**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**

**June 18, 2023 Third Sunday after Pentecost**

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# **WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements -**

Good morning, Welcome and Happy Father’s Day!

Father’s Day is a complicated day. For some of us, our father's love is like God's love -- too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure. For some of us our dads are here; for some they were never here. For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left behind. All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers. On this day when we remember what it means to have a father or be a father, we recognize the importance of fathers in our communities. We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture the fathers among us so that they will manifest the love of God in all that they do.

May God open our hearts this day to receive God’s word for us and give us courage and hope.

**Acknowledging Our Kinship**

As we begin today, we acknowledge the history, spirituality, culture, and stewardship of the land of the Indigenous People of this region. We seek to live in respect, peace, and right relations as we live, work, and worship upon Traditional Territory. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

**Candle Lighting**

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world.

**May its light brighten our spirits, and may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.**

**Call To Worship**

L: We are being called to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ!
**P: Lord, guide our feet as we enter this pathway of service for you.**
L: It’s not going to be easy; there are dangers out there!
**P: Lord, help us to face those dangers with powerful faith!**
L: Some people are going to misunderstand
**P: Help us to be clear and faithful in bringing your message of redemption.**

**Gathering Hymn - Would You Bless Our Homes - 556VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Lord, help us to be a people known for the ways in which we live out our faith by loving and serving all people, even those who, in the world’s eyes, have little to offer us. By treating them with dignity and respect, we demonstrate that a *different kind of kingdom* is at work in this world. It is not a kingdom of tit-for-tat, where relationships are seen as commodities for exploitation and advancement, but rather it is a world where we see the value in each human life, no matter their circumstances. Help us to be that kind of community, Amen.**

**Words of Assurance -**

May the God of love
bring *us* back to himself,
forgive *us our* sins,
and assure *us* of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Young at Heart - Dare to Lead**

**Hymn** - **I’ve Got Peace Like a River - 577 VU**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Matthew 9: 35 - 10: 8**

**Meditation - *Not for the Faint of Heart***

**Hymn - Come to My Heart - 661 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**

Lord, we know that there is much work to be done; far more than we ever imagined. We ask that you bless these gifts that they be used for the work you have set before us, for we place our lives and trust in you. AMEN.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Almighty God of all creation,

we join our voices to praise you today,

singing of your wonders,

giving thanks for your grace and care,

and celebrating the joys of life you have blessed us with:

family and friends;

new relationships and deeper relationships;

new life and transformed lives;

reconciliation and restoration.

On this day we are especially grateful for the gifts of fathers,

the gifts of being a father.

and fathers that we miss.

We thank you for the many ways that our fathers have shaped us,

for their example and their love.

Yet we also pray for those

who have painful relationships with their fathers;

those who are estranged from their fathers

and fathers who are estranged from their children.

And, God, we pray for those who are unwilling or unable

to accept the responsibilities of fatherhood.

Gracious God,

all of our prayers are summed up in the longing for your kingdom,

that wonderful, amazing, and new reality that is emerging all around us.

So we join our voices together, God,

praying for the coming of your kingdom,

using the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father…

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - Go Make a Difference - 209 MV**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

When you leave this place, go with confidence in God’s gracious love and mercy. Go, ready to proclaim the good news and serve our Lord by caring for others. AMEN

**Announcements**

**Upcoming**

**June 19-Art Guild 7pm**

**June 21- Prayer Shawl 10:30am**

**Strawberry Social on June 23rd at St. Andrews from 5-6:30pm. Menu consists of Hashbrown casserole, Ham, Coleslaw, and Strawberry Shortcake. Tickets are $20, no tickets at the door. Please call 519-615-2325 to reserve your ticket.**

**Rev. Cheryl will be away on holidays July 1-16th.**

**Just a reminder there will be no livestream on July 9 and July 16. As well, there will be no mailbox ministry on these dates.**

**Prayer Shawl will be taking a break over the summer and return in the fall! Last meeting date is June 21st at 10:30am! We will see you in September!**

 We are still seeking a part time custodian. 8hrs per week, flexible time. Job requires cleaning and lawncare. Call office for more info.519-631-4558

