**St. Andrews United**

**Church**



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

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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 3rd, 2024**

**3rd Sunday of Lent**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Good morning and welcome to this service of worship. As we gather, weary and overwhelmed, by a world that takes so much from us, God’s word gives us wisdom.
God’s word enlightens our eyes.
More precious than gold is God’s word.
Sweeter than honey are God’s commands. May this time spent immersed in God’s word revive us and give us strength to continue the journey to the cross. 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: We stand in the need of the presence of God.

**P: Our lives can so easily become corrupted by our own greed.**

L: But the Lord has heard our cries and calls us forward on this journey.

**P: Lord, guide our steps.**

L: Come, let us worship God who is always with us.

**P: Let us open our hearts to the healing, restoring love of God. AMEN**

**Gathering Hymn - He Leadeth Me - 657 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

Patient Lord, we have cluttered the “temples” of our lives with so many unnecessary things that they have blocked out your healing words of hope and mercy. We have been keenly aware of our economic situation and have spent much time and energy worrying about these things.. Forgive us when we have been so preoccupied with these things that we have not listened to your words and followed your ways. Clear away our fears and frustrations. Give us clean hearts and spirits. Help us to be confident in your mercy and transformational love. These things we offer in the name of Jesus, the Christ. AMEN.

**Words of Assurance:**Rejoice! You are forgiven. Let the clutter of your life fall away and be replaced by the love of God in Christ Jesus. AMEN.

**Reflection - Spring Cleaning**

**Hymn - Just As I Am - 508 VU**

**Scripture Reading - 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25, John 2: 13-22**

**Sermon - Greed - A Barrier to the Cross**

**Hymn** - **Jesus Christ is Waiting - 117 VU**

**Offering Invitation**

We worship a God of abundance,
from whose hands flow all the blessings of our lives.
Give us right and generous hearts, O God,
that your blessings may flow from our hands
to those in need.

**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**

The wisdom of the world
tells us to hoard what we own, O God,
while you invite us to share what we have
with those in need.
Accept these gifts for your purposes,
that we may be your servants in the world.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern**

**Closing Hymn - Go make a Difference - 209 MV**

**Commissioning & Benediction**

Go forth with the Lord at your side, seeking goodness and compassion. Bring the words of hope and peace to all whom you meet. Go in peace. AMEN.

**Postlude**

**Announcements**

**Upcoming**

**March 6- Prayer shawl 10:30am**

**March 7-Euchre 1:30pm**

**March 12-UCW-10:30am**

**March 14-board meeting 10:30am**



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.



