

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



60 West Avenue, St. Thomas 519 631-4558

e-mail: standrewsucgra@rogers.com

website: www.standrewsunitychurch.com

Ministers: The people of St. Andrew's

Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan

October 31, 2021

All Saint's Day

Saints and Superheroes Sunday

WE GATHER

Welcome -

Good morning and welcome everyone. Whether you are sitting at home in your superhero pajamas, here dressed as your favourite Saint or Superhero or maybe you are dressed as the alter ego of the Saint or Superhero you truly are, all are welcome in this place!

Today is the eve of All Saints' Day, All Hallow's Eve, or Hallowe'en. It is historically the festival in the Church that recalls the faith and witness of our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout all ages. The service celebrates our continuing communion with them, remembering how they shaped our lives and our church. It reminds us that we are all be Saints or Superheroes if we live our lives as Christ, the ultimate Superhero, taught us. Let us worship.

Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle - May the Light and Peace of Christ be with us in this service and always.

Acknowledging Our Kinship -

As we begin today, we acknowledge the history, spirituality, culture, and stewardship of the land of the Indigenous People of this region. We seek to live in respect, peace, and right relations as we live, work, and worship upon Traditional Territory. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

Gathering Hymn - This is the day, This is the Day - 412 VU

Call To Worship

Happy are we

when our treasures cannot be quantified.

Happy are we

when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

Happy are we

when our pain is held in the balm of love.

Happy are we

when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

Young at Heart Time - The History of All Hallow's Eve or Halloween

Hymn of Praise - Oh When the Saints Coming Marching In

Opening Prayer - On all Hallow's Eve, may God keep you safe, From ghosts and goblins and often times ourselves. We gather in the light of God's love and imagine the saints and superheroes of past and present. In all things, we seek to know ourselves first – and in confronting, acknowledging, and knowing the darkness – we overcome as we strive to live as the Saints and Superheroes we honour and they as Christ lived. And so from stumbles and tumbles and tricksters to vex you, May God in His mercy, this week protect you. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading - Matthew 5: 1-12

Meditation - Blessed

Hymn - For All the Saints - 705 VU

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern -

God of life and of truth, Your Son invites us to see the world through your eyes and we find ourselves disoriented:

You bless the poor. You bless the meek. You bless the pure in heart.
You turn our world and its values upside down.

We have signed on to follow your Son but this is strange territory.
It doesn't look anything like the life we have been taught to yearn for,
to work for, to believe will bring us happiness.

Yet, You know the despair that besets so many of our young people who fear that their future has been mortgaged by our greed and carelessness. You hear the cries of those who have traded their souls for power and money and now have emptiness as a friend. You see those who are caught in lives that lead only to weariness and anxiety.

Set us at Jesus 'feet so we can learn to judge our lives differently. Awaken in us that hunger and thirst for you which will lead us to your will and your peace.

Open our eyes to see your unexpected blessings. Open our hearts to welcome you when you come to us in strange ways.

Then make us into a community of blessedness that beckons this neighbourhood into your joy.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus who blesses us with your living presence and fills our lives with your life-changing truth. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Final Hymn - You Servants of God - 342 VU

Commissioning and Benediction

Go into the world being the Saints and Superheroes that God has called us to be! Your mission is to seek Justice, love Mercy and humbly walk with your God following in the footsteps of Jesus and all the Saints and Superheroes before us. Peace be with you all!