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

January 26, 2025

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements** - In the flurry and fluster of these winter days, we pause to gather ourselves around the word of life. ThankfullyGod, has called us into God’s church to be God’s people. We have gathered, because we have heard God’s call. God has reached out to us in Jesus Christ; touched us with the Holy Spirit, and we have turned towards God, seeking to love as we have been loved. And now we call upon God’s holy name to empower us in worship and love and serve, walking gently on this earth, through the grace of Jesus 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 -** We light this candle as a reminder that the presence of Jesus guides our lives.

**Call To Worship**

It is good to gather with friends

**Who know and accept us as people of faith.**

It is good to gather with friends

**Who seek the meaning and purpose of life.**

It is good to gather with friends

**Who wish to make a difference in our world.**

Friends, let us worship.

**Gathering Hymn - Hallelujah, Hallelujah Give thanks - 179 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

God you have given each of us many gifts,

**but sometimes we cannot recognize**

**what gift we have to share,**

**so we hide it under a bushel.**

God you remind us that all gifts are needed,

**but sometimes we let ourselves be convinced**

**that some gifts are more special than others.**

God you call us to work, to live, to love together as parts of one body,

**but sometimes we decide that membership in the body**

**is limited by our understandings.**

God, for the times we have ignored or mislabeled Your gifts,

for those times we have cut another off from the body,

**We offer words of repentance,**

**we ask for forgiveness and grace.**

*...time of silent prayer...*

**Words of Assurance**

God is the giver of MANY gifts.

God is the Creator of the ONE body.

God is slow to anger and quick to forgive.

God helps us to share and honour the gifts of all,

God helps us to heal the wounds and reunite the body.

We are forgiven, loved, and accepted.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen**

**Young at Heart - Better Together**

**Hymn - This Little Light of Mine**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a, Luke 4: 14-21**

**Ministry of Music**

**Meditation : Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes**

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

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory Hymn - Praise God, From Whom All Blessings 541VU**

 ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

 ***praise God, all creatures high and low;***

 ***give thanks to God in love made known:***

 ***Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

**Offering Prayer**

Faithful God, who calls us to follow and empowers us by your Spirit, we bring these gifts to you in gratitude and hope. May they be used to proclaim good news, set the oppressed free, and bring sight to the blind. Transform our offerings into acts of love and justice that reflect the mission of Jesus in this world. In his holy name, we pray. Amen

**Prayers of the People**

Holy One, we wait with eager expectation for the coming of Your kingdom when the humble will be exalted and the hungry fed.

We prepare for Your advent with searching minds and contrite hearts,

trusting in Your healing spirit and redemptive love.

Holy One, we watch with those who wait and weep,

longing to see the rule of justice and the reign of peace.

We seek You among the despised and rejected,

knowing that there, we will find Your light shining in the dark.

Holy One, we proclaim sight to the blind and liberty to the oppressed,

trusting in Your tender mercy and passion for justice.

We work with others to proclaim Your truth,

challenging the mighty and raising the meek.

Holy One, we wrestle with our hopes and our fears, our struggles and our joys

labouring with creation to come to new birth.

These things we pray, in the name of Jesus, the light of the world, who taught us to pray together saying:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - Hark the Glad Sound - 29 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us!
We have been called,we have been anointed,

we have been given a task.

So go out from this placeinto the world.
We go carrying Good News to the world:

news about freedom from oppressionand healing for the afflicted.
The time of the Lord's favour is now! Hallelujah! Amen.

 **“*Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure”. In loving memory of Janey Hatch (September 8, 1959-January 26th, 2023), so beloved and missed by the Hatch family.***

***Announcements***

**\*Annual Meeting is March 2nd. Annual reports are now due. Please get them into the office or email\***

**The Foodbank item for February 2 is laundry soap.**

**There will be a Valentine’s Day Soup/Dessert luncheon at St.Andrews on Friday, February 14 from 12pm-1pm. Cost is $10. Tickets will be available by calling 519-615-2325. Make sure you save the date to come and enjoy a great lunch and some fellowship.**

**Special UCW project coming soon. The UCW will be making “Celebration Cake Kits” for the foodbank, so donations of cake mixes, ready-to-use icing, decorative sprinkles, birthday candles etc will be much appreciated. Keep an eye out for these items in flyers/sales in the coming weeks.**

There will be a combined service on June 8th at Pinafore Park to celebrate the United Church’ 100th Anniversary. Further info. to come.



