**St.Andrews United Church**



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# March 12th, 2023

 Lent 3

 **WE GATHER**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**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.**

**Extinguishing the Light**

Called into the wilderness, into the place of searching and temptation…how will we find our way out?

**God’s grace is always available to us, even in the shadow places. God’s grace covers our shame.**

Let us journey through the shadows toward the light.

(3rd Candle is extinguished)

**Sung Response** - “Throughout these Lenten Days” - 108 VU verse 3 only

**Call To Worship**

L: Jesus bids us welcome. He brings peace and forgiveness.
**P: Yet we dwell in the midst of doubt and fear.**
L: Jesus bids us welcome. He brings hope and healing.
**P: But we persist in our ways of stubbornness and greed.**
L: Jesus, come among us once more and bring us your word of Peace.
**P: Open our hearts, our spirits, our souls to receive your healing Word. AMEN.**

**Gathering Hymn - “Come Let Us Sing” - 222 VU**

**Prayer of Confession -**

**God of living waters, we confess that we have often turned from you and wandered in our own wildernesses of fear and doubt. Our thirst mounts daily, seeking to be quenched by your redeeming love. Yet, when that love is offered to us, we again turn away, unable to truly believe that you would actually heal and love us. We have behaved in very unloving ways. We have chosen to ignore those in need or to deal only passively with them. Our hearts are not placed in service to others, but rather in self-serving motives. Heal us, merciful God. Wash us again in the living water. Help us be faithful servants. AMEN**

**Words of Assurance**

**Young at Heart**

**Hymn - I’ve Got Peace Like a River - 577 VU**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Exodus 17: 1-7, John 4: 5-42**

**Meditation - Water and Stones**

**Hymn - I Heard the Voice of Jesus - 626 VU**

**WE 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**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

**(Please respond to the words “In your mercy” with “Hear Our Prayer”)**

God, like the Israelites in the wilderness,

we too have known Your love,

and experienced Your care and provision.

You invite us to extend that love to the world around us—

to care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves.

And so we bring the needs of our world before You now.

In Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the many who do not have enough:

  enough food to eat, or shelter to keep warm;

  enough employment, or money to pay their bills;

  enough medicine or medical care.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We also pray for those who have more than enough,

but who still struggle to find meaning and purpose in life;

who indulge in dangerous or self-serving activities

to dull their pain or loneliness.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, your grace reaches out to all of us.

You call us to live as citizens of heaven,

working together with one heart and mind.

Strengthen us to live in a manner worthy

of the Good News we have received,

offering our lives in service of Your kingdom,

where the last are first, and the first are last,

and there is grace enough for all.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together saying, Our Father…

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - I’m Gonna Live - 575 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

## Announcements

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| ***UPCOMING*** March 15 – Prayer Shawl 10amMarch 16- Lenten Meditations 10:30am |
| March 16-Chili Lunch 12pm-1pm, Tickets $15 Call for reservations 519-615-2325 |

** Lenten Meditations will take place every Thursday morning throughout Lent at 10:30am and will take about a half hour. Come and enjoy a period of quiet reflection and renewal. All are welcome.**



**St. Andrews will be offering a Chili Lunch on March 16, 2023, with musical entertainment to follow. Tickets are $15 and advance reservations are required, please call 519-615-2325. Menu includes Chili, Salad, Bun, Fruit Cup, Cookie, Beverage.**

