*St. Andrews*

*United Church*



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Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s

Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Merna Edison

/Brian and Lynn Sloan

May 25th 2025

6th Sunday of Easter

Rural Life Sunday

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome -** Good morning, and welcome to this sacred gathering.

Today, we come together as a community rooted in faith, connected by the land, and nourished by the sacred rhythm of creation. Whether you’ve travelled country roads or city streets to be here, you are welcome in this space.

We gather to celebrate rural life—the wisdom of the seasons, the dignity of hard work, the beauty of open fields, and the deep interdependence between people, land, and Creator. We pause to honour the sacredness of seeds—tiny vessels of hope and promise, symbols of resurrection, resilience, and renewal.

In each seed lies a miracle. In each act of planting, a prayer. And in every harvest, a testimony of God's faithful abundance.

So come—as you are. Come with your hands that sow, your hearts that hope, your spirits that yearn for growth and new life. God is already here, waiting to bless this time together.

Let us worship God.

**Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**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.**

**Call to Worship -**

Taken from the earth...

**like lumps of clay.**

Moulded and fashioned...

**like lumps of clay.**

People of God, look around you!

**Look and see what God has made—creations of beauty!**

The birds of the air, the fish of the sea...

**creations of joy!**

Every star, every planet, every atom, every quark...

**creations of love!**

As part of this love-given, joy-filled, beautiful creation,

**let us give thanks to the Potter**

who gave us life and form—

**Alleluia. Alleluia! ALLELUIA!**

**Gathering Hymn – All Things Bright and Beautiful - 291 VU**

**Opening Prayer -** Creating God, provide us with all that we need to grow into who you have created us to be:

As the womb of the earth nourishes seeds,

may we be nourished by this gathered community and the assurance of your holy presence.

As the sun provides energy, leading seeds to transformation,

may we find the courage to embrace new life through the example of Jesus.

As water refreshes and replenishes growing seedlings,

may we be restored by the movement of the spirit.

In times of drought,

when we cannot feel your warmth or taste your goodness,

protect us from harmful attitudes and actions that may secure our well-being at the cost of others, and

lead us again to abundant life.

Amen.

**All God’s Children - Creating a Seed Mandela**

**Hymn - We Plough the Fields and Scatter - 520 VU**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading -** Genesis 2: 5-9a, Mark 4: 1-9

**Ministry of Music**

**Meditation - Life is sacred**

**Hymn - In the Bulb There is a Flower - 703 VU**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering -** We offer to God our sacred treasures, trusting that they will be transformed to do more than we could

ever hope or imagine.

**Offering Hymn - For the Gift of Creation - 538 VU**

 For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,

 and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,

 we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.

 May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

**Dedication -**

We thank you, God, for the circle of life:

the cycle of receiving and giving and

the cycle of seed time and harvest.

Bless these gifts that we now present,

trusting in their future promise.

Amen.

**A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn - Touch the Earth Lightly - 307 VU**

**Blessing and Commissioning**

Go, appreciating the beauty and promise of all things sacred.

Go, knowing that we cannot hold on to the glimpses of beauty that we experience.

Go, thankful for the gifts such beauty brings.

And may the deep nourishing soil of God’s grace,

the radiant warmth of Christ’s love, and

the restoring power of the Spirit be with us all,

as we spread God’s glory, wherever we are planted.

Amen.

**Choral Amen**

***Announcements***

**Upcoming**

* **Bible Study on May 28th 1pm at NVCC**
* **Euchre May 29th at 1:30pm**
* **Spring Regional Meeting May 30, 31st, June 1st**

 ***Anniversary Info: Our 100th Anniversary celebration is on June 8th . A Cluster Worship Service is being hosted simultaneously at Central United Church (135 Wellington Street) with many local churches. There will be a joint choir and all invited churches may join.***

***The Program for the gathering will be as follows:***

***4:00 pm - Joint Potluck (in kitchen/gym)***

***5:00 pm - Music in the Sanctuary***

***5:30pm – Worship Service will begin***

***An offering will be received for Mission and Service.***

***Please contact Lori @ 519-631-7570 x21 or*** **office@1stunitedchurch.ca**

* *Bible Study meets on May 28th at 1pm at NVCC. The theme is Fearless: Imagine a life without fear.*

