**ST. ANDREW’S UNITED CHURCH**

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**60 West Avenue, St. Thomas**

**519- 631-4558**

**e-mail: standrewsucgra@rogers.com**

**website: www.standrewsunitedchurch.com**

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

**Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan**

**September 11, 2022**

**New Beginnings Sunday**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Have you ever messed up something so badly that you just need to start over from scratch? I do it constantly with my crocheting, or maybe you are a woodworker and you didn’t measure twice and cut the board too short. Or maybe you think you messed up a relationship so bad there is no going back.

As a new school year begins and the young people start with a blank piece of paper, let us to start that here too. Let’s start fresh! Let’s breathe new life back into this building, into our into our hearts and into our ministry together. Let us remember that today and everyday is a chance at a new beginning with God. So let’s put our trust and hope in God and jump right in!

**Introit** - Hope is a Star - **7 VU verse 1**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world,

may its light brighten our spirits, may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.

**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.**

**Call to Worship**

This new day is fresh with possibility to encounter the Living Christ.

**With bright eyes, let us search.**

This new day is fresh with possibility to understand the Living Christ.

**With engaged minds, let us ponder.**

This new day is fresh with possibility to be moved by the Living Christ.

**With compassionate hearts, let us feel.**

This new day is fresh with possibility to respond to the Living Christ.

**With solid devotion, let us follow.**

This new day is fresh with possibility to serve the Living Christ.

**With humble intention, let us act.**

This new day is fresh with possibility to praise the Living Christ.

**With strong voices, let us sing.**

**Gathering Hymn -** We Are One **- 402 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

Passing on the faith from one generation to the next is an important responsibility. Faith is a part of life’s journey, and our faith is formed in many ways and in many settings. The congregation and the home are partners in the faith formation of our children.

**We confess that we have not always been faithful in sharing God’s story. We don’t take time to talk about our faith at home.**

**We’ve lost the language of faith and the habits of faith.**

**We are often pre-occupied with work and family life.**

**We don’t love God with whole hearts or single minded devotion.**

**Forgive us when we fail to make nurturing faith a priority in our home and church life. Forgive us when we are unfaithful. Help us to draw ever closer to you.**

Listen, people, our God is faithful and steadfast and closer than a heartbeat. Look for signs of God’s activity within and around you, in your church community and family, everywhere you work and play. Everywhere you go, God is there ahead of you! Open your eyes and your heart to God’s surprising ways. And know that you are deeply loved. This is God’s good news! Thanks be to God!

**All God’s Children - A Treasure Hunt!**

**Hymn -** I Am the Light of the World **- 87 VU**

**LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Isaiah 43: 18-19**

**Meditation - Behold! Let Do This!**

**Hymn of Meditation -** In the Bulb **- 703 VU**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Dedication**

May the offerings brought this day be used as seeds,

planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly

so that God’s hope may be realized anew in this world.

Grant us the humility we need to plant and then tend your precious garden.  **Amen.**

**A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Lord Jesus Christ, in this world where hopes are so often dashed

and dreams so often broken, we remember today the faith in the future you brought to so many, both through your coming and through your resurrection from the dead.

Lord Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded, may hope flower again.

We remember how Mary and Joseph looked forward to the day of your birth, how shepherds and magi caught their breath in wonder as they knelt before you, how the hearts of Anna and Simeon leapt in anticipation, and how your disciples and the crowds that flocked to hear you gave thanks, convinced that you were the Messiah, the one God had promised, the long-awaited deliverer come to set them free.

Lord Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded, may hope flower again.

We remember how that vision of the future was shattered by events to follow –your pain, humiliation, suffering and death –

hope ebbing away as the lifeblood seeped from your body – an end to their dreams, an end to everything.

Lord Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded, may hope flower again.

We remember how the news spread that the tomb was empty,

the stone rolled away, your body gone, and how despite it all,

your followers could scarcely bring themselves to hope – afraid to take the risk of faith in case they should face the heartache of losing you once more.

Lord Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded, may hope flower again.

But we remember finally how you appeared, in all your risen glory –

in the garden, in the upstairs room, on the Emmaus road, by the Sea of Galilee – and the dream was born again, the smoldering embers of faith rekindled.

Lord Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded, may hope flower again.

Lord Jesus Christ, a world is waiting, hurting, longing, searching for hope, crying out for meaning, hungry for some reason to believe in the future. Come again in your living power, and bring new life to all.

Lord Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded, may hope flower again. In your name we pray. Amen

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn -** Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Give Thanks **- 179 VU**

**Blessing and Commissioning**

*As you go from here, remember this:*

*the same Spirit of God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead,*

*also lives in you,*

*breathing new life and freedom into your hearts and minds.*

*So go from here with joy and confidence,*

*knowing that God Is at work within you.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**New: you can now etransfer givings to St.Andrews. This can be used to make a donation, pay for camp, buy dinner tickets etc. You can do etransfers thru your bank and the email address to use is:** statreasurerst@gmail.com**. Feel free to ask Rev.Cheryl or Susan or our treasurer Belinda any questions you may have about etransfer.**

**Upcoming Services**

**Baptism - September 25/22**

**World Wide Communion Sunday-Oct.2**

**Bean Blast Returns-on October 6th, the Bean Blast returns to St.Anne’s Centre from 11:30am -1pm in support of Community Outreach Dinners. Cost is $10 and there will be entertainment! Please see Connie Parsons for tickets!**

**Ona Craig’s celebration of life will be held here at St.Andrew’s United Church on September 14th with 1:00 visitation and 2:00 service.**