**ST. ANDREW’S UNITED CHURCH**

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**website: www.standrewsunitedchurch.com**

**Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s**

**Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan**

**March 27th, 2022**

**2nd Sunday of Lent**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Good morning and welcome! How incredible is God’s love! We have been made new in love and reconciled to God and to each other in peace and joy. May God be with us this day as we hear God's words of comfort and hope. And may God guide our lives that we may serve them more fully all of our days. AMEN.

**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. 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 Candle**

**Loving God, we thank you that you are with us, and that we may call upon you no matter where we are, or what we are feeling. Keep us mindful of your presence and trusting in your promise—that you are working with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

L: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.
**P: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.**L: Know that God’s love is lavished upon you forever.
**P: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!**L: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.
**P: AMEN!**

**Gathering Hymn:** The Church is One Foundation **- 331 VU**

**Prayer of Confession and Approach**

**Lord, it is interesting that it is easy for us to identify with today’s scripture about the “Prodigal Son”. Some of us are easily reminded of our own selfishness and stubbornness when we willfully sought our own way. Others are reminded about how angry we were when others were not held accountable for their actions, when we have been so careful not to displease anyone. Still others can identify with the father who, feeling the loss of his son, welcomes him home again, reminding the brother that he has always been in the love and care of the Father. We hear this story and it’s a pleasant memory. But do we really understand what it is about? Do we know that we have also been stubborn and selfish, angry and unforgiving, sorrowful and caught between two conflicting factions? We are no different from these characters, in our own unique way. Yet, in God’s infinite love, we also are forgiven and healed. We are called to turn our lives back to God’s care, which is always extended to us. Forgive us and heal us, gracious God. Open our hearts and our spirits to truly receive the blessings of your healing love. For it is in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, that we pray. AMEN.**

**Words of Assurance**

Once we were “dead” to all the things that God hoped for us; but in God’s love we are again brought to life. Rejoice, dear ones, you are forgiven!

**All Children of God:** I’ve Had Enough!

**Hymn** - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - 333 VU

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32**

**Meditation: *A Declaration of Independence***

**Hymn of Meditation:** Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound -266 VU

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Dedication**

**Every day is a day of thanksgiving, every choice an opportunity**

**for us to sing praise to you, God of all,**

**because all these days,**

**all of these moments,**

**all of these possibilities,**

**come from your love and our love— a blessing forever!**

**Thank you, Creator.**

**In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Holy and Gracious God, You, the one of prodigal grace

We give you thanks for the gift of life and for the blessings of this life,

for family and friends and love abundant.

Lead us through the trials the suffering and sorrow

the challenges and struggles the tired time, despair and bleak places,

back to you, and love abundant.

Be with those who weep or cannot sleep

who have no peace who seek release

and comfort them with love abundant.

Fill us with hope, sustained in your mercy, with patience and stamina

upheld by your Holy Spirit in your prodigal grace.

Transform us and all our broken ways transform us that we can be

made whole and in wholeness

may we be the hands and heart of Christ. Amen.

**Lord’s Prayer**

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

**Blessing and Commissioning**

One: Let’s go into the world as people of gratitude.

**All: Let’s go into the world as people of hope.**

One: Let’s go into the world as people of joyfulness.

**All: Let’s go into the world ready to share Christ’s love!**

One: And let us go knowing this:

**All: we are never, ever alone.**

One: The peace of Christ holds us,

the love of the Creator enfolds us,

and the wings of the Holy Spirit carry us,

today and always. Amen!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Lenten Services**

**March 30th - Meditation**

**April 6th - Yoga Prayer for Beginners**

**April 13th - Taize Worship**

**April 15th - Good Friday service - 10:30 a.m.**

**April 17th - Easter Sunday**

 **All Mid-week services start at 1:00 p.m. Please be sure you have proper attire for Yoga Prayer.**

 **Annual Meeting will be April 24, 2022! A pot luck after church will be enjoyed by all and the meeting will follow.**

**Annual Report will be available for everyone on April 12, 2022!**

**Board members don’t forget to check through your rough copy of the annual report. Let Susan or Cheryl know if you find any errors.**

 **Just a reminder to check your mailbox in the church hall! If you need a church mailbox just let Susan know.**

**UCW meeting on April 12 at 11am. A chairperson is needed for this meeting.**

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![500+ Palm Leaf Pictures [HD] | Download Free Images on Unsplash]() **On Palm Sunday, April 10th, there will be communion. All are welcome.**