



Welcome to
Sunday Morning Worship
10:30am, July 30, 2023



MISSION STATEMENT

“St. Andrew’s United Church is a progressive worshipping community dedicated to spiritual growth, caring, and inclusivity that is providing outreach to the community and the world.”

Our worship leader is Neil Colmin. Hannah Elich is on the piano/organ with Jenna Nash leading the choir; their music brings life and joy to our Sunday mornings!

Please note: We will not be passing the plate; there is a box for your donations at the Sanctuary entrance.

Announcements:

Celebration Box:

Congratulations to you. May the dear Lord bless you. May God’s special blessing descend upon you.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

The Lord is my light and my salvation. **Jesus, the Light of the World. Amen**

Call to Worship:

Called to be branches in Christ’s body, **we yearn to be connected to the vine.**

Called to be mustard bushes offering shade to God’s creatures, **we search for places to plant the seeds of faith.**

Called to be growing with God in the midst of this world’s painful questions, **we seek God’s nurturing presence.**

We call right now knowing you are with us and will answer. **Amen**

**Hymn: MV# 10 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom
Children’s/Young at Heart Time**

Opening Prayer and Lord’s Prayer (All):

God of small seeds and mighty plants, you take our meager lives and with your love cause them to produce acts of loving kindness for you in this world. You hear our cries and find us when we are lost and wandering in fear. You bring us home with you so that we may be made whole, rejoicing in your goodness. Help us to joyfully serve you all our days, knowing that you are always watching over us. As we prepare our hearts to receive your word and our spirits to respond in eagerness. Let us pray together the way Jesus taught saying:

We pray to you who is our Mother and our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Scripture Reading:

1st Reading Genesis 29: 15-28 & Psalm 105: 1-11, 45(b)

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 26-39

Gospel: Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Response:

These are our words from scripture.

May God bless our understanding.

Reflection:

Don’t You Love a Good Story?

Hymn: VU# 356 Seek Ye First the Kingdom

Offertory Prayer & Dedication:

O God, Jesus taught that where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also.

In this hour, we come bringing our treasures, all that we have and all that we are.

We come seeking your treasure, treasure that does not fade, decay, or disappoint.

O God, you provide us so many wonderful gifts that make our lives worth living. The gifts of family and friends, the gifts of love and laughter, the gift of your son Jesus. As humble servants it is right that we should show our gratitude and give back. May the gifts of our time, talent and treasure be used for God's work and glory.

Amen

Minute for Mission

Response Hymn: VU # 958 Halle, Halle, Halle

Prayers of the People:

Final Hymn: MV # 209 Go Make a Difference

Blessing and Sending:

The kingdom of God is here, and coming. A mustard seed sown in a field; the smallest of seeds, but when it has grown it is a great shrub becoming a tree, so that the birds will come and make nests in its branches.

The kingdom of God is here, and coming.

Yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of flour until all was leavened.

The kingdom of God is here, and coming.

Treasure in a field which someone found and hid; then joyfully sells all they have to buy the field.

The kingdom of God is here, and coming.

A merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one of great value, sells all their possessions and buys the pearl.

The kingdom of God is here, and coming.

We understand what Jesus asks and leave willing to share our God given treasures with all.

Go now in Peace, with the Love of God to surround you, the Grace of God to astound you, and the Hope of God to ground you. **Amen**