**St.Andrews**

**United Church**



**60 West Avenue, St. Thomas 519- 631-4558**

**e-mail:** [**standrewsucgra@rogers.com**](mailto:standrewsucgra@rogers.com)

**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**

**July 23rd, 2023**

# **WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements -** Good morning and welcome to this special service of worship. A little birdie told me that someone is celebrating a milestone birthday today and a couple is celebrating a special Anniversary today! Speaking of little birdies, while I haven’t known Marjorie as long as some folks here, I have come to know that she loves those little birdies and also poetry. So, I thought this would be a great opportunity to incorporate both into today’s worship.

Worship makes such a difference in our lives. The honest language of the psalms gives voice and expression to the thoughts and heart cries of worshipers. But, more important, it allows space to listen to God as he speaks and moves among his people. Let us gather in worship as

We both speak and listen to God.

**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**

The earth and all that is in it belongs to the Holy One.   
**Look, this is our God, for whom we have waited.**   
Will you come to the hill of the Holy One?   
**We come, seeking the face of God.**   
Come, let us worship.

**Gathering Hymn -** This is God’s Wonderous World - 296 VU

**Prayer of Confession (Psalm 23)**

**Gentle Shepherd, You guide us in right paths. You lead us in the ways of righteousness, but we have allowed our anger, our rage, our greed, and at times even hate, to direct our paths. We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share, we have despised others that seem to have it all. Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways. Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep, and You are our Shepherd. Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice and instead have acted in the ways of the world. Guide us back to Your path, to loving You and loving our neighbours. Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. In the name of Christ our Shepherd we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The Good Shepherd knows the sheep, and the Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep so that the sheep may live. We are part of the flock, we are part of Christ’s body. In Christ we find wholeness and restoration. Go forth and share this Good News. Amen.

**Young at Heart -** Poetry for the Birds

**Hymn** - God of the Sparrow - 229 VU

****

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Psalm 67, 2 Peter 3:18**

**Meditation - May You Grow in Grace**

**Hymn - Amazing Grace - 266 VU**

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering -** We are so blessed with many treasures in our lives. Treasures of health, finances, talents and the people we love. Let us give thanks for these treasures and share them so that we may grow God’s work in the world.

**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**

O God,

Jesus taught that where our treasure is,

there will our hearts be also.

In this hour, we come bringing our treasures—

all that we have and all that we are.

We come seeking your treasure—

treasure that does not fade, decay, or disappoint.

Share with us the treasure of heaven,

that we may boldly share it with others. Amen

**A Minute for Celebrations and Concerns**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Good Lord,

we pray that you would fill us with the knowledge of your will

through all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

so that together, we may live a life worthy of you

and in every way pleasing to you;

a life in which we bear fruit in every good work,

and acquire strength and endurance and patience and a joyful heart—

a heart that gives thanks to you in every situation....

Good Lord,

we pray for those who dwell in darkness today,

and for those who are afflicted by the forces of human evil

and the schemes of the prince of this world...

We pray for all who are oppressed and beaten,

and forced to submit to others around them,

both those in our land and those in far off nations...

We pray for the children of our world who hunger and thirst,

and those who have no home or place to call their own,

that they may have bread and drink for each day and a bed for each night...

We pray for our nation and for all who are in authority over us,

and indeed for all nations of our world,

that there may be peace with justice within them and between them ...

And Lord, we pray for the particular persons and concerns

that have been raised before you this day,

and those we now hold before you in our hearts

and with the words of our lips....

In your mercy, O Lord, you hear all our prayers.

We thank you and we praise you for it and for all that you do,

through Christ Jesus, our Lord and our brother, who taught us to pray together saying:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - This is the Day - 412 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

Go now with the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding. Protect your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus and spread the light of the world with the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

****

**Announcements**



**We are looking for some donations for the Growing Youth Camp…items needed are juice and juice boxes, cheese,crackers,Rice Krispie Squares, a box of freezies, cookies, watermelon, apples, oranges etc.**

***Have you moved lately? Do you have a new phone number? St.Andrews is looking to update our directory, so we are asking the congregation to forward any changes to address, phone, email etc to*** [***standrewsucgra@rogers.com***](mailto:standrewsucgra@rogers.com)***. Feel Free to call the office as well at 519-631-4558.***

**Next Sunday, Cheryl Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa will be here to speak briefly about Regional Council information.**

**On August 6 we have been invited to worship with Lynn& Brian at Seasons in the Theatre. Please join us at our regular time.**

**August 13th church will be at Pinafore Park. It’s Pride in the Park with an Interfaith Service at 11am. Please bring a lawn chair. There will be no worship at St.Andrews United Church that day.**

