***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**

**April 27th Second Sunday of Easter**

***We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism***

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements -**

Good morning and welcome! We gather this morning
as a community of believers.
We come with joy to greet one another
and to tell again and again the amazing news:
Christ is risen! Love is victorious over death!
God have given us new life in the name of the Son!
May our singing, praying, listening, and proclaiming
be a testimony to the power of God's love
to make us a new creation as a community of faith.
We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

**Acknowledging Our Kinship -** As we begin today, we acknowledge the history, spirituality, culture, and stewardship of the land of the Indigenous People of this region. We seek to live in respect, peace, and right relations as we live, work, and worship upon Traditional Territory. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

**Candle Lighting -**

In the room where they were staying with the door locked,

knowing that the tomb was empty, knowing what Mary had seen,

things were more than a little chaotic. And then…

[Light your candle]

Christ appeared, saying,

“Peace! Peace be with you.”

**Call To Worship**

In the rising of the morning sun, the Holy speaks:
**You are my children. Shine!**

In the greening of the Earth and blooming of creation, the Holy speaks:
**You are my children. Growl!**

In the mountains reaching toward the sky, the Holy speaks:
**You are my children. Stand with strength!**

In the darkness of the winter days, the Holy speaks:
**You are my children. Trust!**

In the presence of the skies that float above us and the assurance of the Earth beneath us and with the calm of the Spirit within us, the Holy speaks:
**You are my children. Live!**

**Gathering Hymn - I was There to Hear Your Borning Cry - 644**

**Opening Prayer**

**In our doubts and in our fears, in our loss and in our tears,**

**in our hope and in our living, in our receiving and in our giving,**

**in our questions and in our query, in our excitement and when we’re weary,**

**we know that you are with all creation,**

**Rock of our lives!**

**As we open our hearts to your presence,**

**as we open our hearts to each other,**

**help us to open our hearts to your world,**

**that we might reach out, touch, and know,**

**that your love lives, now and always.**

**In your name we pray – amen.**

**Ministry of Music: Child of the Universe-STYC**

**Celebrating Holy Baptism of Wesley Norman David Paquin**

**Presentation and Introduction**

 **Congregational Commitment**

 **Profession of Faith**

 **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pouring of the Water**

 **The Baptism**

 **Welcome**

 **Prayer and Blessing**

**Hymn - Tell Me the Stories of Jesus - 357 VU**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - John 20: 19-30**

**Ministry of Music: May it Be-STYC**

**Meditation - Thomas and Tabitha**

**Ministry of Music- Rejoice the Lord is King(Handchimes)-STYC**

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering -**

All that we have belongs to God. As we celebrate our unity as a community of faith and focus our hearts on the risen Christ, we joyfully lay our possessions at the Lord’s table. Through the grace of God and the bounty of this church, we have the ability to share our gifts so that all may have what they need to live. We thank God for the opportunity to truly be in fellowship with one another and with the world through our offerings today.

**Offering Hymn - Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving - 540 VU**

 Grant us, God, the grace of giving,

 with a spirit large and free,

 that ourselves and all our living

 we may offer faithfully.

**Offering Prayer -**

Generous and surprising God,
when we thought that death
had claimed your only Son,
you amazed us with the resurrection.
Surprise us again
with your ability to turn these humble offerings
into gifts that will transform the world
through our witness to your love.
We lay our very lives at your feet, O God,
knowing that you will use us
to proclaim and embody the gospel. Amen.

**Ministry of Music-To Music- Youth Choir and Children’s Choir**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Risen Christ, our eternal Savior,

Like the disciples, we are gathered together the week after Easter:

wondering whether it is true, marvelling at the possibility,

and daring to hope.

Like the disciples, we are sometimes afraid, sometimes full of doubt.

But in your extravagant generosity, your boundless love,

you appear to us in our fear and love us in our doubts

and grant us the oceans of your peace.

Thank you for loving us as we are.

Teach us not to hide from our doubt,

but to recognize it as a door to mystery and to deeper faith.

After all, the disciples’ fear became a visitation

as they saw you among them, risen and triumphant.

Thomas’ doubt became a moment of revelation

as he saw and touched you and finally believed.

This morning we pray for the many men and women in our society

who have no faith at all.

There are so many who live without hope,

without knowledge of your resurrection,

without your light in their lives.

Grant us the courage to live as witnesses to your resurrection.

Risen Christ, be light in our world.

We pray for those in our congregation this morning

who find it difficult to believe.

Lord knows that they are not alone, but in the best of company:

even Christ’s own disciples struggled to believe

all that they had seen and heard.

Loving Christ, it is your presence

that removes all fear and erases all doubts:

so come, and grant the doubting Thomases in our midst

your presence & peace.

And grant to all of us, living Lord Christ,

renewed faith, great courage, and your boundless peace.

We rejoice this morning with the Paquin Family as we welcome Wesley Norman David to our Community of Faith

Loving God, we pray for those who are not able to be with us whether because of their physical, emotional or spiritual reasons

These things we pray in the Risen Son’s name who taught us to pray together saying:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - One More Step Along the World - 639 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction -**

Lord of mercy, be with us as we go from this place today. Fill our lives with your love. Help us to bring the good news of hope and peace wherever we go. Let us truly be Easter people! AMEN.

***Announcements***

**Upcoming**

* **Euchre May 1st at 1:30pm**



 **The Foodbank item for May 4th is juice!**

Mark May 3rd on your calendar for the Annual Yard Sale. More info. To follow regarding donation, drop off dates etc.

