**St. Andrews United**

**Church**



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**Web site:** [**www.standrewsunitedchurch.com**](http://www.standrewsunitedchurch.com/)

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

**Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Merna Edison**

**/Brian and Lynn Sloan**

**March 23rd 2025**

**Season of Lent**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Good morning and Welcome to this service of worship. It is in God that we live, and move, and have our being. And so, in every moment of every day, we dance with God, and God dances with all creation. We don’t often notice that we’re dancing, but sometimes, every once in a while, God’s music and movement breaks through, and we *know*!
When we gather together, as community of faith, we gather to help one another become open to the presence of God;
we gather to help one another be intentional in that relationship;
we gather to help one another, and in helping one another,
we worship God. So, in this time and in this space, wherever that space may be, let us help each other worship. Amen.

**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. 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.**

**Candle Lighting**

**Call To Worship**

One: Creator, touch our minds—

**All: that we may worship with understanding.**

One: Christ, touch our eyes—

**All: that we may recognize each other.**

One: Holy Spirit, touch our voices—

**All: that our words would always praise you.**

One: Love Divine, touch our hearts—

**All: that your compassion would overflow.**

One: God of all, touch our hands—

**All: that all we touch would be blessed,
that all we touch would be transformed,
that all we touch would be made new,
by your love.**

One: With all that we are—

**All: we worship you.
Amen.**

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

**Opening** **Prayer**

Holy, Creating, Creative God,

We sing from the depths of our sorrow.

We sing from the abundance of our joy.

We sing in voices separate and unique.

We sing with one voice as your body.

May the words of our mouths, whether in speech or song,

and the meditations of our hearts, whether in prose or poetry,

be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

**Young at Heart - Let Your Glitter Settle**

**Hymn -** Worship the Lord - 401 VU

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading -** Psalm 95:1–7

One:O come, let us sing to God.

**All: Let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.**

One: Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving.

**All: Let us joyously shout to God
with songs of praise!
Come, let us bow down and worship,
let us kneel before God our maker.**

One: For you are a great God,

**All: high sovereign above all gods.**

One: In your hand are the depths of the earth;

**All: to you belong the heights of the mountains.**

One: The sea is yours, for you made it;

**All: your hands also formed the dry land.**

One: You are indeed our God;

**All: we are your people, the flock that you shepherd.**

One: Come, let us bow down and worship,
let us kneel before God our maker!

**Ministry of Music**

**Meditation - Worship - Are You Regular?**

**Hymn - Come Let Us Sing - 222 VU**

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

The Way of Lent is a path that we travel each year
as a time for us to remember Jesus’ journey.
On that journey he met many people.
In that meeting, they were blessed.
When he was with them,
he was careful to listen
to the people and to the Creator.
When he was with them,
he would pray, sometimes with words,
sometimes with tears.
When he was with them,
he would share what he had—
his teachings, his table, his love.
Let us worship God
by listening, by praying, and by sharing!

**Offertory Hymn - Grant Us, God, the Grace - 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**

The bills and the coins
and the numbers in the bank
are symbols of the work of our hands, loving God.
We offer them to you,
that they would be signs and symbols
of our worship as they go out into the world.
May they be used in ways
that bring healing and wholeness
to all creation.
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

Reconciling Christ, bless our efforts to bring about reconciliation.

Give us the strength to persevere without counting the hurts,

and to find within ourselves the capacity to keep on loving.

Give us the grace to be able to stand in the middle of situations,

and to be a conduit for the deep listening

which can lead to healing and forgiveness.

Help us to conduct ourselves with dignity,

giving and expecting respect, moving from prayer to action,

and from action back again into prayer.

Grant that we may be so grounded in your love,

that our security is not threatened if we change our minds,

or begin to see a better way to act.

Bless those who are called to reconcile on a large-scale –

politicians, world leaders, leaders of business,

and those who stand in the midst of bitter conflict.

Reconciling Christ, bless us and bless all who engage

in the sacred work of envisioning new wholeness,

and bringing people and nations together. AMEN.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - Rejoice, the Lord is King - 213 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Love Divine, touch our hearts—

**All: that your compassion would overflow.**

One: God of all, touch our hands—

**All: that all we touch would be blessed,
that all we touch would be transformed,
that all we touch would be made new,
by your love.**

One: As we go into your world—

**All: we worship you! Amen.**

**CHORAL AMEN**

***Announcements***

**Upcoming**

* Lenten study at NVCC at 12:30 on March



 ***The Foodbank item for March 30 is Kraft Dinner (no name is fine as well)***

***Please note March 30th is a combined service to be held at New Vision Community Church. Service starts at 9:45am and there will be a Spring Luncheon afterwards for all to enjoy (Free will donation).***



**The Lenten Bible Study continues this week New Vision at 12:30pm. The theme is Faith and Music.**

Stay Tuned for more exciting details! Reserve June 8th on your calendar for the 100th Anniversary celebration of the United Church. Local UC churches will be working together for a special celebration.

