**St.Andrews United Church**



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

e-mail: standrewsucgra@rogers.com

Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s

website : www.standrewsunitedchurch.com

Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/

Merna Edison/Thomas Bee

# March 26th, 2023

 Lent 5

 **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.(5th Candle is extinguished)

**Sung Response** - “Throughout these Lenten Days” - 108 VU verse 5 only

**Call To Worship**

L: Our lives feel all disjointed as though they were a valley of dry bones.
**P: But the Spirit of God will bring connection and continuity to our lives.**
L: The Spirit of God breathes hope into each one of us.
**P: The Spirit of God challenges us to be people of faith.**
L: Open our hearts, Lord, and bring us to your light.
**P: Open our lives, Lord, and break us free from doubt and fear. AMEN.**

**Gathering Hymn - Breathe On Me, Breath of God - 382 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Forgive us, O God,
when we see the world
through rose-colored glasses
rather than as it really is,
much less the way you seek it to be.
Forgive us, Holy One,
when we forsake lively and risky faith
calling us to be agents of change in our world
for the bland conviction that all will be well.
Renew us with your grace
and ground us with your Spirit,
that we might be empowered to live,
in word and deed,
as testimonies to the power
of your love over the grave.
In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

**Young at Heart**

**Hymn - Spirit of the Living God - 376 VU**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading -** Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45

**Meditation - Jesus is Enough to Rattle Your Bones**

**Hymn - O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing - 326 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**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - Go to the World - 420 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

***Upcoming***

**March 28-Valleyview Worship Service**

**March 30-Lenten Meditation-1:30pm**

**J 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.**

**If you are interested in subscribing to Broadview Magazine(formerly Observer), please contact Marg Hutchison at 519-633-1105. Cost is $25 per year.**