

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Minister: The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Music Director: Gillian Lyons

Choir Conductor: Terri-Lynn Mitchell

Guest Musicians: Stephen Kreuger, Margaret Wilson, Peter Gravlin

May 24th, 2020

Ascension Sunday/Healing and Reconciliation Sunday

"Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises" – Psalm 47

Welcome and Announcements

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prayer of Adoration

Praise: ***"Hail the day that sees Christ rise"*** **#265**

Hail the day that sees Christ rise, Hallelujah! to the throne in paradise; Hallelujah! Christ the Lamb for sinners given, Hallelujah! enters now the highest heaven. Hallelujah!

Christ, for you high triumph waits, Hallelujah! lift your heads, eternal gates; Hallelujah! you have conquered death and sin: Hallelujah! enter, Sovereign, enter in. Hallelujah!

See the nail marked hands above, Hallelujah! signs of God's redeeming love; Hallelujah! hark, Christ's words our hearts assure, Hallelujah! "I will send a Comforter!" Hallelujah!

Christ, for us still intercede; Hallelujah! by your suffering for us plead; Hallelujah! near yourself prepare a place, Hallelujah! as the first-fruits of God's grace. Hallelujah!

Now, though parted from our sight, Hallelujah! in the depths of starry night, Hallelujah! may God raise us up again, Hallelujah! heirs of your eternal reign. Hallelujah!

Prayer of Confession:

God of our days and all the days to come, we confess that we often feel lost, waiting for your promised redemption in such uncertain times. You made us for unity in community, but finding ourselves in isolation we struggle to reach out to one another. You commissioned us to be witnesses to Christ's ministry, yet we find it hard to share our experience of your love and grace with others. Forgive us, O God, for these and all of the other trespasses we have made against you and our neighbours. We confess this in Jesus' name.

Assurance of Pardon

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Praise: ***"Like the murmur of the dove's song"*** **#385**

Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight, like the vigour of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might: come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine, to the church in faith assembled, to her midst as gift and sign: come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer, with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare: come, Holy Spirit, come.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Acts 1: 1-11

Psalms 47

Ephesians 1: 15-23

Luke 24: 44-53

Leader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon: "I am sending you"

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

Leader: Lord, in your mercy;

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Praise: *"There's a spirit in the air"*

#764

There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere: Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world!"

Lose your shyness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done: God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!

When believers break the bread, when a hungry child is fed, praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.

Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right: God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!

When a stranger's not alone, where the homeless find a home, praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.

May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways. God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!

There's a Spirit in the air, calling people everywhere: praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.

Benediction and Sung Response

Amen, Amen, A - - men.

Musical Postlude

"King of Kings"

-Words Bayta/Conty

Announcements



Minister's Message:

Greetings Friends in Christ,

Heather and I are so pleased to be back home in Saskatoon after being away for our wedding in Canmore, Alberta on May 9th. Plenty of pictures were taken and we hope to be able to share some memories of our wedding as soon as we are able to. Thank you all so much for your encouraging messages, phone calls, emails, and cards! They really meant a lot to us on our special day.

While it feels like the Spring is roaring by and we will soon be into Summer, I am aware that this time of isolation is not moving so swiftly. As we transition through the COVID-19 era and our separation from one another continues, we will be challenged to endure this time with patience and faith. Please know that your St. Andrew's Session and Board are continuing to monitor the situation and the public health orders closely. In the meantime, please continue to pray for one another, to call, to check in, to listen, and to encourage in Christ's name.

Finally, this week the church lost Ravi Zacharias, an incredibly faithful Christian thinker, writer, and evangelist. I hope his words on prayer will encourage you this day:

Prayer is a constant reminder that the human being is not autonomous. Prayer, in its most basic form, is the surging of the human spirit in its weakness, grasping at the Spirit of God in His strength.

Sometimes mere words cannot give shape to the longing of the heart. You see, God answers every prayer by either giving what is asked for or reminding the petitioner that God's provision is built on His wisdom and executed in His time. But the answer is always for the instruction and nurture of the soul.

-Ravi Zacharias



Opportunities for Outreach

Hi everyone,

The outreach committee hopes that everyone has stayed safe over the past weeks and is following the government guidelines for self-isolation and distancing. What we thought would take a couple of weeks has now stretched off into the horizon. As with everyone else's plans this has affected our plans for the spring and summer, having to put things off until some future date. Being the patient people that we are, we thought that we would try something a little different and so we phoned the inner-city agencies to ask whether there was any way that we could help them during these difficult times. They have also been severely affected in their operations during this time, especially when it comes to

donations and volunteers. Our idea was to provide everyone with a list of needed items and allow them to determine if we could provide any one of these items in a safe manner, safe being the key word.

So far, there have only been a few agencies that have returned our calls, but we plan on updating lists as we hear more.

The good news is that food is not a problem. All of the agencies have been very diligent in ensuring that everyone has access to food. There is also some support in place for those needing counselling, although this might be a little less consistent. AND for the most part, anyone needing shelter has a place to go. As always, the agencies have stepped up and are doing an amazing job.

The Friendship Inn is no longer accepting people into the building for a sit-down meal, but are handing food out at the door. In addition, they are one of the agencies providing social assistance with a counsellor on a case by case basis, following all of the guidelines for keeping both the staff and the clients safe. Their needs continue to be very similar to those that we have outlined in the past. Monetary donations are always very much appreciated. The other needs that they have are pretty basic. Fruit and vegetables, canned goods, flour etc. If you have access to their website, they have a list of items outlined there. In addition, they are looking for a part-time kitchen person that has a Food-Safe certificate. They will accept someone with experience but would prefer the certificate. If you have that experience, or certificate or you know of someone, please contact the office at the Friendship Inn and let them know.

The Crisis Nursery cannot handle any donations of goods at the moment unless they are new and packaged due to the risk of possible infection. Paper goods such as toilet paper, Kleenex and paper towels are welcome. Grocery items such as fruit, cheese, yoghurt and vegetables, especially things that kids will eat are also something that they are looking for. The next time that you pick up groceries, pick up a couple of extra items and drive/walk/bike past the Crisis Nursery on Victoria Avenue (near the 8th St. intersection), put the items on the steps, ring the doorbell and walk away. When it's safe, the staff will pick up the items. If you haven't seen it before, it's the one with the artificial lawn.

We realize that everyone's situation is different and that you may not be able to take part in this safely, and so we will be on the look out for ways that are more accessible to all. If you have any ideas for outreach, please contact one of the committee members and we will share with all.

We are Al Ireland (244-7386), Sharon Nixon (978-9577), Linda Dietz (653-0953), and Heather Kolojay (281-3029).