

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



60 West Avenue, St. Thomas

519- 631-4558

e-mail: standrewsucgra@rogers.com

website : www.standrews unitedchurch.com

Ministers: The people of St. Andrew's

Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/Merna Edison

November 13, 2022

WE GATHER

Welcome & Announcements

Good morning people of God! We welcome you this morning and every morning to come and celebrate God's gift of salvation.

Come and hear God's promises
and witness God's mighty deeds.

Let us take this opportunity to get up and do something to worship and praise God by shouting aloud and singing for joy, for God truly is in our midst.

Lighting the Christ Candle

By lighting this candle, we remember who we are and whose we are in Christ, and we rejoice. Amen.

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.

All: Many of us have come from other places, arriving from distant shores, our families arriving years ago or some of us more recently. When settlers came, they were met by others who were already here, already knew these lands, already lived rich and full lives based on ancient and proud cultures.

One: As we acknowledge the peoples who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial, and their continued claims to the land, help us to become neighbours 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

L: God's promises are awesome!

P: In the midst of difficulty, God gives us a word of hope.

L: Something new is coming!

P: We stand eagerly on tiptoes awaiting God's new creation.

L: Prepare your hearts to receive God's mighty blessings.

P: Open our spirits and our hearts, Lord, to be ready to receive all that you have to offer. AMEN

Gathering Hymn - Come to My Heart - 661 VU

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we come before you this day as those who are often afraid to confess all the many ways in which we have disappointed and betrayed You. You have given us continual opportunities to serve and love others, but we have withdrawn into lives of selfishness and greed. We have turned our backs on others in need. We have denied the gifts you have given us. Where can we turn now that we have run from you? Your voice calls to us to come home, to come to you unafraid, to receive forgiveness and healing. Open our hearts this day to receive these magnificent blessings. Help us understand the many ways in which you love us, and help us share that love with all those whom we meet. For we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we have turned away from God, yet God is faithful to us. We are beloved of God and recipients of God's love and blessings. Rejoice, children of God! For God's mercies are ever before us. AMEN.

All God's Children - Bucket Filling

Hymn - I've Got Peace Like a River - 577 VU

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading - 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

Meditation - *Let's Get Busy!*

Hymn of Meditation - A Song Must Rise - 142 MV

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to Offering

The world is a mess. What can we do? We can offer our visions of hope, our words of comfort, our acts of love, our resources to help bring God's new heaven and new earth.

Dedication

O God, we long to make a difference
in our world.

We offer you what we have:
our visions and dreams;
our witness to your saving acts
of love and justice;
our resources to help bring
the new heaven and new earth
into our midst.

We offer you our very lives,
that we may be coworkers with you
to bring about true change.

A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

We are glad and rejoice forever in you, O God.
With joy we draw deeply from your well of salvation
and pray that even as we have sung, you may fulfill our story—
the story of your love.

Though the world has been gripped by trouble since early days,
and life has often been short and tormented,
you have given us a vision of a day beyond the terrors:
a day when the heavens and earth will be new again,
a day when the sound of weeping will give way to delight,
a time when all creation will live in peace
and people will long enjoy the fruits of their labours.

Help us to hold to that vision when the temples about us are falling,
and our world is shaken.

Strengthen us for the telling of your truth
and for keeping to your path,
that we might not weary in doing what is right,
but through endurance may gain our souls,
even as you desire for us to do.

As we pray for a new heaven and a new earth this day,
we especially are aware of those among us
and those beyond these doors who are in deep need of your peace,
of your healing touch, of your just and bounteous kingdom.

We pray those who dwell in places of strife, need, and want....

We pray for those who have been bereaved.

We pray for those who are unemployed and those fear layoff or
termination

and all those struggling with a burden in the workplace and the
marketplace....

And finally, we pray for today for those of our brothers and sisters
who face persecution because of their faith.

For those who are deprived of their basic human rights,

and those who are deprived of their lives
because of their desire to worship and serve you...

Let us give thanks to the one to whom we pray,
the one who brings both the snow and the sun;
the one who heals this troubled world;
the sick; and those who turn to Him in faith;
the one who grants new life not only to us,
but to the creation itself....

Gracious God,
we pray to you in the name of the one who came to show us the way,
he who is our Lord and our Redeemer, our brother and our friend.
We pray to you as one family, even as he taught us, saying...

Lord's Prayer

Hymn - Joyful, Joyful We Adore You - 232 VU

Blessing and Commissioning

**We go from this place rejoicing in God's love. We commit our lives
to serving God by serving others. God's love has made us new.
God's peace goes with us in all that we say and do. AMEN.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events

UCW meeting Tuesday November 15 at 11am

Euchre Thursday November 17 at 1:30pm