

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay**  
<http://standrewspres-tbay.ca> - Minister: Rev. Joyce Yanishewski  
Presbyterian World Service & Development Sunday  
February 5, 2023

## Words of Welcome

Today is Presbyterian World Service and Development Sunday, so elements of the service will have that focus. Please join in the call to worship.

## Call to Worship

We come to worship God.

**God is just. God is compassionate. God is love.**

Where will we find God?

**God is among the hungry and thirsty.**

**God wears the face of a stranger and reaches out to us in the despairing hand.**

How can we serve God?

**Give food to the hungry and water to the thirsty;  
welcome the stranger and comfort the despairing.**

Let us seek God so that we can serve God.

**Let us worship God who is just, compassionate and love itself.**

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## Hymn

### *All who hunger*

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| 1. All who hunger, gather gladly;<br>holy manna is our bread.<br>Come from wilderness and wandering.<br>Here, in truth, we will be fed.<br>You that yearn for days of fullness,<br>all around us in our food.<br>Taste and see the grace eternal.<br>Taste and see that God is good.        | 2. All who hunger, never strangers,<br>seeker, be a welcome guest.<br>Come from restlessness and roaming.<br>Here, in joy, we keep the feast.<br>We that once were lost and scattered<br>in communion's love have stood.<br>Taste and see the grace eternal.<br>Taste and see that God is good. |
| 3. All who hunger, sing together;<br>Jesus Christ is living bread.<br>Come from loneliness and longing.<br>Here, in peace, we have been led.<br>Blest are those who from this table<br>live their days in gratitude.<br>Taste and see the grace eternal.<br>Taste and see that God is good. |   |

"All who hunger, gather gladly," words by Sylvia G. Dunstan ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc.  
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## Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Holy One, Light of the world,  
In the sparkle of the snowflake, we see your beauty.  
In frosted treetops, we delight in your splendour.  
Even in the cold of winter, your creation amazes us.  
We praise you for blessing the world with such beauty  
and giving us a place within it.  
Just as months of winter renew creation for springtime growth,  
renew us with your Spirit in this time of worship  
to grow in faithfulness and service.  
Grant that our lives can shine the light of Christ into these challenging times.

**Holy One,  
we confess we have taken your creation for granted.  
We squander its resources as if they were only for us.  
We consume whatever we want, selfishly and carelessly.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Shine your light on us so we see the ways of your wisdom more clearly  
and follow the path Jesus sets before us with more humble hearts.**

Holy God, your mysteries surround and astound us each day. Send your Holy Spirit to open the mysteries of Scripture for us so that our understanding is refreshed and courage to follow Christ renewed. Amen.

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## Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ is the first born of creation,  
shining a redeeming light into the darkness of human sin.  
In him we are forgiven, restored and made new.  
Thanks be to God, we can make a fresh start today.

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## Scripture Reading Matthew 5:13-20

<sup>13</sup> 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. <sup>14</sup> 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup> 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments,

and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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## **Message** Light Shall Rise

In Pakistan, Gauri learned how to cut and sew at an early age. As an adult, this knowledge allowed Gauri to contribute to her family's income by working as a seamstress. After her husband was killed in an accident, Gauri's income was not enough to provide for her family on her own. She was selected for a Presbyterian World Service & Development project that provides emergency food assistance to families in need, as well as longer-term support through small business training and development. The food aid the family received made it possible for Gauri to save a portion of her monthly income that would have otherwise been spent on food. With the money she saved, Gauri was able to further her child's education and stock her tailoring shop with more materials.

This is one example of many of how the Presbyterian Church in Canada is impacting and transforming lives through the work of Presbyterian World Service and Development. Known by the acronym, PWS&D. Today is a day to highlight that work and how we can be a part of God's work in the world locally and globally.

But let me start with the scripture reading as scripture is the basis for our understanding for how we, as Christians, are called to be in the world. A quote from Archbishop William Temple is "The church is the only organization on earth that exists for those who are not its members."<sup>1</sup>

Hear that again, "The church is the only organization on earth that exists for those who are not its members." The church exists to bring glory and honour to God who desire abundant life for all people. Not just those who are lucky and privileged enough to be born into a country or family with opportunity and enough money to make the choices they want or to be able to supply their daily needs. The world is filled with people in countries, families, and even local communities where money and prosperity are not certain or even attainable.

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth" followed up with "You are the light of the world". We need to note that the you in these statements is heard in the plural sense, more like "you all" are the salt of the earth you all are the light of the world. We have this within ourselves but for Christians it is not only an individual

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<sup>1</sup> Cook, Charles James. *Feasting on the Word: Year A Volume 1 Advent through Transfiguration*. Editors David L. Bartlett, and Barbara Brown Taylor. Westminster John Knox Press. Louisville. 2010. P336.

way of being in the world, but the qualities of salt and light that we are together is what can transform communities.

Professor Melanie Howard writes on the Working Preacher site, “that which comprises the human essence already (for example, “light”) is simply instructed to be made even more manifest than what it already is. It is not for humans to accomplish any particular work. Humans are simply to allow their core essence to be made more evident.”<sup>2</sup>

That blows my mind when I really start to think about it this way. The salt and light are already embedded in us as human beings. When so much of our theological upbringing has told many is that they are sinful at birth, this statement is extraordinary. We are at our core salt of the earth and light of the world. Can you imagine what would happen if all people understood themselves in that light? The value they would innately understand they carry as human beings?

As followers of Christ, we get to live into that! We get to live as salt of the earth. I love to cook and to bake and for those who also do that, and even if all you do is add a little salt to what is on your plate, you know the difference that even a little salt can make in making things taste good. All the ingredients are needed but that pinch of salt adds and enhances what is there. We are salt. We are salt in our families and in our communities.

