**St.Andrews United Church**



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**Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s**

**Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/**

 **Merna Edison**

October 29th 2023

# **WE GATHER**

**Welcome**

**We gather as seekers, lovers, disciples, and friends.
We gather to give God thanks for the blessings of our lives
and to replenish and refuel our spirits for the road ahead.
We gather to learn the wisdom of your way and**

**feel the warmth of your love.
Bless our gathering as we join our hearts and minds together in worship.**

**Announcements**

**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**

One: Come and celebrate God’s presence!
**All: We come to celebrate our journey together.**One: Come and celebrate this community of saints!
**All: We celebrate with all communities of saints**

**down through the ages,**One: from generation to generation.
**All: You have blessed your church, O God.**One: We give you thanks and praise your holy name.
**All: Come, let us worship God!**

**Gathering Hymn - Now Thank We All Our God - 236 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Beloved God,**

**who was known to our mothers and fathers,**

**and even to our spiritual forebears,**

**have mercy on us.**

**We do not always love as you would have us love.**

**We do not always do as you would have us do.**

**In our stubbornness,**

**we turn from you when we should turn toward you.**

**Hold us, dear One –**

**comfort us when we mourn the passing of friends and family,**

**and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence.**

**We praise you for the grace you shower on us,**

**constantly forgiving our errors,**

**especially the ones that we don’t share with any but you.**

**Hear now the silent fears and worries of our hearts.**

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

Friends, hear the good news! Though thousands upon thousands of our ancestors did not follow God’s ways perfectly, we have hope in the one who did! Jesus, a man of a particular people in a particular time, taught through his words and deeds that God has already forgiven us. Thus, we and all who have come before us are rightly known as saints – the holy ones of God! Thanks be to God for God’s mercy, grace, and love! **Amen!**

**Reflection -** Building a Church of Gratitude

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

**FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Matthew 22: 34-40**

**Meditation - *Loving Your Neighbour***

Hymn - Oh When the Saints

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**I**n recognition of the journey of these past five weeks, and in support of the mission and ministry of our community of faith and the wider church, let us take up our offering now with glad and joyful hearts.

**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**

**Gracious God, we offer these gifts so that the mission of ministry of your church might be sustained and strengthened, bringing hope and joy into the lives of our neighbours around the world and here at home. Amen.**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Living God, in whom there is no shadow or change,

we thank you for the gift of life eternal,

and for all those who, having served you well,

now rest from their labours.

We thank you for all the saints remembered and forgotten,

for those dear souls most precious to us.

Today we give thanks for those who have left this world and entered into glory.

We are mindful of all those who have gone on ahead of us,

teach us, and each twenty-first century disciple of every race and place,

to follow their example to the best of our ability:

      to feed the poor in body or spirit,

      to support and comfort the mourners and the repentant,

      to encourage the meek and stand with them in crises,

      to affirm those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

      to cherish and learn from the merciful,

      to be humbled by, and stand with, the peacemakers.

Let us clearly recognize what it means

to be called the children of God,

and to know we are to be your saints

neither by our own inclination nor in our own strength

but simply by the call

and the healing holiness of Christ Jesus our Saviour. **Amen!**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - We Are Marching - 646 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

We are not alone; we live in God’s world.
Therefore...
May we trust deeply in our Creating God,
and live with respect in Creation.
May we love ourselves and others,
share generously all that we have,
seek justice,
resist evil,
and boldly proclaim with all the saints
that Jesus, crucified and risen,
is our light, our judge, and our hope. Amen.

**Announcements**

UPCOMING

November 1- Prayer Shawl at 10:30am

**The St.Thomas Youth Choir will be performing on November 12 during our Sunday Worship Service.**

**Please remember as of November 5th, St. Andrews worship on Sundays will be starting at 11am! This is the date we will begin our collaborative ministry with New Vision**. **Please let all your friends and family know!**



