**St.Andrews**

 **United Church**



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**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**

**November 19th, 2023**

**Reign of Christ**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Good morning and welcome to this service of worship, this is a time to calm our hearts and focus on God, a time to reconnect with God and each other. In the midst of the jangling demands of life that wear us down, we as children of God, are loved from God’s calm centre. In the midst of discord and of squabbles between u, we as God’s children are loved into loving each other. In the midst of cultural dissonance, we as God’s children, are loved into loving each other. Let us gather at God’s call to sing of love in notes of harmony and rhythm of life in Christ.

**Acknowledging Our Kinship**

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.**

**Candle Lighting**

We light this candle once more this morning, to shine a light of hope for all to see. We trust that the light of Christ is present with us in this place and shines brightly in our lives and in our community of faith.

**Call To Worship**

God is in this place.

**Therefore we will not fear.**

We are not alone.

**With God on our side, we have victory**

We place our lives in God’s hands, today and every day.

**Gathering Hymn - Blessed Assurance - 337 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

**O Lord, we call you the Alpha and The Omega, the beginning and the end, King of kings, and Lord of lords, the ground of our being, the light of our souls, very God of God. Yet often our hearts are far from you.**

**We confess that we turn aside from your path and shut our ears to your voice of wisdom and our eyes to where your hand would guide us.**

**Too often we seek good things without considering that you are the source of all that is good and true and lasting - and so we hurt you, we hurt others, and we hurt ourselves.**

**Forgive us we pray.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

 In the name of Jesus - our Lord, I tell you - we are a

 forgiven people. If we would have the fullness of joy and peace in

 your lives, obey his commandments and forgive others.

 Blessed be his name. Amen

**Reflection - The Beginning and the End**

**Hymn** - **Crown Him with Many Crowns - 211 VU**

**We Listen For God’s Word**

**Scripture Reading - Psalm 100, Revelation 1: 4b-8, John 18: 33-37**

**Meditation - *“A King not of this World”***

**Hymn - All Hail the Power of Jesus Name - 334 VU**

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering Hymn - Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow - 541 VU**

 Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

 praise God, all creatures high and low;

 give thanks to God in love made known:

 Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

**Offering Prayer**

You are Alpha and the Omega. The one who was and is and is to come. We stand in awe of your mystery and of your faithfulness. Strengthen our faithfulness in generosity so that we may continue to change the world according to your will, Amen.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Holy Spirit, help your fractured church to be of one heart and soul, that our proclamation will resonate with great power, and great grace may be upon us all.

Set our minds on heavenly things and Fill us with your joy.

Lord Jesus Christ, you prayed to Our Father that we would be one church. Help us receive you like Aaron, rejoicing with precious oil upon his head. Help us receive you like morning dew upon the mountains, valleys and prairies. Help us rely upon your precious promise of life forevermore.

Set our minds on heavenly things and Fill us with your joy**.**

Word of Life, eternal life, make our joy complete with the God of light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

Set our minds on heavenly thing andFill us with your joy.

Heavenly Father, forgiver of our every sin, help us look to Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, as our advocate and redeemer, not only for ourselves, but for your whole world.

Set our minds on heavenly things and Fill us with your joy**.**

Lord Jesus Christ, when we behave like Thomas, letting ourselves be filled with doubt, give us strength to constantly return to your church, with our doubt, until we confess “My Lord and My God” on the day of your visitation.

Set our minds on heavenly things andFill us with your joy.

We bring before you people we know with special needs...burdens too heavy to bear alone, disease that will not be healed on this earth, and afflictions that can be healed by your precious touch \_\_\_\_.

Set our minds on heavenly things andFill us with your joy.

Help us listen closely to your Word,

even as you listen closely to our prayers. These things and more we ask in Jesus name, who taught us to pray together saying: Our Father … Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - Make a Joyful Noise - 820 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

God’s call is not for the faint of heart. God’s call is not for the timid or weak. Go from here knowing that the God who calls us also gives us the courage, the strength, and the will to be disciples in this time and place. Amen.

**Announcements**

Advent readers and candle lighters required for the four Sundays of Advent.  If you wish to participate, please contact Cheryl in the office.

Walking Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrew's, everyone welcome!!

**Upcoming Services**

Nov. 26 - Advent 1 - Greening of the Sanctuary/White Gift

(SAUC - Socks, gloves, hats for Grace Cafe)

Dec. 3 - Advent 2

Dec. 10 - Advent 3

Dec. 17 - Advent 4 - Holy Communion

Dec. 24 - Morning service - 11:00 a.m. St. Andrew's

Christmas Eve service - 7:00 p.m. - New Vision

