





Welcome to
Sunday Morning Worship
10:30 a.m., September 22nd, 2024



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.”

Sandra Fowler has prepared your service today. Karen Purdy and Hannah Elich take turns 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.

Please join us for coffee and refreshments
after the service!

Welcome and 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:

By lighting the Christ candle, we acknowledge that Jesus and his words are with us today, bringing light and hope into our lives. Amen

Call to Worship

For Jerimiah 32



We have come to worship today in hope and expectation

We await God’s word.

Listen as Jerimiah buys land in a war zone.

Jeremiah speaks God's word of hope.

Listen as Paul advises Timothy to trust in God and not in worldly wealth.

Paul's advice is to focus on things that last.

Listen as Jesus tells people to truly pay attention.

Jesus wants people to truly notice the need around them and to act in love and generosity.

Come let us worship today, in hope and expectation.

Opening Prayer:

Creator God, we come into this time of worship from different places and in different states of mind.

Some of us come with joy; to sit and pray in this beautiful church, as we have done so many times. We think of happier times: maybe a wedding or a baptism, Sunday school rooms full, several UCW groups.

But we also come with uncertainty. We wonder what the future will be: how long will we be able to worship here? And then what? Will we stay home on Sunday morning and lose all connection with the United Church? Will we spend Sundays watching a service on Zoom? Will we join another congregation or even another denomination? Or will we meet as a small group of St Andrews United Church?

On the other hand, we look forward to fewer responsibilities, not having to worry about bats or cockroaches or toilets that don't flush. We look forward to not having to worry how the church will pay its bills. We look forward to all this uncertainty being over.

Be with us this morning, Creator God, in this time and this place. In our words and in our worship bless us. Be with us as we journey through this transition. Loving

God, we find hope in knowing that we will find your presence wherever our faith journey takes us. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: MV 161 I Have Called Your Name

Conversation time: Loss and grief

Prayer of Confession:

We gather together as God's people- in our strength and in our weakness.

We admit that in our faith journey, there are moments when we stumble, moments when we do not trust in God, moments when we lose hope. Sometimes we think if we had more: more money, more possessions we would be secure, we would be happy.

Forgive us God. Take our focus away from that which promises everything and delivers nothing.

Let us turn instead to you, Lord, seeking the strength to be your faithful people once more. In this time of changing colors, of amazing beauty, we glimpse your creative power and sense your holy presence. We seek to recognize your hand at work in our world and in our lives. We seek your wisdom and grace. We seek to be right with you, O God. We seek an unburdened heart, and the strength to live as we know we should.

(Time of silent reflection)

Our focus may stray, but God never does.

God continues to accept us, forgive us, and offer us a chance to start again. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: VU 374 Come and Find a Quiet Center



Scriptures:

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Psalms 91: VU p.808 On Eagles Wings:

Luke 16: 19-31

Message: Finding Hope

Hymn: MV#161 I Have Called you by Your name.

Minutes for Mission

Circles of Support and Accountability

Getting Tough on Crime, one friendship at a time.

Offering

Invitation

Offering Prayer:

Gracious God, we give you this offering today. **Please take it and use it as you see fit, here and throughout the world. Extend and multiply its reach and influence, we pray. May it be a blessing to many. Amen**

Prayers of the People:

In the fall, O God, as leaves slowly fall from the trees,
as the still-warm days transition into chill nights,
we kneel in gardens and dig small holes for bulbs,
lowering them into the holes, closing the dirt over them,
patting the soil firmly.
We breathe deeply the comforting smell of the damp soil.
The complex scents speak of life abundant even as we
prepared for winter,
the coming of a deathly halt to the very fragrances we adore.
Moving on to prepare the earth for the next bulb,
we realised our planting is a daring embrace of hope,
a comforting recognition of your cycles of life, of death and of
rebirth.

We open wide our hearts to you, O Christ, as we thank you for that promise in our living.

(Silent Prayer)

Too soon after our time in the garden, winter will descend like a curtain of white. No longer could we smell the intricate aromas of the soil. Instead, barren tree branches are frosted with ice, the ground is frozen concrete solid, most birds have fled for warmer climes, many animals hibernate to wait out the lean times and our nostrils freeze shut in the frigid wind so that we smell nothing.

It is like death. We lament the dying, longing for the vibrant life that was.

**We open wide our hearts to you, O Spirit,
as we lift to you our despair, our worries, our loneliness,
our wounds
and our very selves in the silence.**

(Silent Prayer)

We breathe deeply once more, sensing a change, a transformation – our hope.

It smells like new life, like thawing soil, like melting snow, like budding trees –

like possibility laced with threads of abiding promise.

It is new life arising out of death.

It is resurrection overwhelming defeat.

It is delicate tendrils pushing insistently through the covering darkness

while pursuing life-giving light.

It is our pathway of faith witnessed in the story we share.

It is your gift of hope, O God. It is enough.

Amen.

Hymn: VU #424 May the God of Hope

Commissioning and Benediction:

And now may the God who supports us wherever our path takes us, who knows us through and through, be known to us today. Wherever we go, may we carry a sense of the presence of God deep within us and around us;

Whenever we go, let us live with God's courage, God's hope, and God's justice in all the places God calls us to be. Amen

Sung Amen

Recessional

Source: Gathering Pentecost 2, 2019

Thank you to everyone who participated in today's worship service. Please remember that St. Andrew's United is "Scent-Free".

Our thanks to **Brian Wilkinson** for sponsoring this bulletin cover!

Living Skies Regional Council Prayer Cycle 2024 September 22

St. Paul's International (*Estevan, North Portal, Portal, ND, USA*)

Saskatoon: St. Martin's

Strasbourg

Latest news from St. Andrews:

Attendance September 15 - 38

Local: \$230.00

Other donations:

M & S: \$16.00

PAR – Monthly - \$1295.00, M&S - \$145.00

Weekly expenditures: \$4697.50

Church Phone #: (306) 692-0533

Church office e-mail: st.andrews.mj@sasktel.net

www.facebook.com/StAndrewsUnitedChurchMooseJaw

Announcements:

Pot luck lunch – September 29th following the service.

The office is now on reduced hours. There is a calendar posted on the door with the hours for each week. Thank you for your patience.

Committee meetings

UCW – 1st Wednesday @ 2 pm

Outreach – 2nd Thursday @ 4pm

Worship – 3rd Friday bi-monthly @ 9:30am

Choir practice – Sundays 9:30 a.m.

Weekly Schedule			
Moose Jaw Scouting	Social Hall	Monday Friday/Sunday	Bi-weekly 5:00pm
Yoga in Moose Jaw	Chapel	Mon. Thurs.	6:00pm
Youth group w/Lisa	Chapel	Sunday Tues.	1:00pm 7:00pm
Crazy Happy Zumba	Social Hall	Tues. Thur.	5:00pm
Bible study	Lounge	Wednesday	10:00am
Quilter's Guild	Sunday school room	Every 2 nd Wednesday	7:00pm
Easy Does It (Al-Anon)	Lounge	Wednesday	7:00pm
Movement with Sue	Chapel	Wednesday	5:30pm
Hi-Steppers (A.A.)	Lounge	Fri.	7:00pm
Chinese Christians	Lounge	Sunday	1:00 p.m.
Enough is enough (N/A)	Lounge Chapel	Sun., Mon., Tues. Thurs. Friday	7:00 p.m.
Amissih group	Chapel	Sunday	3:00 p.m.