

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



August 1, 2021

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Minister: The People of St.Andrew's

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

We Gather

Welcome - In the name of the Creator of Heaven and Earth, Jesus our Redeemer and Saviour, and the Holy Spirit, Sustainer of life, welcome to this service of worship and praise.

Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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.

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.**

Gathering Hymn: Open My Eyes that I May See - 371 VU

Call To Worship

L: All who are gathered here this day are welcome in the sight of the Lord.

P: **We come from times of stress and worry, needing God's healing love.**

L: Come to this place of healing and feeding.

P: **Christ bids us welcome!**

L: From the worries of our lives

P: **Christ bids us welcome!**

L: From the things that draw us down and away,

P: **Christ bids us welcome!**

L: All are welcome in this place!

Young at Heart Children's Time

Hymn of Praise: Jesus, Friend of Little Children - 340 VU

Prayer of Confession

In the daily grind of life, we are so often taught to climb the ladder of success by stepping on each other, focusing only on our own wants and needs. Even as children on a carousel, we were taught to try to grab the golden ring, and it would fulfill our dreams of glory and wealth. How we have been corrupted to think in these terms. Our "dollar for a dream" mentality has gotten us into lots of trouble. We chase after all those false idols that cannot ever sustain us and bring us peace. Forgive our stupidity, Lord. Forgive us when we believe that if we only could win the Lottery, everything would be OK and we would be happy. It is your Son Jesus Christ who leads us in the ways of happiness and peace, sustaining us with his life-giving bread. Nurture us again, Lord, with this Bread of Life, that we may truly focus on the ministries and mission you have set before us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Do you not know? It is Jesus Christ who is the Bread of Life! Come to him and feed on his love for you. Find healing in his presence. Know that this is given freely for you, out of his great love. AMEN.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: *2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a, Ephesians 4:1–16*

Meditation: Confronting your Worst Enemy - Yourself!

Hymn: Just As I Am - 508 VU

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

God, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we too have known Your love,

and experienced Your care and provision.

You invite us to extend that love to the world around us— to care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves.

And so we bring the needs of our world before You now.

In Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the many who do not have enough:

enough food to eat, or shelter to keep warm;

enough employment, or money to pay their bills;

enough medicine or medical care.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We also pray for those who have more than enough,
but who still struggle to find meaning and purpose in life;
who indulge in dangerous or self-serving activities
to dull their pain or loneliness.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, Your grace reaches out to all of us.

You call us to live as citizens of heaven,
working together with one heart and mind.

Strengthen us to live in a manner worthy
of the Good News we have received,
offering our lives in service of Your kingdom,
where the last are first, and the first are last,
and there is grace enough for all.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Final Hymn: Deep in Our Hearts - 154 MV

Commissioning and Benediction

Go into the world with all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love, in the unity of the Spirit, the bond of peace, and the name of Jesus, who is the Bread of Life.

Amen