

# **ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**



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**inisters: The people of St. Andrew's**

**Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan**

**November 7, 2021**

**Remembrance Sunday**

**WE GATHER**

## **Welcome -**

Welcome to this special service of remembrance. As a nation we acknowledge the sacrifice of the people of the Armed Forces throughout history. As a community of faith today, we will be taking some time to reflect on the sacrifices of Canadians throughout the ages. Members of The United Church of Canada have served in every major conflict since the church's formation in 1925 and still do today. And so it is appropriate for us to affirm the lives lost in war and bring them to mind here with us as we worship in freedom and peace.

## **Announcements**

### **Lighting the Christ Candle -**

We light this candle as a reminder that we are not alone. May its flame warm our hearts and inspire us to live the message of Christ's Good News.

### **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.

**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.**

## **Gathering Hymn - Let There Be Light VU 679**

## **Call To Worship -**

One: From east and west, north and south, we gather on this day of remembrance to give thanks and praise.

**All: We come to be inspired by the Word of God and honour the sacrifices of those who have committed themselves to service before self.**

One: In times of peace, in times of conflict, and in times of uncertainty,

**All: We remember that we are not alone.**

One: We are the people of God, connected across time and space, from generation to generation.

**All: We are united by the love of the One who said: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."**

One: As we gather to remember, let us sing and pray.

**All: Let us worship God together!**

## **Time of Remembrance**

Hymn - "O Canada,"

## **In Flanders Fields**

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

### **Words of Remembrance**

One: They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old.

**All: Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.**

One: At the going down of the sun and in the morning.

**All: We will remember them.**

### **Reading of the Names of Local Heroes**

#### **Last Post**

#### **Minute of Silence**

#### **Rouse**

### **Words of Remembrance**

One: Eternal rest grant unto them, O God,  
and may perpetual light shine upon them.

**All: May the souls of the righteous, through your great mercy,  
rest in peace. Amen.**

### **Hymn of Praise - Make Me a Channel of Your Peace VU684**

#### **Prayer of Confession –**

Holy One, when our lives are comfortable and we live in relative safety, it can be all too easy to forget that what we enjoy today has

come at a great cost. For some, the price was their last breath. For others, it was wounds to body, mind, or spirit. Our inability to resolve conflicts through peaceable means has caused harm beyond measure.

Forgive us for using violence as a way to resolve our differences. On days like this, we remember those who defend our freedoms and we say “Lest we forget.” Yet, too often we forget that the wounds to mind and spirit can last a lifetime.

Forgive us for not remembering once the poppies have been put away. Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers,” but we have often focused on what divides us rather than on what can bring us together. Forgive us for our reluctance to do the hard work of peacemaking. For all these things, and for those which we name before you now in the silence of our hearts, forgive us...

### **Words of Assurance**

Jesus said (*John 3:17*): “God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” Receive the Good News: in Christ, you are forgiven! Our loving God desires that all people, indeed the whole world, be restored to right relationship with God and one another, so that we might live together in peace.

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading** - John 15:9–17

**Meditation** - Beauty From the Rubble

**Hymn** - For the Healing of the Nations

## **RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern** -

Gracious Lord, we dream of a world free of poverty and oppression, and we yearn for a world free of vengeance and violence. Most of all we pray for your peace.

When our hearts ache for the victims of war and oppression, help us to remember that you healed people simply by touching them...., and give us faith in our ability to comfort and heal bodies and minds and spirits that have been broken by violence.

When the injustice of this world seems too much for us to handle, help us to remember that you fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish..., and give us hope that what we have to offer will turn out to be enough, too.

When fear of the power and opinions of others tempts us not to speak up for the least among us, help us to remember that you dared to turn over the tables of money changers...., and give us the courage to risk following you without counting the cost.

When we feel ourselves fill with anger at those who are violent and oppressive, help us remember that you prayed for those who killed you...., and give us compassion for our enemies, too.

When we tell ourselves that we have given all we can to bring peace to this world, help us to remember your sacrifice... , and give us the miracle of losing a little more of ourselves in serving you and our neighbours.

Walk with us, Lord, as we answer your call to be peacemakers. Increase our compassion, our generosity and our hospitality for the least of your children. Give us the courage, the patience, the serenity, the self-honesty and the gentleness of spirit that are needed in a world filled with turmoil and terror. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Final Hymn - We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection VU586**

## **Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Having gathered, remembered, heard and prayed,

**All: we ask, Almighty God, for your blessing,  
and for your continual presence in our lives.**

One: Remind us that no matter where we go, you are there.

**All: No matter how bleak the world becomes, all it takes is one  
ray of light for a new day to be upon us once again. Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



***UCW meets on November 9 at 11am in the Hall.***



**Board Meeting on November 18 at 10:30am in the Hall.**



***5 week Bible Study- The Good News of Joy to the  
World starts November 24 and runs every Wednesday until  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please let Rev.Cheryl or the Office know if you  
want to participate-time to be determined by the participants.***

