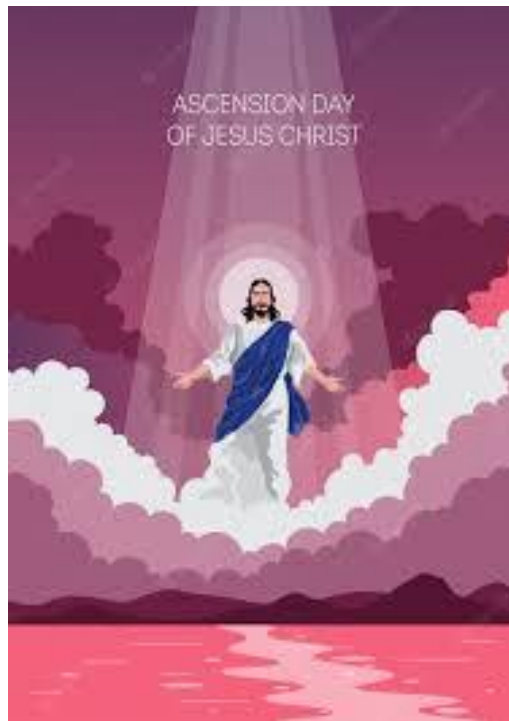


St. Andrews United Church



60 West Avenue, St. Thomas 519- 631-4558 e-mail: standrewsucgra@rogers.com

Website: www.standrewsunitdchurch.com

Ministers: The people of St. Andrew's

Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/

Merna Edison/Thomas Bee

May 21st, 2023

Ascension Sunday

WE GATHER

Welcome & Announcements -

Good morning and welcome to this service of worship.

Our Almighty God, has made us one with God's saints in heaven and on earth:

May God Help us to see his presence burning in the hearts of others; we may be united in a fellowship of love and prayer.

May God give us the courage to pick up our cross and respond to the needs of the world,

May God give us the stamina to follow God, to be God's hands and heart in the world; and enable us to witness to God's grace and mercy.

Let us worship!

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 - May the light of Christ shine within us for all the world to see.

Call To Worship

L: Shout to God with songs of great joy!

P: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

L: God has made us whole.

P: God has called us to a ministry of hope and love.

L: Come, let us celebrate the love of God!

P: Let us praise God's name and serve God joyfully. AMEN.

Gathering Hymn - Worship the Lord - 401 VU

Prayer of Confession

We have to confess, O Lord, that we are people who want to have everything proven for us. We hear the message in the scripture of Jesus 'ascension, and we smile smugly, not truly believing the vision. Forgive us for our arrogant doubts and attitudes of smugness. Help us remember that everything Jesus taught us was to prepare us to help build God's realm here on earth. We are called to be people of faith, not of absolute proof, as we understand it. Let us place our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Let us look with eyes of faith as he ascends to the Father. We pray in his Name, AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Although you have not stood on the mountaintop to see his ascension to God, yet believe in the love and power of Christ who taught you how to be faithful and joyful disciples. Rejoice, and believe in him who came that you may have abundant life. AMEN.

Young at Heart - Do we Really Need to Know?

Hymn - Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise – VU 264

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading - Acts 1: 1-11

Meditation - [Foundations of Pentecost](#)

Hymn - Thine is the Glory - 173 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 -

May the offerings brought this day be used as seeds,
planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly
so that God's way may be realized anew in this world.
Grant us the humility we need to plant and then tend your precious
garden. **Amen.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

Holy One,
We gaze towards misty heavens
knowing you were just with us,
and now you are gone.

We watch the skies for just a glimpse of your dazzling grace,
and you send us angels,
to bring our hearts and minds and soul
back into our lives, our bodies, this very present moment,
where your presence is more difficult to see
in the midst of war, of random killing sprees,
still-missing Nigerian school girls,
bloody revolutions,
and random thoughtless cruelty.

Your angels come to us through the ordinary moments,
reminding us to pray in spite of and because of...

Your angels remind us that You indeed will empower us
to be your light and life and hope in this world,
to the ends of the earth,
wherever courage and grace is needed.

We are your people, God,
and as much as we love sky-gazing,
we know that you call us to give witness
in the middle of terror, anxiety, illness, death, and apathy.

Help us to listen deeply, see far and wide,
and live faithfully.

In Christ we pray,
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn - Hope of the World - 215 VU

Commissioning and Benediction

Lord of love and light, you have called us to this place and have fed us
with your loving spirit. You have feasted us on bread and wine, the
symbols of our covenant with you. Now send us on our way in joyful
service and peace in your world. AMEN.

Announcements



St. Andrews United Church is currently looking for a new custodian. This is a part time position with flexible hours. Full Job description is available in the office.

Upcoming

May 26th-Hall is booked for an event



Fresh Start Baby bottles are ready for pick up. Fill them and Return to the church by Father's Day - June 18th.