

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay  
July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

\*indicates please stand if you are able  
**Bolded** passages are to be spoken in unison by the congregation  
Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Jeff Andrews

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**We Prepare for Worship**

**Prelude**

**Lighting of Christ Candle**

**Words of Welcome**

**We Worship God**

**Call to Worship**

We gather in the presence of God;

**We have come to worship and praise God's name.**

We gather in joy and expectancy;

**We have come to encounter God in beauty and wonder.**

Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening;

**Speak your Word of life to us, O God.**

**\*Hymn**

*Saviour, teach me day by day*

**698**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Saviour, teach me day by day<br>love's sweet lesson to obey;<br>sweeter lesson cannot be,<br>loving God who first loved me.              | 2. With a child's glad heart of love<br>at thy bidding may I move,<br>prompt to serve and follow thee,<br>loving God who first loved me. |
| 3. Teach me thus thy steps to trace,<br>strong to follow in thy grace,<br>learning how to love from thee,<br>loving God who first loved me. | 4. Love in loving finds employ,<br>in obedience all its joy;<br>ever new that joy will be,<br>loving God who first loved me.             |

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**Opening Prayer**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**We Listen for God's Word**

**\*Hymn**

*Lord of life and lord of nations*

**734**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Lord of life and Lord of nations,<br>giving peace, you make us one:<br>heart of flesh for heart of stone,<br>break the walls of all divisions.<br>Your kingdom come, with this its sign:<br>our song this prayer: let peace now reign. | 2. Lengths of love beyond all measure,<br>heights of love which now do call,<br>breadth of love as room for all,<br>depths of love where hides the treasure:<br>through Christ, our Way, we find true peace,<br>a world made whole in God's embrace. |
|---|--|

3. Visions new and ancient dreaming  
see the Love beyond all death;  
new the heavens, new the earth:  
promise of the kingdom coming.  
Through Christ the wounds of all this world  
in God's own peace will then be healed.

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## Children's Time

### Sharing a Sign of Peace

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

### Community Life Announcements

### Scripture Readings

❖ Isaiah 44:6-8

<sup>6</sup> Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup> Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;  
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?<sup>[a]</sup>

Let them tell us<sup>[b]</sup> what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup> Do not fear or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

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❖ Psalm 86:11-17

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD,  
that I may walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

<sup>12</sup> **I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,  
and I will glorify your name forever.**

<sup>13</sup> **For great is your steadfast love toward me;  
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**

<sup>14</sup> O God, the insolent rise up against me;  
a band of ruffians seeks my life,  
and they do not set you before them.

<sup>15</sup> **But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.**

<sup>16</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me;  
give your strength to your servant;  
save the child of your maid servant.

**17 Show me a sign of your favor,  
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,  
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

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❖ Romans 8:12-25

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— <sup>13</sup> for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! [a] Father!” <sup>16</sup> it is that very Spirit bearing witness [b] with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup> I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in [c] hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

❖ Matthew 13:24-30, 13:36-43

<sup>24</sup> He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. <sup>26</sup> So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup> And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup> He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup> But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

<sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup> He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup> the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

<sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin<sup>[a]</sup> and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup> and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears<sup>[b]</sup> listen!

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

## Message

### We Respond to God's Word

#### \*Hymn

*When I lift up my voice*

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1. When I lift up my voice, and I cry for your help,  
and I pour out my troubles before you:  
I say, "You are my refuge, I will praise your name;  
you are good to me, O Lord!"
2. When I see no-one cares, and I walk all alone,  
and my spirit grows weary within me:  
I say, "You are my refuge, I will praise your name;  
you are good to me, O Lord!"
3. When you come to my side and you answer my prayers,  
and you set my soul free from its prison:  
I say, "You are my refuge, I will praise your name;  
you are good to me, O Lord!"

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## Invitation to the offering

### Doxology

*All creatures of our God and King (v6)*

433

Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:  
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Words: based on Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Sun"

## Prayer of Dedication

## Prayers of the People

## 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**

## We are Sent out as God's People

### \*Hymn

### *The Love of God comes close*

474

1. The love of God comes close  
where stands an open door,  
to let the stranger in,  
to mingle rich and poor.  
The love of God is here to stay,  
embracing those who walk the Way;  
the love of God is here to stay.
2. The peace of God comes close  
to those caught in the storm,  
forgoing lives of ease  
to ease the lives forlorn.  
The peace of God is here to stay,  
embracing those who walk the Way;  
the peace of God is here to stay.
3. The joy of God comes close  
where faith encounters fears,  
where heights and depths of life  
are found through smiles and tears.  
The joy of God is here to stay,  
embracing those who walk the Way;  
the joy of God is here to stay.
4. The grace of God comes close  
to those whose grace is spent,  
when hearts are tired or sore  
and hope is bruised and bent.  
The grace of God is here to stay,  
embracing those who walk the Way;  
the grace of God is here to stay.
5. The Son of God comes close  
where people praise his name,  
where bread and wine are blest  
and shared as when he came.  
The Son of God is here to stay  
embracing those who walk the Way;  
the Son of God is here to stay.

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### Benediction

### Postlude