When the church is moving and being as it is called to be, we are the salt in the world. We often think of ourselves as so small and insignificant, especially in this point in history, that we have little to offer to impact the world. But we are light...that pinch of salt. What we bring can flavour an entire conversation, outreach, or life in a way that changes the course of things, brings about abundance of life. This is life where all are valued and loved. Where compassion is the norm and justice for those who cannot speak for themselves, who have little to no power, can be given a voice.

We get to live as light in the world. Imagine yourself walking around radiating light. Have you met people who light up a room? Met anyone with a spark in them that draws you into their light? We want to be around people like that, we want to be that person. And Jesus says you already are. We need to live into that.

Now if the light of one person can make such a difference, what about the light of an entire congregation! The light that is the church is like a city on a hill or a lamp on a lampstand that gives light to all in the house. Light has a way of bringing hope and beauty. Imagine the night sky. Without the night you cannot see the stars that beam brightly. We are shining stars that light up the darkness.

The Christian church in Canada is struggling to find meaning and purpose. Our congregations are looking for how to share who we are and who God is with others.

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<sup>2</sup> Melanie A. Howard. [Commentary on Matthew 5:13-20 - Working Preacher from Luther Seminary](#)  
Accessed February 2, 2023.

What if we started with being the salt and light that is already at the core of who we are. What if we let the light of our love rise to the top of all that we do, how we worship, how we give generously, how we interact with others, and what we do in community?

In the writing from the Book of Isaiah we hear what people think they should be doing and are doing, and little of it has to do with how they help others. So, the words are written of God, "Is not this the fast that I choose; to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?"

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn and your healing shall spring up quickly...If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness.

We are called to do this as people of God, from our home and from our churches. We are salt and light. May we live into that identity so that we enrich and enhance the flavour of our communities, the lives of so many who are downtrodden and hurting. May our light shine in the dark places of our homes and communities so that those who are lost or feel forgotten can find their light too.

As I close, and so that you can also see how the work of being salt and light is done through the work of PWS&D, watch and listen as that work is highlighted in what is called Practical Compassion.

*Practical Compassion Video Link* [Practical Compassion - YouTube](#)

## **Prayers of the People**

God of justice and righteousness,

Thank you for the gift of your son Jesus Christ who came to live out your love in this world. Thank you for his words and deeds which continue to challenge and guide us today.

He called us to be light for the world and salt for the earth.

We thank you for the ministries undertaken through Presbyterian World Service and Development and its many partners,

for the light they bring to lives under so many different pressures, and the necessities they provide to sustain communities and make hope tangible.

And so we pray for your world with all its wonders and its worries, which rest on our hearts and yours:

We pray for those who need your justice, Lord:

For those who sleep on the cold streets,  
those who do not have enough to eat,  
and those who worry about how to make ends meet for their families.

We pray for all those facing violence,  
In their homes or communities,  
for nations engulfed in conflict  
and for places struggling to recover after flooding, drought, storm or unrest.

We pray for refugees and political prisoners;  
for children who must work instead of going to school  
and for parents who long to give their children a better life.

Sustain each of these people with your hope  
that their needs can be fulfilled and rights restored.  
Empower us to use our resources to do what we can for them,  
and give strength and courage to advocates and aid workers  
who bring hope to birth in many places.

We pray for all who need your healing touch, Lord:  
For people who are confused or afraid,  
for those in hospitals and nursing homes and those who care for them,  
for all who are dealing with long-term disability or mental illness,  
long Covid and the many illnesses circulating this winter.  
and for those who have encountered loss through the death of a beloved,  
change in circumstance or disappointed hopes.

Surround each one with your peace and comfort  
so that hope for healing will be renewed each day.

Compassionate God,  
Make us salt and light for the world,  
not by presuming we know best how to fix others  
but as compassionate and caring neighbours, unafraid to reach out.  
Encourage us with your grace and inspire us by your Holy Spirit,  
for you are always with us.

We gather all our prayers into one voice, praying as Jesus taught us:

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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

The prophet Isaiah issued a call to feed the hungry, cloth the naked and house the homeless. We give in response to this call, praying that every gift accomplishes more than we can ask or imagine through the power of God at work in us and through us.

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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> and should you wish to the work of PWS&D you can do so through St. Andrew's – just note that the donation is for PWS&D or go to [Donate - Presbyterian World Service & Development](#)

## Hymn

### *Called as partners in Christ service*

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| 1. Called as partners in Christ's service,<br>called to ministries of grace,<br>we respond with deep commitment,<br>fresh new lines of faith to trace.<br>May we learn the art of sharing,<br>side by side and friend with friend,<br>equal partners in our caring<br>to fulfil God's chosen end.                   | 2. Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,<br>Christ's clear call to work and worth,<br>let us follow, never faltering,<br>reconciling folk on earth.<br>Men and women, richer, poorer,<br>All God's people, young and old,<br>Blending human skills together,<br>Gracious gifts from God unfold. |
| 3. Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,<br>in a small or global sense,<br>help us bear each other's burdens,<br>breaking down each wall or fence.<br>Words of comfort, words of vision,<br>words of challenge, said with care,<br>bring new power and strength for action,<br>make us colleagues, free and fair. | 4. So God grant us for tomorrow<br>ways to order human life<br>that surround each person's sorrow<br>with a calm that conquers strife.<br>make us partners in our living,<br>our compassion to increase,<br>messengers of faith, thus giving<br>hope and confidence and peace.                  |

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## Benediction

Go in faith to be salt for the earth and light for the world in Jesus' name.  
May God's love restore you;  
May Christ's teaching inspire you;  
May the Holy Spirit equip you to serve in a world that is ready to receive you,  
blessed by God, holy One and holy Three.

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