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/Thomas Bee

September 22, 2024

Third Sunday of Creation

“The Plants of the Earth will Teach You”

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Good morning and welcome to this service of worship.

As a gentle rain soaks the earth, may God’s love and peace fall upon us, bringing growth and life. May God’s love soak into our innermost beings, and quiet all that makes us anxious. May God’s peace linger beyond this time and send us our refreshed, to carry God’s peace to others. Let us worship.

**Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

In the dawn’s cool glow, in the bright of the day, in the evening’s painted sky, in nighttime’s starry dark: The Christ Light shines, made bright by God’s love for all!

**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**

This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice, giving thanks for the newness of life offered to us.

**We are glad for warmth, for green grass and for flower, for soft breezes and the music of birds, for gentle raindrops upon our faces.**

On this day of hope and new life we are reminded that God dwells with us and within all creation

**We remember we are called to be partners with God in creation.**

Let us join in celebrating God’s gift of life.

**Gathering Hymn - Come and Find a Quiet Center 374 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

Loving God,

Jesus likened your kingdom to a banquet

and invited his followers

to eat and drink at the table in remembrance. But when he saw injustice,

he turned over tables in the temple.

We admit, gracious God,

that we have failed to assure

that our neighbours at home and abroad have access to the food they need.

**Overturn the tables in our hearts.**

We confess, gracious God,

our struggles to trust in Your abundance.

**Overturn the tables in our hearts.**

We acknowledge, gracious God,

our silence when we should have spoken

and our passivity when we should have acted to end hunger.

**Overturn the tables in our hearts.**

And so, loving God,

we ask for strength that we might do your will, and live with faithfulness and integrity.

**Prepare a table before us.**

**That all humankind may all eat and drink at the table at your banquet. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**All God’s Children - A Banquet for All**

**Hymn - Teach Me God to Wonder - 299 VU**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Genesis 1: 1-13, Psalm 104: 14-21**

**Ministry of Music**

**Meditation - God’s Beautiful Garden**

**Hymn - Touch the Earth - 307 VU**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

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

**Dedication -** O God, to those who have hunger give bread, to those who have bread, give the hunger for justice. May these offering be the start of feeding that hunger for justice. Amen

**A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

God, we come into Your presence

with praise and thanksgiving for Your faithful love.

Your love never fails—not even when

we turn away from You:

when we ignore Your invitation,

or desert You for gods of our own making.

Even then You do not abandon us,

but reach out—again and again—

inviting us back into relationship once more.

As You welcome us, so You welcome our prayers.

We bring them to You with confidence,

knowing that You will hear and answer.

We pray for the world You created, and

the people who share it with us:

for those caught up in war or violent conflict,

for farmers struggling to adapt to the changing climate,

for the millions in our world who are starving,

for the millions who are chronically hungry

for greater action on our part to feed the hungry,

for those who harden their hearts against the poor,

for all who work to eliminate world hunger,

for all our neighbours, both known and unknown to us,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Pour out Your Spirit, unite us as one human family.

Fix our hearts and minds on what is

true and honourable and right,

as we search for better ways to serve your

people and work together to end hunger.

Keep us faithful to the call we have

received in Christ Jesus, our Lord,

extending Your loving invitation to the world around us.

In Jesus’ name. Amen

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn - Fairest Lord Jesus - 341 VU**

**Blessing and Commissioning**

**Be a gardener for creation. Dig, toil and sweat and turn the earth upside down. Seek the deepness and water the plants in time.**

**Continue this labour and make set floods to run and noble an abundant fruits to spring. Then take this food, drink and beauty and carry it to God as your true worship**

**Choral Amen**

***Announcements***

***Coming Events***

* **Please note Church Service is held at New Vision on September 29th. This Joint Service starts at 9:45am.**

**St.Andrews is having a Fall Craft show on November 16 and is looking for vendors. For information about table rental etc Please call Merna Edison at 519-615-2325.**