



November 19, 2017
10:30 am
Blessing of the Red Scarves



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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.

Music to Enter into God's Presence:

Variations on OLD HUNDREDTH
Maestoso/Con moto/Scherzando/Misterioso

Denis Bedard

Welcome and Announcements

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory

Lighting the Christ Candle & Memorial Candles

Music: The Lord is My Strength

Pamela Deacon

Call to Worship:

One: We come to be touched by Christ, in the embrace of a beautiful hymn.

ALL: We come to be held in community, and to clasp hands in Christian friendship.

One: We come to be blessed in the scriptures, prayers, wisdom and song.

ALL: We come to honour our past, and to follow God into the future through our Faith, Service and the Arts.

One: As we gather in this place, might we rejoice in: God's Grace, Forgiveness, and Love.

Opening Prayer

***Hymn:** VU #312 Praise with Joy the World's Creator

LAUDA ANIMA

Forming Young Faith

Anthem: We Live in that Far Future

Richard Proulx

Scripture: Ephesians 4:15-16
Matthew 7:7-10

Pam Turner-Langley

Message: God Please Knit Together in Unity, Our Bread not Stones

***Hymn:** VU #603 In Loving Partnership We Come

PARTNERSHIP

Blessing of the Red Scarves - Welcome to Martin McIntosh

Prayer of Cisgender Confession and Commitment

Tammerie Day

One: We rise each day into a world that fits our natures, our understandings, our assumptions. The clay of our bodies and faces conform to our spirits: male, female.

ALL: We are learning it is not so for all of us. Some of us are born of a wilder imagination. We are learning new language and new images for those Spirit is coloring outside our lines: transgender, intersex, gender-variant.

One: We confess that we have slumbered while members of our family are slaughtered. The headwind of hatred batters bodies and minds and spirits: the diverse beauties that continue to arise.

ALL: We commit to standing against this headwind of hate, a bulwark to end the battering. We commit to seeing the diverse beauty, all around us, every gendered and gender-free expression, every form of love. We commit to loving difference, and becoming whole. We commit to learning the new languages that enable our beloveds to exist, and thrive.

One: Love, make us bold, to live our own lives fully and abundantly. Love, give us passion, to work for everyone's full abundance.

ALL: Love, gather us together so that no one you have created is not seen is not allowed to live is ever lost to the hurricane of hate again.

The Lord's Prayer For Transgender Awareness - see insert

Stewardship Seconds:

Stewardship does not put God in a box labelled, "church on Sunday." Stewardship brings God to every part of daily life, and speaks out against oppression whenever it is found.

The Lord's Prayer For Transgender Awareness

Tammerie Day

Our Mother and Father, our beloved parent, in whom we move and breathe and have our being,

The hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children.

May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven.

Grant that our transgender loved ones might have their daily needs met—that they might find gainful employment without discrimination; that they might have access to medical care without fear; that they might have their rights and lives protected, and that they might find a loving community to belong to and call their own.

Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed your transgender children. Forgive us of the times we turned away, or did not care; for the times we laughed or judged their unique expression of your image; for the times we have misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear.

As we forgive those who might have failed us.

Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. But instead give us courage to stand up and stand with your beloved children. For your love and justice is to be made manifest now and forever.

Amen.

Offering

Offering Music: There is a Balm in Gilead
Francesca Ranalli - mezzo soprano

arr. Mark Hayes

***Offertory:** VU #541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Hymn:** VU #420 Go to the World

SINE NOMINE

***Blessing and Benediction**

***Benediction Response:** VU #242 verse 1

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

Music to Commission Us into Service and Witness:

Variations on OLD HUNDREDTH
Moderato/Allegro molto/Maestoso

Denis Bedard

Stewardship

Your support for FSA is greatly appreciated. Without your personal commitment to the work of this faith community we could not be at the brink of something new and exciting as identified by the Ad Hoc Planning Committee. The 2018 Stewardship campaign pledge forms were sent in early November. Please consider carefully your financial contribution for 2018 to the FSA operating budget and the UCC Mission & Service Fund and return your form to the office by **Nov. 20th**. Thank you again for your support of the work of our congregation and how we live out the gospel in and for our community.

- *Kerry Stover, interim Finance Chair*

The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Mary Lou Douglas-Dubois, Steve Elson & Carol Riddel-Elson, June McKay

Narthex Co-ordinator: Chris Cheski

Coffee & Conversation: Mary-Lou Douglas-Dubois, David Manness & Ivana Klouda

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