

# ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



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

**Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan**

**September 25, 2022**

**Growing God's Family**

# WE GATHER

## **Welcome & Announcements**

Here in this place, there are no foreigners,  
for all are welcome in God's house.

Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,  
for love is the language of faith.

Here in our lives, there are no divisions,  
for God dwells in each of us.

Come, let us worship in unity and love.

## **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**

**Welcome!**

**There are many places you could be this morning,  
but you have chosen to be here:**

where we learn how to live in God's Kingdom.

**Welcome to this place—full of music, of words, of prayer—**

**yet also filled with danger:**

where we encounter a Wisdom we cannot always understand.

**Welcome to God's House, the most dangerous and wondrous place in town:**

where we talk about and with God,

and are reduced to silence so we may hear the call to discipleship.

Come let us worship.

**Gathering Hymn - Come In, Come In and Sit Down - 395 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Rock of our salvation,**

**we know the faults try to hide from you and others.**

**We have not cared for all people in the same way.**

**We do think some are more gifted, or better, or prettier.**

**We are more willing to rejoice with someone,**

**than to suffer with another.**

**We are not sure the prisoners should be set free,**

**or the poor given hope.**

**Redeemer of all people, forgive us.**

**Anoint us with your Spirit's power**

**so our eyes might be opened and our ears freed**

**to listen to what Jesus Christ teaches us about your love**

**and grace for our lives.**

*Silence is kept*

**Assurance of Pardon**

God's Spirit is upon us:

the Spirit of forgiveness, the Spirit of grace, the Spirit of oneness.

Today, and in all the days to come,

God's Spirit is with us.

Thanks be to the One who is our joy and our strength. Amen.

### **All God's Children - Welcoming New Members**

The church is not the building – the church is the people. We are called claimed by God, through our baptism, to be the church; and we are equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church.

As a church, we love and care for and support one another. We work together to carry out God's mission of loving the world. We are a community, a family, part of the God's Holy Church; and together we are so much more than we could ever be on our own.

Today, we are welcoming and celebrating some new family members into the St. Andrew's United Church family.

Friends, will you join with us as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice and resist evil? **I will, with God's help.**

I invite the members of the St. Andrew's United Church community to stand as they are able, or stay sitting. Dear friends, as disciples of Christ, do you promise to rejoice in every member's gift, pledge your love and support, and with God's help continue living out the ministry and mission of this congregation and of Christ's Church? **We Will, with God's help**

**In the name of God, we welcome you with the privileges and responsibilities of membership in this congregation. We give thanks to God for your witness among us.**

### **Prayer of Welcome**

God of mercy and love, you welcome all who turn to you, and you create a clean heart in those who come asking. Grant that Barbara and

Donald, may continue to grow with this community into the fullness of the stature of Christ. Holy Spirit, continue to equip them with your gifts, and fill them with faith in Jesus Christ and with love for all your people, in the service of your kingdom. Amen.

**Solo** - *Amazing Grace* - *Belinda Bainbridge*

## **LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Reading** - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

**Meditation** - *All Talents are Appreciated*

**Hymn of Meditation** - One More Step Along the World – 639 VU

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Dedication**

God of grace,  
help us live and give in your kingdom of love,  
where there are no enemies,  
only brothers and sisters,  
and kindness is the air we breathe.  
In Jesus 'name we pray, Amen.

**A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Gracious God,  
You are a God of hospitality;  
there is none like you that invites all to come to you.

You have invited all to your home, to your table, and to your arms.  
Lord, would that all would hear and receive this good news.  
Lord, help us to remember  
that no one is better than anyone else in your Kingdom.  
Help us to then treat each other the way you treat people.

Generous God,  
Because you treat us with your tender love,  
We take time to pray for our friends, family members  
and others who need you more than ever.  
Pour out your healing on all who need it.  
Be generous with your transforming love  
for those who needs it in their lives.  
Bring forth your reconciliation in families,  
and in places where it is needed.

Gifting God,  
You give us the gifts of the spirit to use to further your Kingdom  
and to be the Body of Christ in the world.  
We take time to remember the people devastated by Natural disasters  
and give thanks for those who step up to help.  
Empower us to continue to be your hands and feet  
to continue the work that needs to be done there  
and in so many other places.

There is none like you God in your love, your generosity,  
your gifting and your hospitality.  
And we thank you that you are in our lives,  
working in us and through us  
to let people know your kingdom is open to all.  
In the name of your Son, who opened the doors for all  
and broke down barriers that kept people from you, Amen.

**Lord's  
Prayer**

**Hymn - Would You Bless Our Homes and Families - 556 VU**

## **Blessing and Commissioning**

**Go out into the world in the power of the Spirit. Pursue Justice, faith, love, patience and humility for to this you were called. Go in peace!**

## **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](mailto:statreasurerst@gmail.com). Feel free to ask Rev.Cheryl or Susan or our treasurer Belinda any questions you may have about etransfer.**

### **Upcoming Services**

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

**October 11<sup>th</sup>-Work Bee**

**October 22-Rummage and Bake Sale**



**Bean Blast Returns-on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 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!**



**Please make sure taps are off when you are done using the bathroom. As well, the last person out of the building should always check to see taps are off.**



**We could use some donations of goods for after church coffee time. While we appreciate Neil for donating oodles of coffee, we think he deserves a break now and then. So we can always use some ground coffee and goodies for Sunday morning. Thank you to Neil Hatch for being so generous.**