

# ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

LIGHT OF THE WORLD



**April 18, 2021**

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**Minister: The People of St.Andrew's**

**Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan**

## **WE GATHER**

### **Welcome**

As early followers of Jesus gathered for fellowship and worship, praying and singing and reading the scriptures, so we gather this morning. Praising God and daring to believe in a Risen Christ. Welcome!

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

We are called to be Easter people!  
Darkness cannot claim us!  
The Light of the world has risen.

### **Call to Worship**

Lord of Light and Mercy, be with us this day as we again hear the stories of faith and sight. Help us to believe in your abiding presence with us, both in our darkness and in the light which you bring. Give us courage and strength to witness to your resurrection. For we offer this in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

### **Gathering Hymn: Come to My Heart Lord Jesus - 661 VU**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, you give to us your greatest gift, Your Son Jesus Christ, as we still don't understand what is going on. You call us to be people of courage and hope; and yet we run and hide, doubting and fearing. You challenge us to proclaim our faith; but we huddle in darkness whispering our words of discouragement. Shake us up, Lord! Forgive us when we seem to need prodding over and over again. Help us to see the presence of Jesus in our lives; and remind us of all that He taught us, to help us to live as disciples, serving you by serving others. Change us! Remold us! Make us truly the disciples you have called us to be. AMEN.

## **Words of Assurance:**

Do not be afraid. The Light of God has vanquished the darkness! Christ is risen! Doubts are erased. Rejoice! God's love is poured upon you, now and forever. AMEN

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 24:36b–48

**Meditation:** *How to Believe When You Can't Touch and See*

**Hymn:** Thine is the Glory - 173 VU

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Lord of Dawn and Darkness, how grateful we are for your loving mercies. You saw our fear and doubt, our suspicion, our mistrust, and you banished them from our lives, replacing them with hope, peace, love, and joy. You called us to be your witnesses, to all the world, unafraid of what others might think or say about us. We have been invited out of our darkened hideaways, into the light of your world as emissaries of hope and justice, peace and compassion. Be with us, as we participate in ministries of healing and hope through this church, in our community, region, nation, and world. Give us courage and strength to be your disciples in all the circumstances of our lives; for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN..

## The Lord's Prayer

Final Hymn: All The Way My Saviour Leads Me - 635 VU

### Commissioning and Benediction

Go in courage and peace, proclaiming the Risen Lord to all! Be those who bring hope and justice to a hungry and hurting world! The peace of the Lord is with you now and forever. AMEN.



- **Rev. Bolton is on vacation and study leave for the next two weeks. There will be no mailbox ministry.**