

St. Andrew's United Church  
188 Wellington Street  
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Worship Leader: Rev. David Allan  
Organist & Choir Director: Lois McKinnon

September 18, 2022

Introit: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

VU 220

### Welcome & Announcements

#### Call to Worship:

We are all here on this beautiful day because God has called us to worship. We might be "from away," we might be from just around the corner, but we are not so different. We are all made in the shining image of God.

**We gather together as the gifted people of God's own making.**

**We gather to be transformed into closer community,  
and into a deeper, sacred communion with our Creator.**

So blessed, let us worship God with boldness!

#### Opening Prayer:

Ever-creating God, you are always at work in us, changing us, reshaping us and our faith, opening our hearts and minds to many ways of knowing you. Act upon us we pray, in this time of worship and in the midst of our everyday lives, reminding us who we are and that we are yours, through Jesus, our Christ. **Amen**

#### We Open Our Hearts:

Psalm 79:1-9

 **Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.**

O Merciful Presence, the ignorant seem unrestrained in the world; they defile the Sacred Altar, your dwelling place within; they leave those weaker than themselves in ruins.

**Chaos and destruction follow them, as they oppress the poor  
through deception and greed, and kill the faith-filled who resist.**

Yes, they have poured out their blood like water throughout the world; many have disappeared without a trace.

2.

**How long will the unjust bring anguish to the loving,  
to those who seek justice and peace?**

How long, O Indwelling Presence? Will your patience last forever?  
When will You awaken our long dormant spirits?

 **Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.**

Pour out your Love on every nation, open the hearts of all people;  
**we await a new birth of Consciousness, we call upon your Name!**

For the ignorant and unloving are laying waste to the planet.

Forgive us for the misuse and abuse of your Creation;

**humble us with your steadfast Love,  
before the world becomes a barren waste.**

Help us, O Compassionate One, to renew the face of the earth;

**deliver us, and forgive our sins, that we might know the joy  
of co-creation!**

 **Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.**

#### Our Hearts are Filled:

We all have our needs of course, and we have our wants too. At times we look for those things that in the end do not serve us well or the world, and serve those things that leave our hearts wanting. The daily tugs and pulls of life, of likes and wishes and impulse can lead us away from serving our God, in humility, openness and with vision. But Jesus, who leads us as a servant, who makes us whole in his wounded humanity, shows us the way. He tells us that we are forgiven and tells us that we are loved. He tells us that your peace, your freedom and fulfillment are in the service of God's love, and that it is that very same love that gives you the strength to offer your light, your life, and so contribute to creation's flourishing.

#### Lighting the Christ Candle and Sharing the Peace of Christ

– Barbara Doucet

And so as a grateful people we light this flame as a sign of the Christ light that shines within and among us all, the light that beckons and attracts, the light through which we see the beauty and need of the world, and the light by which we respond in love. The light of the world, which no darkness can overcome.

3.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all.  
**and also with you.**

**Hymn:** For the Beauty of the Earth VU 226

**Prayer for Illumination: Cynthia Duplessie**

In our listening to the sacred story may we hear our story.

**In our reflecting upon God's Word may we see who  
we might yet be.**

In our listening and in our reflecting, in our imagination and inspiration,  
**may we be filled by the Spirit with courage and with hope,  
that Love's story be told again today and all our tomorrows.**  
**Amen**

**Scripture Readings:**

Hebrew Scripture: Amos 8:4-7

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

**Sermon:** Sacred squandering

**Hymn:** Praise with Joy the World's Creator VU 312

**Offering**

We give generously because we live in grace, we live for love, and we live as one. Together we live in God, giver of all...

**Offertory Response: #542, "We Give Thee But Thy Own"**

**We give you but your own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone,  
We give it gratefully.**

4.

**Offertory Prayer:**

**Loving Creator God, accept these gifts and transform them that they may serve you and the building of your reign of love. Transform us, that we too may serve the cause of love in our families, church and community. Amen**

**Special Music: "I Believe" – Jayme Campbell**

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** The Servant Song / We Are Pilgrims VU 595

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Choral Benediction: #424, vs, 1 "We Give Thee But Thy Own"**

**Musical Postlude**

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**Call to Worship** adapted from one written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet, First Lutheran, Rugby & Leeds, North Dakota; **Opening Prayer** adapted from one by George Allan, Chatham, ON. *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2019, pages 33 and 37. Used with permission.

**We Open our Hearts:** Poetic paraphrase of Psalm 79:1-9 by Nan C. Merrill, *Psalms for Praying* (Bloomsbury: New York), pages 157-158.

**We acknowledge the dedication of the bulletins in loving memory of Jack Tozer (deceased September 4, 2015) by Doris, Edward and Sandra Tozer.**

***The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Lorraine Gammon, John MacKnight and Joan MacKnight-Savoy and their families on the death of their brother-in-law Gerry Gildart and also to Linda MacKinnon on the death of Linda's mother, Myrna MacIntosh and her aunt, Jean Ann Smearer.***

**Memorials**

In loving memory of **Charles Richardson**, donations to Local Funds have been received from Shirley Morrison, Jeremy Tozer, Jim & Faye Wilson.

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5.

