

Welcome to *First-St Andrew's* **UNITED CHURCH**

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



Pride Sunday

July 29, 2018

10:30 am



350 Queens Avenue, London, ON N6B 1X6

TEL (519) 679-8182

www.fsaunited.com

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.





Welcome



Together we all make up the family of First-St. Andrew's.
If you are new to the family, please know that you are always
welcome here. It would be our blessing to meet you after worship
for Coffee and Conversation, and to share with you some of the many exciting
things that are happening here at FSA. Rev. Michelle Down wants to hear from you!
Please contact her at revmichelledown@fsaunited.com or on her cell at 519-709-9554 anytime.

Bold type indicates congregational response. * indicates to stand, if able.

This service is adapted from the United Church of Canada PRIDE Service

Music to Enter into God's Presence

Welcome & Announcements

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory

Forming the Rainbow:

One: Let us celebrate who each of us is.

**ALL: Regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity,
all are made in the image and likeness of the Divine.**

One: All of us may not be part of the rainbow community,

**ALL: but we are not apart from it either.
Let us celebrate holy love.**

Opening Prayer:

**Holy One, who breathes life into each one of us, and all of Creation,
we give thanks for the wonderful diversity of your Creation.
Help us to hold one another closely, in love, compassion, and celebration,
that we may give thanks that we are all your children.
In the name of Jesus, we make this prayer. Amen.**

***Hymn:** MV #145 Draw the Circle Wide

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

*Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side.
Draw the circle wide.*

God the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;
Nothing lost but held forever, in God's gracious arms. *Refrain*

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. *Refrain*

Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door. *Refrain*

Forming Young Faith: A Litany of Freedom

All: We, as gay, lesbian, bisexual, asexual, transgender, pangender, queer, intersex, Two Spirit, and all who walk with us as people of faith, claim the promise of the rainbow, the promise of Creation's sustaining love.

Reader 1: From the Jewish scriptures, we read: This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. (Genesis 9:12–15, NIV)

All: We proclaim our pride. (*Lighting of the red candle*)

Reader 2: It is much easier for society and homophobic religion to tolerate the sad than to celebrate the proud. May we march with pride and creativity in our whole lives.

All: We proclaim our bold intentions. (*Lighting of the orange candle*)

Reader 3: With Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we remember that the oppressed set both the time table and the agenda for liberation. If the oppressed say now is the time, then now is the time for liberation. May wisdom sustain us.

All: We remember that we are not isolated or alone in either our oppression or our struggle. (*Lighting of the yellow candle*)

Reader 4: May our pride and our quest for freedom light a flame within us that is a passion for justice for all. May we realize our own participation in fear and denial, in injustice and lovelessness, and do what we can each day to live in equity and love.

All: We proclaim ourselves as people of faith, living for right relation in our world. (*Lighting of the green candle*)

Reader 5: May we become the bread of life, the wine of forgiveness and reconciliation, as we break and pour ourselves out in the struggle against oppression and hopelessness.

All: We proclaim our vision of diversity and hope and our responsibility to share this vision. (*Lighting of the blue candle*)

Reader 6: May we join with one another and the Spirit to follow in the way of the prophet Isaiah by bringing good news to the oppressed, binding up the broken-hearted, comfort to all who mourn, offering the oil of gladness and lasting joy. (*Lighting of the purple candle*)



***Hymn:** VU #691 Though Ancient Walls

KARR

Though ancient walls may still stand proud
and racial strife be fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate,
proclaim God's saving act!

*Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!*

When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side,
it's Gospel that we lack. *R*

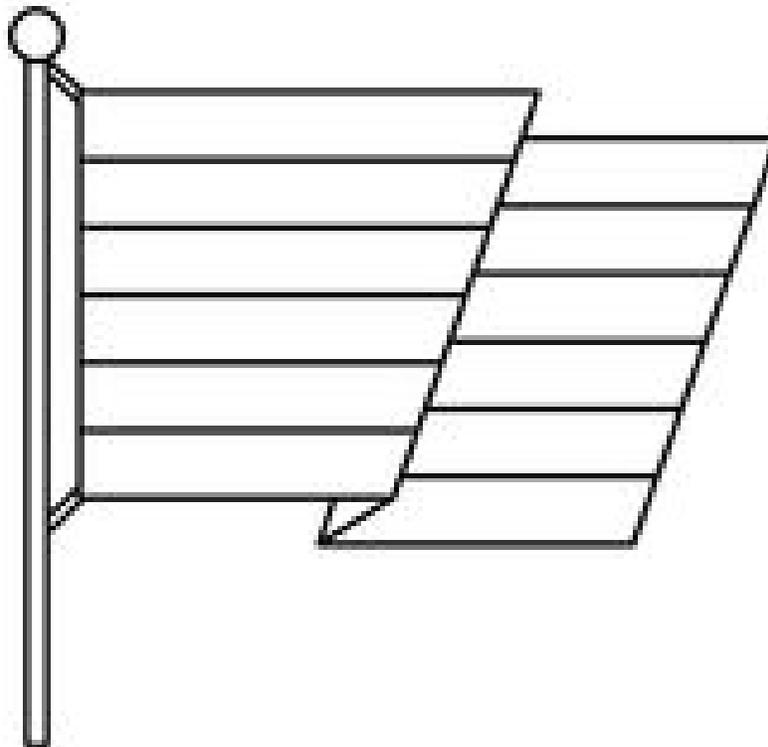
The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
for self and world made new. *R*

This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.
God's people by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery! *R*

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:2-13

Quinn Tufts

Sermon: The Pride of Paul



Offering

Offertory Music:

Offertory Response: VU #537 Your Work, O God Needs Many Hands KILMARNOCK

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

Prayer of Dedication:

ALL: Holy One, in the diversity of these gifts is reflected the wondrous diversity of Creation. As all of us are made in your image and likeness, we offer these gifts that all may be affirmed in their place in your Creation. In the name of Jesus, who affirmed the marginalized, we make this prayer. Amen.



