**St. Andrews United Church**



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Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s

Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/

 Merna Edison

November 24th, 2024
Reign of Christ Sunday

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome**

We come this day, rejoicing, in the presence of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. At his birth the angels proclaimed his name to be Emmanuel, God with us. Today in this place, in this time of worship, may we truly feel the power and presence of Jesus Christ in our lives. May our hearts and spirits be warmed and challenged to proclaim with our lives, "Christ is Lord!". AMEN.

**Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**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.**

**Call to Worship -**

L: Jesus calls us to open our hearts to all in need.
**P: We come this day to hear his words of encouragement for us.**L: Look around you. Smile at each other, for we all have need of friendship and welcome.
**P: With God's great love in our hearts, we find our welcome in this place of worship. AMEN.**

**Gathering Hymn - My Lord, What a Morning - 708 VU**

**Prayer of Confession -**

Almighty God, we are intoxicated by power—
the power to dominate, the power to control,
the power to punish, the power to reward,
the power to have our own way.
We live in a powerful country
with powerful leaders and a powerful military.
Forgive us when we lose sight
of what true power is all about.
Forgive us when we forget
that Jesus is our true and only King.
Help us refasten our gaze on Christ’s kingdom,
that we might work
to bring this kingdom here on earth.
In the name of the Alpha and Omega,
the first and the last, we pray. Amen.

**Words of Assurance (Psalm 132)**

The Lord made a covenant with King David,
promising faithfulness to his descendants.
In Christ, we have a new covenant,
assuring us forgiveness of sins
and fullness of grace.
In Christ, our true king,
our lives are made whole.

**All God’s Children - New Year’s Eve**

**Hymn - Come, Children, Join to Sing - 345 VU**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Revelation 1: 4b-7, John 18: 33-37**

**Ministry of Music**

**Meditation - An Unending Reign**

**Hymn - Hope of the World - 215 VU**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering Hymn - For the Gift of Creation - 538 VU**

**Dedication -**

With gratitude for all the blessings you have poured into our lives, Lord Jesus, we come bringing these our gifts that they may be used in service to those in need. Bless these gifts and those who have given them, that they may truly be a blessing in your holy name. AMEN.

**A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

From the first day of Advent, so long ago, we have come full circle to the celebration of the Reign of Christ Sunday. We have witnessed the wonderful birth, the great healing moments, the teachings that have sustained people throughout the centuries. We cried in sorrow at the Crucifixion and rejoiced with absolute joy on the sunrise of Easter when Jesus conquered our greatest fear, death. We celebrated the great good news of the disciples as they risked everything to finally proclaim the good news to all people. Now on this Sunday, we invite Jesus to enter our hearts.

Sovereign Lord Jesus, come into our hearts today and take your reign. Remind us that your kingdom is a kingdom of hope and light, in which there is no darkness, fear, or sadness. You have called us to be your people, living our lives in the knowledge that peace, justice, and hope are not only possible, but can actually be the ruling factor of the world, for those who follow you. There are many who do not acknowledge your presence and your name, O Lord. But in your infinite love and mercy, you have acknowledged and claimed them. Help us to be the kind of disciples that welcome everyone with the words of kindness, that offer acts of mercy and peace to all in need, to proclaim Christ risen and glorified.

We have brought before you, O Lord, the names of people and situations needing your healing and comforting touch, may we also open our hearts for that same healing and comfort. Remind us that we are never out of your grace and mercy. We know that you will give us the strength and wisdom to be true disciples and we celebrate and honour you, now and forever. AMEN.

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn - All Hail the Power - 334 VU**

**Blessing and Commissioning**

Go, Hold fast to the reign of Christ
Proclaim the good news through word and deed
Make your life the demonstration
Keep love as your hope and guide
Testify to the truth
And the Sovereign God will be with you
Now and forever.

**Choral Amen**

**Announcements**

**Coming Events**

* **November 28 – Euchre at 1:30pm.**



 **Imagination a candlelight concert with harpist Jan Earnshaw on Saturday December 7, 2024 at 3:30pm. Location: New Vision Community Church at 38 Aldborough Ave., St. Thomas ON. Free will donation and light refreshments.**

 **Metcalfe Gardens Christmas Bazaar on Saturday Dec. 7th 9-1, at 45 Metcalfe Street. Variety of Vendors, Silent Auction, Raffle Table, Baked Goods and more. For more info. Call 519-631-9393**

 **Thank you to all who donated to the church bake sale and to everyone who helped on Saturday November 16!!**



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