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/Thomas Bee

May 7th, 2023 Mental Health Sunday

#  **WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements -** Good morning and welcome! Welcome to everyone, we are all apart of God’s diverse family.

Mental illness and disability are part of the natural diversity of creation, neither a flaw nor a blessing, but one of the diverse ways of being an embodied creature.

The image of God is not as a set of capabilities that can be listed and measured according to standards of exchange value, such that their absence makes someone less human; rather, it is a sign of intrinsic goodness and preciousness that is vulnerable and expressed differently in each person.

May you find words of grace and celebration for the opportunities we have as the Body of Christ to love and care for one another, accepting each other as beautiful, wondrous, and vulnerable children of God whose strengths and struggles in the community come together to reflect the image of God. Let us come together in radical community to love and worship 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 -** May the light of Christ shine within us for all the world to see**.**

**Call To Worship**

One: We gather in the presence of the One who breathes life into all of Creation.

**All: We sing God’s praises, breathing in God’s glory.**

One: All are welcome in the presence of the Most High.

**All: We come, seeking the goodness in the hands of God.**

One: We gather as God’s beloved people, leaving no one outside.

**All: Together we reflect the fullness of God’s love; together we bring God’s love into the world.**

One: Let us worship the Living God whose breath gives us life.

**Gathering Hymn - Come and Find a Quiet Centre - 374 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Young at Heart - “God’s Dream” by Desmond Tutu**

**Hymn - Jesus, Friend of Little Children - 340 VU**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Lamentations 5: 19-22, John 13, 31-35**

**Meditation - Just be Kind, Always!**

**Hymn - On Eagle’s Wings - 808 VU**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**In our offering we share not only measurable treasures of time, talents and resources, we also radically commit to sharing immeasurable gifts of forgiveness, grace, compassion, acceptance and loving concern with each other and with ourselves.**

**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 these gifts help to build the community of radical belonging that we hope to create. May they be a legacy of justice, hope, faith and most importantly love. Amen.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

God of love, we celebrate that today you are still speaking a word of acceptance, wholeness, and inclusion of all your differently-abled people. We give thanks for this church and the ways we seek to live out Jesus’ commandment to love You, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

On this Mental Health Sunday, we pray

for people who live with untreated mental illness and who are unable to find help and cannot afford medical care.

We pray for an end to the stigma of mental illness.

We pray for families torn apart by mental health diseases, and for families that hold onto one another during difficult times of illness.

We pray for those who have lost a loved one to suicide.

We pray for mental health caregivers, for scientific researchers, and for professionals who seek to bring compassion, treatment and healing to those who suffer from

brain diseases.

We pray for children, teens, and young adults learning how to live with newly diagnosed brain diseases.

We pray for people burdened by labels and stereotypes.

We pray for people who are victims of bullying and discrimination because of their disability.

We give thanks for the many gifts that people with mental health disease bring into the world and celebrate the creative genius of artists, scientists, authors, scholars, business leaders, actors, musicians, inventors, and presidents who live with mental illness.

Still speaking God, as the mysteries of the human brain unfold, we remain in awe of the intricate ways in which we are created in your image.

May we be reflections of your love in this world. Amen

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - O Love That Will Not Let Me Go - 658 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Go out into the world as God’s beloved people, bringing Holy Love to all whom we meet. Embody Christ by shattering stigma and welcoming all, leaving no one outside.**

**Breathe deeply and move beyond what has been and what is and follow the Spirit to bring hope and healing to all who live in despair and brokenness. Go be the Church!**

**Announcements**

**Board Meeting on May 11th at 10:30am**

**Next Friday, May 12 starts the Antler River Spring Regional Council Meeting at the Stoneridge Inn. Service of Ministry and Installation of the New President Rev. Cheryl Bolton will be at 4:30pm at First United Church. All are welcome. It would be wonderful to have members from St. Andrews at this service as a show of support for Rev.Cheryl.**

***Remembering***

 ***Bea Horn’s memorial service will be on May 13th at 11am here at St. Andrews United Church. There will a luncheon to follow.***