**St.Andrews**

 **United Church**



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

**November 12th, 2023**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Through the week of stress and demands, we come to God this day. May God awaken us again to God's comforting and loving presence in our lives. Help us to be open to the many ways in which God has called to us and sustained us. May we be ready to be of service to God. AMEN.**

**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**

L: We are pulled in many directions.
**P: Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.**L: This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.
**P: This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.**L: Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.
**P: Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives. AMEN**

**Gathering Hymn - Be Still My Soul - 652 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

**O Lord, there never seems to be enough time to do all the things that are demanded of us. Schedules become crowded. We live by the clock. We think we are ready for all events that will come our way. But we are rarely ready for you. We would like you to come to us at a planned time so that we can fit you into our busy lives. Forgive us, Lord, for trying to make you a scheduled event. We have moved you to a time on our weekly calendars. Yet you are the eternal God who has always loved us and been ready to receive us. Help us to learn that, with you as our foundation, we can handle anything that comes our way. With you as our focus, all things pale in comparison. Let us look at the priorities in our lives and see where we have placed service to you. AMEN.**

[Assurance of Pardon](http://rev-o-lution.org/2011/05/07/worship-resources-for-may-15-2011-fourth-sunday-of-easter/)

In the deepest darkness, in the times when all seems lost, we are not lost to God. God calls us to be ready for God’s new kingdom. In all this God is with us. AMEN.

Ministry of Music - St. Thomas Youth Choir

**Reflection - *Choices***

**Hymn - Teach Me God to Wonder - 299 VU**

**We Listen For God’s Word**

**Scripture Reading - Joshua 24: 1-3, 14-25**

**Ministry of Music - St. Thomas Youth Choir**

**Meditation - *Choose faith, Choose Life***

**Ministry of Music - St. Thomas Youth Choir**

**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**

Blessing upon blessing has been given to us, O Lord, from your great bounty. Now we return these gifts to you. Bless these gifts and the lives that they represent and cause them to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn -** May the God of Hope Go with Us - 424 VU

**Commissioning and Benediction**

God has called and chosen you to be witnesses to hope and peace in God’s world. Go in peace and this same healing, reconciling love and peace will be with you. Go and serve the Lord your God in all that you do. AMEN.

**Announcements**

**Upcoming**

UCW-November 14th at 10:30am

Prayer Shawl-November 15th at 10:30am



**Thanks for your donations to the chili lunch.  $163 will be going to Christmas Care this week.**