In loving memory of **Charles Richardson**, a donation to Riverside Cemetery has been received from Diane & Keith Baker.

In loving memory of **Elsie Bryenton**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Jim & Faye Wilson.

In loving memory of **Bryon MacColl**, donations to Local Funds have been received from Barbara Doucet, Henry & Karen Wilson.

In loving memory of **Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Dennis & Judy Morrison.

**Greeters: Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>** – Diane Baker & Judy Donnelly/**Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>** – Liz Taylor & Gail Arsenault

**Sound System: Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>** – Don Bowman/**Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>** – Brian Savoy

**Power Point – Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>** – Barry Campbell/**Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>** – Juanita Hamilton

**Offering Counters: Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>** – Lynn & Marjorie MacPhee/**Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>** – Judy & Dennis Morrison

**Lawn Mowing: Week of September 18<sup>th</sup>** – Dennis Morrison

**This Week:**

**Office Hours:** Monday – Closed, Tuesday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.

**Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** – 9:00 a.m. - St. Andrew's United Church Breakfast group will begin their fall gatherings at the Portage Restaurant.

-10:30 a.m. – Men's Choir Practice at the church.

All are welcome.

**Upcoming Week:**

**Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>** – -Men's Choir

- Birthday Box for WDR

6.

**Sunday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>** - 11:00 a.m. - We will enjoy a Hymn Sing to start off the morning worship service, a great chance to sing some of your favourite hymns.

**Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** – 1:30 p.m. – General UCW

**The Shepherd's Pie Supper realized a profit of \$1,195.00.** Thank you to all that support this supper. A big thank you to Barry Campbell for the donation of the meat, your generous donation made this supper a success.

**The congregation are invited to cast a vote** (on the back table by the church office) on whether you would like worship services to remain at 11:00 a.m. (year round) or change to 10:30 a.m. Simply check which time you would prefer. This was a suggestion in our Suggestion Box so council is following up on this. We will close the vote on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> following the morning worship service and will send an email with the results of the vote.

**Victorian Fall Tea with Bake & Craft Sale** will take place on October 1<sup>st</sup> at St. James & St. John's United Church Centre, 556 King George Hwy. from 11:00 a.m. till 2:00p.m. This is part of the "Order of the Eastern Star, Miramichi N0.44. Price of admission is \$12.00 a person and there will also be a "few surprises" for the day. To purchase tickets please call Beryl Patriquin at 773-5842 or Judy Donnelly at 625-7544.

**You are invited to Dedication Hymn Sing on Sunday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's United Church, Red Bank.** The choir and congregation along with guest singers Blair Baisley, Jimmy Lawlor, Kimberley Shaddick and The Villagers will be singing some old and new favourites. For those who have not had the opportunity to dedicate a hymn, a free will offering will be received.

7.

**Remember you are still invited to donate new, warm socks (or homemade) during the month of October for SOCKTOBER.** This will be donated to Miramichi Food Bank, Miramichi Transition House, Miramichi Youth House, St. Vincent de Paul, Christmas Hamper Programs on both sides of the river and the Salvation Army. The donation basket is at the back of the sanctuary near the church office for donations to be placed in.

**Church Council News**

- Met on September 7, 2022
- Welcomed Rev. Alice Szemok - Supervising Minister
- Covid protocol update: approved changes to: indoor gathering can resume; mask wearing is encouraged and hand sanitizing mandatory.
- Handicap parking spots Sherriff St. in the works.
- Yard sale - raised approximately \$3600.00. **Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway.**
- Trustees transferred \$10,000.00 in August to cover moving expenses for Rev Ji.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month will be an Intergenerational Service, next Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. Youth Ministry – Plans are to have Youth assist.
- Membership list/Historical Roll will be reviewed.
- Janitor position – interview to be held.
- Sign out front minister's name to be changed.
- Reminder – all keys need to be turned into the office.
- UCW meeting - Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 1:30 pm
- All women of the church are invited to the UCW Fall Rally being held in Bathurst in October; preregistration required.
- Report from Regional Council coming next month.
- Website: Student from Red River College in Winnipeg Manitoba, working with Jennifer Walker on this.
- Sunday School – Helen Jones will assume superintendent role.
- Supply pulpit – Thanks to those who have filled in.
- Rev Ji – Starts Oct 3rd.

**This Thank you card and letter was received from Rev. Charlene**

On the outside it says:

“YOU <sup>really</sup> WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY....”

And inside:

...AND THAT WAS SUCH A BLESSING TO ME.  
THANK YOU

Her note:

To all who planned and contributed in so many ways to the gatherings in honor of my retirement – thank you so very much! It touched my heart and will always be remembered.

Rev Charlene

Added written note inside:

To the Church Council and Congregation, St. Andrew's United Church

This card and note hardly express my gratitude for the wonderful and generous recognition of my retirement.

The efforts of those who spent much time organizing and planning not one, but two events; the generosity of the congregation; the thoughtfulness behind the many beautiful gifts...are all so very much appreciated!

My time at St. Andrew's as your minister was a true privilege and a blessing to me. Thank you for an incredible 20 years of sharing in faith, friendship and ministry together.

I wish you well as you embark on a new ministry journey with Rev. Ji

Thank you all so much!

Rev. Charlene