers; and far too often those barriers take the forms of alienation and prejudice. Write your words on our hearts, Merciful God. Plant your transforming love in our spirits. Give us courage. As we have gathered this day to bring before you our concerns, our joys and our sorrows, give us hearts of peace and confidence in your all-sustaining presence. Help us to set our feet on this pathway toward the cross and beyond. AMEN.

## Final Hymn: Day is Done 433 VU

### Commissioning and Benediction

Fix your eyes on the Lord. Place your hand in His Hand, trusting in his guiding and comfort. Go into this world, that needs so much the words of healing love, and bring the good news of God's absolute love and presence to all people. Go in peace. 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**



**A big thank you to everyone who supported our Drive by Pie and Hi day! It was wildly successful, and we enjoyed seeing all your beautiful faces!**