

# ST. ANDREW'S 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**

**January 1st, 2023**

# **WE GATHER**

## **Welcome & Announcements**

At the dawn of a new year, we come to welcome hope for a new world.  
Let the day and this new year begin, with new energy to do God's will in  
the world.

Let the light shine, to open a path to safety for all who are seeking  
home  
and longing for life.

Let the sun rise on new talks and new resolve  
to end all war and hatred and to find solutions that will last.

At the dawn of this new year we come to declare our hope and to  
welcome a new world.

## **Lighting the Advent & Christ Candle -**

One: Christ is Born

**All: Alleluia**

One: Jesus is Among Us

**All: Alleluia**

One: The Word has become flesh

**All: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

One: We light these candles once again to invite the light of Hope,  
Peace, Joy and Love that the Christ Child brings to all humanity and to  
remind us that we are called carry the light into the world

## **Hymn - A Candle is Burning - 6VU**

## **Acknowledging Our Territory**

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.

**All: Many of us have come from other places, arriving from distant shores, our families arriving years ago or some of us more recently. When settlers came, they were met by others who were already here, already knew these lands, already lived rich and full lives based on ancient and proud cultures.**

One: As we acknowledge the peoples who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial, and their continued claims to the land, help us to become neighbours 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.**

## **Call to Worship**

This is the first day of the new year,

**Let us rejoice and be glad!**

This is the time God calls us to rise up,

**Let us rejoice and be glad!**

This is the world God needs us to love,

**Let us rejoice and be glad!**

This is the day that our God has made,

**Let us rejoice and be glad!**

## **Hymn - Infant Holy, Infant Lowly 58 VU**

## **Prayer of Confession**

We admit that we always find the time to fill our stomachs, God of every moment, but not our souls. We spend hours watching television, but not the wonders of Your creation. We arrange outings with our friends, yet

ignore Your invitation to sit and talk. We make resolutions to change every aspect of our lives, except for that which pertains to You. Forgive us, God of Glory, and make us new. In the moments to come this year, remind us that if there is a time for everything, than we do have those moments for grace, for hope, for joy, for a relationship with our Lord.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

It's over - last year is gone. Our words, our thoughts, our deeds are in the past. Today, we begin anew. Today, and every day, God offers us life and hope.

Here, now, forever - we are forgiven and healed. This year, let us live as such people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

### **God's Children - New Years Traditions**

**Hymn - Sing a Happy Hallelujah - 224**

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13, Revelation 21: 1-6A**

**Meditation - *New Year, New Commitment***

**Hymn of Meditation - He Leadeth Me - 657 VU**

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering Hymn - In the Bleak Mid-winter - 55 VU - Verse 4**

**Dedication**

**Glory and praise to you O God, who has given us Jesus, your gift of love to a world in need. We offer you our gifts of love – these gifts of money, our time and our talents. Take them and us we pray, to bring glory to your name. Amen**

**A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations  
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Quietly the New Year slips in.

Are we now more fearful, the radio asks?

More careful?

More tired?

Are we now more aware of the suffering, the violence,  
the inequality, the injustice in our world?

Holy God,

In this New Year,

We seek you

As we have always sought you.

We need you

As we have always needed you.

We hunger for your presence,

your peace, your justice and your love.

Open our hearts afresh and anew.

Open our minds that we may know you.

Open our hands that we may care for you.

Open our ears and eyes that we may hear and see you

In our neighbour, in the foreigner, in the refugee,

Even in our enemy,

And, perhaps especially, in ourselves.

That we may know in the deepest part of ourselves

That you call us

And that we are capable

Of seeing and naming, doing and being  
Your love, your peace, your hope and your justice  
In this your world.  
Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**Hymn - Will You Come and See the Light - 96 VU**

## Blessing and Commissioning

May the birth of Jesus be renewed in our lives.  
May the Spirit of Jesus guide our words and thoughts.  
May the life of Jesus inspire us to follow in the way of hope.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **UPCOMING**

**January 4- Knitting Group- 10:30am**

**January 8-Ephiphany Service**

**January 10-UCW -11am**

**January 12-Board Meeting-10am**



**You can now etransfer givings to St.Andrews. This can be used to make a donation, pay for camp, buy dinner tickets etc. You can do etransfers thru your bank and the email address to use is: [statreasurerst@gmail.com](mailto:statreasurerst@gmail.com). Feel free to ask Rev.Cheryl or Susan or our treasurer Belinda any questions you may have about etransfer.**