

Welcome to First-St Andrew's UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



January 12, 2025 Epiphany Sunday 10:30 am



350 Queens Avenue, London, ON N6B 1X6
TEL (519) 679-8182
www.fsaunited.com

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



First-St. Andrew's United Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence Minister of Worship and Congregational Life

Rev. Anne-Louise Jannaway Minister of Pastoral Care

Chris Fischer Minister of Music

Christina Lindsay Children's Program Coordinator

Rev. Dr. David McKane Minister Emeritus

David Wardlaw Chair of Council

Dr. Jo Ann Silcox Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer

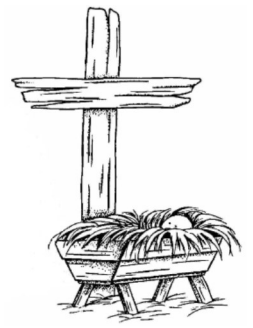
Kathryn Skelly Office Manager

Rev. Karen Low Voluntary Associate Minister

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.

*Hymn and anthem texts reprinted under
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unless otherwise indicated*

Bold type indicates congregational response. * indicates to stand in body or spirit

Gathering Music:

How Brightly Beams the Morning Star

Chris Fischer (they/them), organ
arr. Paul Manz

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence (he/him)

One: God is with us,
ALL: all the time,
One: and all the time,
ALL: God is with us.

- ◆ **First Notice of Annual Congregational (Celebration) Meeting**
on Sun. Jan. 26 after church in Proudfoot Hall

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory

Lighting the Candles

Candle Lighting Hymn: VU #97 When a Star Is Shining

KING'S WESTON

Call to Worship: *A Weight-Bearing Reflection on Epiphany*

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

One: We are invited to rise, for our light has come.
ALL: But everywhere we look we see darkening skies.
One: Does the thick darkness continue to enshroud us today?
ALL: Are we the coming light, a place of hope in impossible times.
One: The weight of such responsibility frightens us and makes us want to contract.
ALL: But you have told us to not be afraid, for you are with us, even unto the ends of the earth.
One: And even to the end of this era, this world, this way of life.
ALL: Be with us further still, beyond this era, beyond the clouds of despair and disappointment.

Opening Prayer:

Assembled from many places and possibilities, we gather in the stillness of morning. Taking respite from the insistence of tasks, we sit, we stand, we sing, we listen, reminded that we are always someone but never the one. Never in control but always called to serve and suture, healing the wounds of our past and present in the hope of a just future. Steady our walk, support our efforts this day and every day, for we need your presence as we need each other. Amen.

***Hymn:** VU #96 Will You Come and See the Light

KELVINGROVE

Children come forward during the singing of the last verse.

Children's Time:

Christina Lindsay (she/her)

Children leave for Sunday School

Scripture: Isaiah 60: 1-6, 11

Pamela Salmoni (she/her)

Musical Reflection: VU #380 She Flies On

Charles Villiers Stanford

Choir; Soloist: Madeline Berman (she/her), soprano;

Gillian Channer (she/her), flute; Jess Huber (he/him), piano

Congregation on Refrain, choir on verses

Refrain:

**She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.**

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth,
like a mother breathing life into her child.

Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,
and then down the ages still she flew on.

Refrain

To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,
a whisper softly calling in the dark,
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end,
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.

Flying to the river, she waited circling high
above the child now grown so full of grace.
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,
and she carried him away in her embrace.

Refrain

Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

Refrain

***Scripture:** Matthew 2: 1-12

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence 3

Sermon: "A Convenient Gloss"

***Hymn:** VU #93 When Heaven's Bright with Mystery

SUSSEX CAROL

Prayers of the People:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

One: Creator of Life,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Prayer of Jesus: *from Casa del Sol, Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico*

Ground of all being, Mother of Life, Father of the universe,
Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.

May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings
in heart and in action

May there be food for the human family today
and for the whole earth community.

forgive us the falseness of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.

Do not forsake us in our time of conflict
but lead us into new beginnings.

For the light of life, the vitality of life, and the glory of life
are yours now and forever. Amen.

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Musical Offering: Beautiful Saviour
Chris Fischer, piano

arr. Michael Hassell

Gratitude:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

***Hymn:** VU #79 Arise, Your Light Is Come

FESTAL SONG

Blessing:

**The light of God surrounds us;
The love of God enfolds us;
The power of God protects us;
The presence of God watches over us;
Wherever we are, God is!**

Sending Music: How Brightly Beams the Morning Star
Chris Fischer, organ

Georg Philipp Telemann

The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Linde Badke & Joan Bancroft

Narthex Co-ordinator: Carol Riddell-Elson

Service Support: George Jolink

Tech Team: Jim Silcox Kathryn Skelly, Chris Wood and Allison Wyant

Coffee & Conversation: Membership & Nurture Committee

Gift Card Table: Barb Dalrymple and Margaret Wardlaw

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