A Pride Litany

Colour 1: The colour RED represents SEXUALITY.

One: Living and liberating God,
You have created all people in your own image.
You have coaxed us into our uniqueness
and you delight in who we are.

**ALL: Give us hearts that are open to you and to each other,
that we may live for you,
honourably overcome our aloneness,
and enjoy your gifts of sexuality and creativity.**

Colour 2: The colour ORANGE represents GIFTS of HEALING.

One: Healing and generous Lord,
You have blessed us with salvation, wholeness, and health.
You have given us Jesus, who healed the sick
and included the outcasts.
You have given us your Spirit,
who calls us to the same ministry,
firing our hearts with compassion and graciousness.

**ALL: Give us the hospitality to offer true healing:
let all we have hurt receive the gift
of healing tears and laughter;
let all we have hurt receive everlasting knowledge
of your saving love.**

Colour 3: The colour YELLOW represents the SUN, LIGHT, and JOY.

One: God of resurrection and fullness of joy,
You have called us to be your people,
making us a community of priests.
You dance over us with singing; you have called us, not servants, but your
friends.
You have promised us that all will be well,
and we trust that all be well.

**ALL: We open ourselves, today, to fresh words from the Word:
for new notes to sing,
for new thoughts to think,
and for new and ancient ways to live,
because of your promise to make all things new.**

Colour 4: The colour GREEN represents ACTIVISM and RESPONSIBILITY.

One: Radical One, Just Judge,
You have blessed us with various skills and abilities.
You have told us what is good:
to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

**ALL: You send us out into the world
as citizens of your commonwealth,
that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.
We ask for fresh vision and a new agenda,
so that we may have power to work for what is right,
and to be ministers of reconciliation.**

Colour 5: The colour BLUE represents the ARTS and ARTISTIC EXPRESSION:

One: Rainbow God of the covenant,
You create all things good and call them to yourself,
You make us fearfully and wonderfully.
You allow us to live with respect in Creation and to serve it well,
which brings you glory and delight.

**ALL: Send your creative Spirit on your people in this place,
that we may embrace the arts in the church,
and the beauty of all humanity,
your myriad masterpieces in Christ.**

Colour 6: The colour PURPLE represents COMMUNITY.

One: Holy One: You are the One Community before all time,
the dance that spills over in the gift of Creation.
You sweep us up into your life by the incarnation,
Cross, and resurrection of Jesus,
so that we may be one as you are one.
You give all of those united in Christ Jesus the one Spirit to drink, making
one body of us all.

**ALL: Give us the one mind and one heart and one spirit
that you promise us in Christ,**

**the grace to hold each other across our disagreements,
and the willingness to sing the saving love of Jesus to a beautiful
and hurting world.
We commit to being the RAINBOW People of God.
In Jesus' name. Amen.**



***Hymn:** MV #161 I Have Called You by Your Name

KELLY

I have called you by your name,
you are mine;
I have gifted you
and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called and chosen;
you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people,
help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,
then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people
they are mine.

Benediction: An Affirmation of Sexuality

One: Jesus, like us, was a child of the Divine,

ALL: fully human, fully incarnate,

One: He was fashioned by your hand in flesh,

ALL: and we believe that our sexuality is part of your plan for us.

One: We are all sexual beings,

ALL: proving that our sexuality comes from a deep and fuller understanding of who we are as your children.

One: Let us celebrate who all of us are,

ALL: for we are all children of the Divine!

Benediction Response: VU #820 Psalm 100 Make a Joyful Noise (sung twice)

PSALM 100

Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

**Please stay for a barbeque lunch
& party on the lawn!**

**Proceeds will be donated to the
Regional HIV/AIDS Network**



The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Marilyn & David Beach, David Wake

Narthex Co-ordinator: Charlotte Oldham

Lemonade on the Lawn: Membership and Nurture Committee

Service Support: Ron Bradley

We thank God for all those who share their gifts and talents.

First-St. Andrew's United Church Staff

Rev. Michelle Down Minister of Worship and Congregational Life

Rev. Dr David McKane Visitation Minister, Minister Emeritus

Terry Head Director of Music

Jane Dockrill Youth & Young Families

Tim Miedema Facilities Manager

Heather Vouvalidis Church Administrator

Kathryn Skelly Administrative Assistant

Kendra Shouldice Nursery Care

George Jolink Part-time Custodian

Barry Tiffin Atrium Steward

Paul Merritt Organist Emeritus

Dr. Jo Ann Silcox Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer