**St. Andrews United**

**Church**



**60 West Avenue, St. Thomas 519- 631-4558 e-mail:** [**standrewsucgra@rogers.com**](mailto:standrewsucgra@rogers.com)

**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**

**December 17th, 2023 Advent 4**

**Introit - Prepare the way of the Lord - 10 VU**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Acknowledgement of Kinship**

**Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy**

One: Love abundant overflows, pouring into our midst: Rise, take heart, and love deeply.

**All: The glow of God the Divine Lover lightens our hearts.**

One: We are together and never alone. Gathered on this fourth Sunday in Advent we witness to God’s deep love and tender compassion for the whole world. Our witness is love.

**All: God’s love comes to ground, and like an arc, large to hold, embrace, heal, and restore.**

One: God-who-never-ceases-to-love, kindle our hearts that we may burn anew with your love. Bless us with the flame of lively living and believing. Take our words and release them to speak of you; take our minds and broaden them to reflect your overflowing love; take our hearts and set them alight with your desire for goodness. In the name of the One full of love.

**Candle lighting Hymn - A Candle is Burning - 6 VU - Verse 4**

**Prayer of Confession**

Compassionate, Forgiving God, we trespass on your mercy  
and take your favour for granted.  
**We think only of ourselves.**  
We forget the lessons of those who came before us,  
and ignore our responsibility to those who will follow us.  
**We grow proud and seek power.**  
We do not see the destruction of our actions  
and how it distances us from you.  
**We do not recognize our hunger for what it is, or where it leads us.**  
We grow faint.  
**Bring us home to you, Merciful Beloved.**

**Words of Assurance**

**Hymn - Come to My Heart Lord Jesus - 661 VU**

**We Listen for God’s Word**

**Scripture Reading - Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26**

**Ministry of Music - New Vision**

**Meditation - Love is a Verb**

**Hymn - O Ancient Love - 17 VU**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering Hymn - In the Bleak Midwinter - 55VU - Verse 4**

**Offering Prayer**

**Prayers of the People - The Lord’s Prayer**

**Communion**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

We pray these things, trusting in God’s faithfulness revealed:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**Sharing the Bread & Cup**

**Prayer after Communion**

**Closing Hymn - Away in a Manger**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Announcements**

**Upcoming**

**December 20-Walking Wednesday- 10am**

**December 20-Prayer Shawl-10:30am**

**December 21-Euchre-1:30pm**

**Dec. 24- 11am Service at St. Andrews and 7pm Service at New Vision**

**COVID and FLU are on the rise and while it may only affect you mildly, others could have devastating complications. Please be considerate and protect each other. Consider wearing a mask, covering your cough, social distancing or staying home if you feel unwell. Always be kind.**

vJust a reminder…Euchre will be a potluck on Dec. 21st at 1:30 p.m.



**Just a reminder, that offering plates are located at the front of the sanctuary. Please feel free to place your offering in the plate before or after the service. Given that Covid rates are rising again, the plates will remain in place for the time being.**