

# Welcome to First-St Andrew's UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



**March 31, 2019**  
**Lent 4**  
**10:30 am**



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Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.



## **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

**Kathryn Skelly** Administrative Assistant

**Dr. Jo Ann Silcox** Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer

**Riley Langley** Nursery Care

**George Jolink** Chair of Council

**Heather Vouvaldis** Church Administrator

**Paul Merritt** Organist Emeritus



# 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](mailto:revmichelledown@fsaunited.com) or on her cell at 519-709-9554 anytime.

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

## **Acknowledging the Traditional Territory**

*"We acknowledge that we are situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron Nations. We convey that we value and have deep appreciation for the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America)."*

## **Music to Enter into God's Presence:**

Chorale Prelude on "Ah, Holy Jesus"  
Meditation on "What Wondrous Love is This"  
Wondrous Love – Five Variations

Douglas Wagner  
Douglas Wagner  
Daniel Pinkham

\***Hymn:** VU #112 O God How I Have Wondered LANCASHIRE  
*(Children leave for Sunday School - Forming Young Faith is happening downstairs for Lent as the children work on their theological presentation for Palm Sunday entitled 'Untie the Donkey', and their Mother's Day Spring Musical called 'Imagine God!')*



## **Diminishing the Light - Embracing the Darkness**

**Music:** Walk Softly - choir

Bob Chilcott

## **Call to Worship:**

Michael Feeney

One: As people of 'The Journey' we gather,  
**ALL: supporting and sustaining one another.**  
One: As people of 'The Journey' we travel,  
**ALL: unsure as to what lies around the next bend.**  
One: As people of 'The Journey' we go in faith,  
**ALL: confident that God is with us.**  
One: On this journey we are called to follow the light of Jesus Christ, and embrace the darkness that surrounds us on the Lenten journey.  
**ALL: We are committed to following the Holy Spirit, and along the way to seek Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly on 'The Journey'.**

Let us Pray: Gentle Spirit, we enter this space with many different expectations. Some of us expect to hear your holy words of comfort; some of us expect to find your strength in community, some of us expect very little, hoping only to feel better when we leave than we did when we came in.

Whatever our individual expectations may be, may you fill each one of us with your life-changing Spirit, that we may not just know *of* your Spirit, but *feel* your Spirit upon us.

This we pray in honesty and hope, with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples upon our lips, as we pray together saying: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

**\*Hymn:** VU #147 What Wondrous Love is This

WONDROUS LOVE

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

Harrison Silcox

**Anthem:** Dear God Who Loves All Humankind

C.H.H. Parry

**Sharing Our Community Story:** New Housing Opportunities from *Indwell* Julie Ryan



**Message:** The Ministry of Reconciliation as Christ's Ambassadors

**\*Hymn:** VU #117 Jesus Christ is Waiting

NÖEL NOUVELET

**Prayers of Gratitude, Confession and Intercession:**

One: Is the soul solid, like iron?  
Or is it tender and breakable, like the wings of a moth in the beak of the owl?

**ALL: Who has it, and who doesn't?  
I keep looking around me.**

**The face of the moose is as sad as the face of Jesus.**

One: Holy God, hear the Confessions of our sad hearts we pray. (*silence*)

One: The swan opens her white wings slowly.

In the fall, the black bear carries leaves into the darkness.

... and forgiveness is known.

**ALL: One question leads to another.**

**Does it have a shape? Like an iceberg? Like the eye of a hummingbird?  
Does it have one lung, like the snake and the scallop?**

One: ... So many questions we have O God, and yet we never question our souls desire to give gratitude. Receive the gratuudes from our joyful hearts we pray. (*silence*)

One: Why should I have it, and not the anteater who loves her children?  
Why should I have it, and not the camel?

**ALL: Come to think of it, what about the maple trees? What about the blue iris?**

**What about all the little stones, sitting alone in the moonlight?**

One: What about roses, and lemons, and their shining leaves? What about the grass, and the air that helps us breathe? O God, for all the earth, and all your creations, we pray for those who would benefit from your intercession. (*silence*)

One: In Confession, Gratitude and Intercession, we praise your name O God.

**ALL: AMEN.**

## Announcements

### Offering

**Offertory Music:** Serenity  
Laudamus Bells

Jason W. Krug

**Offertory Response:** VU#107 Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes

SUNDAY'S PALMS

2. We have failed to love our neighbours, their offences to forgive, have not listened to their troubles, no have cared just how they live; we are jealous, proud, impatient, loving over-much our things; may the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offering.

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### Stewardship Seconds:

All that God has given is ours to share with those who seek God's help through us.

\***Hymn:** VU #619 Healer of Our Every Ill

HEALER (HAUGEN)

### \*Blessing and Benediction

\***Benediction Response:** MV#216 Wherever You May Go - refrain

RENAUD

Wherever you may go, I will follow, and your people shall be my people too.  
Wherever you may go, I will follow, for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

First Line: Wherever you may go, I will follow, Whither You Will Go  
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### Music to Commission Us Into Service and Witness:

Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace  
Laudamus Bells

Kevin McChesney



**Apr. 7th** – Yikes ... today's theme ... Sin. Not something we often talk about in the UCC. Don't be afraid, bring a friend for support, and we will get through it together.

**Apr 14** – Now this is not to be missed! It is **Palm Sunday** ... and there is going to be a Donkey or two at church!

### The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Carol Riddell-Elson, Steve Elson and Liz Foster  
Narthex Co-ordinator: Barb Williamson and Liz Mignotte  
Coffee & Conversation: Catherine Charlton, Marilyn Beach, Deanne & David Pederson  
Service Support: George Jolink  
Gift Card Sales: Winnie Wake & Kerry Hill  
We thank God for all those who share their gifts and talents.