

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



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Ministers: The people of St. Andrew's

Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan

September 18, 2022

Creation time

WE GATHER

Welcome & Announcements

Good morning and welcome to this Sabbath time. May the Spirit be among us and fill us with amazement for God's creation and creativity and may we respond with all that we have and all that we are, soul, mind and body. Even in this world fraught with signs of destruction, we may yet hear God's still small voice. Amen.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world, may its light brighten our spirits, may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.

Acknowledging Our Territory

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.

Call to Worship

**The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims [God's] handiwork.**

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly [Parent] feeds them.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night declares knowledge.

**Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;
they neither toil nor spin,
yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory
was not clothed like one of these.**

**But strive first for the kingdom of God,
and God's righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.**

Gathering Hymn - Let All Things Now Living - 242 VU

Prayer of Confession

**Magnificent God,
when we think of awe,
our mind stumbles.**

We are too busy for awe.

We know too much to be in awe.

We are too jaded for awe.

We ignore the spiritual gift of awe.

**We feel awe, yes, before a mountain,
a sparkling lake,
a hummingbird.**

We do not feel awe before the blessings of every day.

(a moment for silent confession)

Forgive us, Magnificent One.

**Help us to experience awe this week
in washing dishes,
in the pesky backyard squirrel,
in our work challenges,
in an evening stroll.**

For we would be deeply faithful to you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Know that the ground of all being, from which all beauty, creation, and wisdom arise, is the ground of your being.

Let your fears and anxious worries cease;

turn and see the beauty and goodness from which you are formed, knowing that just to be, is a gift. Amen.

All God's Children - Awe and Wonder

Hymn - All Things Bright and Beautiful - 291 VU

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading - Matthew 6: 25-34

Meditation - **Fashionable Flowers**

Hymn of Meditation - Seek Ye First - 356 VU

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to Offering

Dedication

Benevolent God,

you see those who are hungry, poor and marginalized,
who too often we overlook.

You recognize their humanity and their suffering,
and promise to overthrow the rejection they encounter in our world.
Help us be part of that transformation.

Take our gifts to feed the hungry and sustain the poor.

Multiply our gifts to erase the margins of our society,
embracing us all in Your inclusive love. Amen.

A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

In a time of creation awareness we pause to give thanks for the wonders that surround us. We celebrate the blessings of Earth, nestled like a speck of dust in the great universe and at the same time home to life and beauty: from the amoeba to the antelope, from plankton to great whale, from newborn infant to wizened elder.

We lament the desecration of the sacred gifts: the impact we and our habits have on Earth and environment. We mourn the species now extinct from over hunting or loss of habitat. Move us to repent of our ways and live in harmony with Earth, our mother, and sun and moon, our sister and brother.

We give thanks for the breath of life, and pray that we may use our breath, our voices, and our lives to stand in solidarity with those places and peoples under threat or siege due to climate change or any other violence, which we name at this time... Strengthen us to keep solidarity.

Finally, we turn back to our own circles and community, rejoicing at the love of friends, family, and congregation and, at the same time, calling to mind all who cannot be in this circle today and those who are in any particular need, whom we name at this time.... Keep us in communion with the sick, the dying, and the bereaved.

Bless, O Holy One, our prayers and our intentions that they may be added to the mending of the world. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Hymn - I Danced in the Morning - 352 VU

Blessing and Commissioning

Go from this place,
letting your anxious worries cease.
May the lilies of the field and birds of the air
inspire you to see God in all you do.

May the blessing of Jesus, who announced God's righteousness, of the
Creator, who fills Earth with beauty, and of the Spirit, who nurtures awe,
bless, inspire, and empower you. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



New: you can now etransfer givings to St.Andrews. This can be used to make a donation, pay for camp, buy dinner tickets etc. You can do etransfers thru your bank and the email address to use is: statreasurerst@gmail.com. Feel free to ask Rev.Cheryl or Susan or our treasurer Belinda any questions you may have about etransfer.

Upcoming Services

Baptism - September 25/22

World Wide Communion Sunday-Oct.2



Bean Blast Returns-on October 6th, the Bean Blast returns to St.Anne's Centre from 11:30am -1pm in support of Community Outreach Dinners. Cost is \$10 and there will be entertainment! Please see Connie Parsons for tickets!