

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay – Liturgy

<http://standrewspres-tbay.ca> - Minister: Rev. Joyce Yanishewski

4th Sunday in Lent – Transformational Ministry Weekend- March 27th, 2022

Words of Welcome

St. Andrew's here in Thunder Bay is in a process called New Beginnings. It is a program of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This week as part of that process our coach, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Crawford is present with us and will be sharing the message. Stay, enjoy, and hear a new voice as we all work on this process of transforming into the people and congregation that God is calling us to be.

We begin with a call to worship.

Call to Worship

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation!

Thanks be to God for such great mercy.

Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Thanks be to God for new beginnings!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation through Christ Jesus.

Together we will make a new beginning in Christ!

Let us worship God with joyful hearts, trusting God to renew us and all things.

We will lift our praises to God with hearts refreshed by grace.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Worship Planner. The Fourth Sunday in Lent. March 27th, 2022. Year C.

Hymn

When we are living

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1. When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.
2. Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God; we belong to God.
3. 'Mid time of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God; we belong to God.
4. Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

"When we are living," Words: Romans 14:8; paraphrase, v.1., anonymous; translation, EliseS. Eslinger, v.2-4, Roberto Escamilla; translation, George Lockwood. Music Hispanic folk song. © The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723877

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of Mystery and Mercy, Hope and Transforming Love,
we gather to worship you in community because we believe you have the power to
change the world; to change the world for the better with your love.

We gather to worship you trusting that no one or situation is beyond your concern,
or your embrace. Such love astonishes us.

Without your grace we cannot imagine such love.

Inspire us with a vision of transforming love which will change the world and our lives
through the love and mercy we meet in Jesus Christ, your Son and our Saviour.

God of love and mercy,

**when we pause for a moment in your presence, the daily details of our lives
press in on us. We recall things left undone, opportunities ignored.**

We remember careless words spoken, disappointments that trouble our souls.

In silence we offer to you our misspent moments and missed opportunities:

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Our Lord and our God, now as we hear your Word, fill us with your Spirit.

Soften our hearts that we may delight in your presence.

Sharpen our minds that we may discern your truth.

Shape our wills that we may desire your ways.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Assurance of Forgiveness

The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages us.

The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us.

Be assured that God is with us even now, accepting, guiding, and forgiving.

Thanks be to God we are forgiven.

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Scripture Reading Romans 12:1-21

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your
bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your
spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the
renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good
and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself
more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according
to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many
members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many,
are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have

gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' ²⁰No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Message – Transform – guest preacher Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Crawford (text unavailable)

Prayers of the People

Gracious God,
you have called us together as your people, to be the church of Jesus Christ.
Make us one in faith and discipleship, breaking bread together, and telling the good news, so that the world may believe you are love, turn to your ways, and live in the light of your truth.

Creator God,
you made all things and called them good. We pray for the earth in its vulnerability, depleted by our lifestyle choices and our economic expectations. Inspire reverence for the earth in all people. Guide us all to make wiser choices for the sake of your creation. Help us use resources wisely, with future generations in mind, guarding the fragile balances you have set between many precious species.

Jesus Christ, Prince of peace,
you taught us of God's reconciling grace and transforming love. Speak to the hearts of all your people in this time when so many neighbours and nations sit in judgment on each other, provoking conflict and resentment. Teach us how to seek peace on earth together. Call those in positions of power and influence to work for the common good. Turn us away from anger, fear, violence or vanity, which can turn neighbour against neighbour and nation against nation.
May all who claim your name be known as makers of the peace.

O Christ, healer of hearts and hopes,
you desire health and wholeness for each one of us:
We pray that those who have lost their livelihoods in this pandemic may find true abundance. Grant rest and renewal to those who are broken in body, mind or spirit, and bring comfort and hope to all who face loss and loneliness.

Spirit of power and promise, embrace us with hope this day so that we may live faithfully, encouraging each other by the commitment we see in Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together:

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Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the offering

Our offerings are a sign of our faith in God to help us resist any temptation to settle for a church that is merely viable and enabling us to commit to building a community of faith that ministers with a vital presence and power.

As we are people from different churches and places following this service. I encourage each of you to present your offering to God this day to your church community.

If you consider St. Andrew's your church, regardless of where you live, would like to learn more about St. Andrew's, get involved in our ministry and work, or make a donation toward the life and ministry of St. Andrew's Presbyterian, in Thunder Bay visit our website at <http://standrewspres-tbay.ca> for more information.

Hymn

We are God's people

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1. We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
born of the Spirit, established by the word;
our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in him we stand;
oh let us live transparently,
and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
2. We are God's loved ones, the bride of Christ our Lord,
for we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:
oh let us share each joy and care
and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.
3. We are the body of which the Lord is head,
called to obey him, now risen from the dead:

he wills us be a family, diverse yet truly one:
oh let us freely give our gifts,
and so shall God's work on earth be done.

4. We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
alone, we die, for on its own each ember loses fire:
yet joined in one the flame burns on
to give warmth and light, and to inspire.

"We are God's people," words by Bryan Jeffery Leech Music Johannes Brahms. Words and Music arrangement
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Benediction

May God grant spiritual muscle to our commitment,
movement to our faith, and gentleness to our deeds.
Live a transformed life in the power of the Holy Spirit
as you leave this time of worship to love and serve the Lord.

Adapted from © Glen E. Rainsley. *Hear Our Prayer: Resource for Worship and Devotions*. United Church Press. Cleveland