**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**

**March 17th, 2024**

**5th Sunday of Lent**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Good morning and welcome! We gather today seeking to follow in the way of Jesus. The path he chose for his disciples was one of service and it requires us to we lay down our desires, our ambitions, and serve God with our whole heart. May our worship this day inspire our dying and rising with you as we seek to love and serve like Jesus. Let us worship.**

**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 Liturgy**

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injustice in the world.

(Time of silence)

**All: Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, give us strength and courage to make the changes that are needed in our lives. Open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

L: New life rises!
**A: That which rises, must first fall and die.**
L: Single grains merely remain as they are unless they are released to the ground.
**A: The grains of the earth that fall will multiply and nourish**.
L: Come, die to the self and live a life of service to the Living God.
**A: And God will raise us up anew. Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn - God of Grace and God of Glory - 686 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives and we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. **AMEN.**

**Words of Assurance:**Even though the future is clouded; God is with us, guiding, healing, comforting, restoring. Rejoice! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and healed. **AMEN**.

**Reflection -** A Single Grain - Process of storing seeds and bringing it back to life, the secret is living water!

City Friend called with great concern because fields of beans seemed to be dying, she wondered if a disease had struck the area and all the crops were dying.

**Hymn - O Jesus, I Have Promised - 120 VU**

**We Hear God’s Word**

**Scripture Reading -** Jeremiah 31: 31-34, John 12: 20-33

**Sermon -** So What’s Next

**Hymn** - **Beneath the Cross of Jesus - 135 VU**

**We Respond to God**

**Offering Invitation -**

**As yeast rises to create bread, so do the rising of our gifts multiply the love of God in the life of the world. Give of your treasure, whatever it may be, however large or small. And trust God will use it for the building of the kindom of God that is emerging among us.**

**Offering Hymn - Grant Us, God, the Grace - 540 VU**

 Grant us, God, the grace of giving,

 with a spirit large and free,

 that ourselves and all our living

 we may offer faithfully.

**Offertory Prayer**

**O God who causes our lives to rise, we lay down to you the abundance you have given us and allow it to fall so that you may multiply it to give life to your world. May it be so. Amen.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Gracious God We come to you broken –

from that which confines us:

the prejudice buried, weighted down with fear

distorted self-protection breaking me, breaking you.

And, so we come to you seeking to be made whole.

For you, God, put your love within us;

you wrote it on our hearts, that we may be your people.

On this day we pray for those who weep,

who are struggling from lack of

clean water, healthy food, quality, affordable health care.

Women who want to make decisions about their families,

their lives,

their bodies, how and when, and with whom.

And, so we come to you seeking to be made whole.

For you, God, put your love within us;

you wrote it on our hearts, that we may be your people.

Compassionate God, God of covenant, God of love,

We come to you tired, yearning for peace and harmony.

Loving God, we offer up our suffering

and come to you seeking to be made whole.

For you, God, put your love within us;

you wrote it on our hearts, that we may be your people.

Gentle God, God of covenant, of Love,

Glorify us through Your love.

Draw us to you, into you.

Anoint us with your peace.

Write your compassion in our hearts

that we may love as you love.

Amen.

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - Jesus Call Us - 562 VU**

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Fix your eyes on the Lord. Place your hand in His Hand, trusting in his guiding and comfort. Go into this world, that needs so much the words of healing love, and bring the good news of God’s absolute love and presence to all people. Go in peace. AMEN.**

**Postlude**

**Announcements**

**Upcoming**

March 20th-Prayer Shawl 10:30am

March 21-Euchre 1:30pm

March 24- Palm Sunday/Communion



During the season of Lent we will collect food for the food bank & personal hygiene items for the Inn. Please place items in the baskets in front of the sanctuary.

 There will be an Inside yard Sale on August 20th run by UCW. Donations will be accepted but not until April 8 as space is limited! So start your spring cleaning and get your items ready for the Yard Sale.

Broadview (formerly known as Observer) Magazine is available at a cost of $30. Please see Marg Hutchison or give her a call (519-633-1105) if you are interested in a subscription.

