

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

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



Blessing *of the* *Animals*



July 8, 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. - 2 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:

Lynda Kennedy

Welcome & Announcements

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory

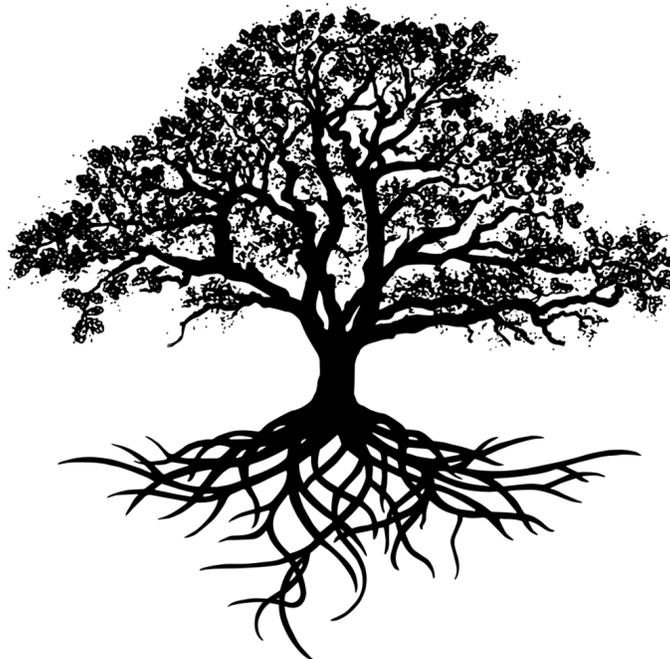
Call to Worship:

One: In the heat of the summer sun, these maple trees give us shade. Beneath their broad leaves and arching branches we come to praise You, O God.

ALL: Roots stretching down, searching for water, and gathering up hope; Limbs stretching upward, seeking sunlight, and finding love, Remind us of this place where we have found life-giving water, and life-saving love.

One: As we gather to worship, may we find You, O God in every living thing, within us, and around us.

ALL: May we be inspired by our 2-legged friends, and our 4-legged ones too, to be the disciples of creation that You would have us be!



Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer:

Sunday School Kids

Kids: Let us pray. Dear God, thank You for all of the animals in creation; the animals of the skies, the earth, and those in the seas too.

ALL: We praise You, O God, and give thanks for all the animals of creation.

Kids: Animals share in the life of the planet, and play an important part in our lives too. God, today we ask You to bless our animals.

ALL: Animals are our companions and friends. They give us comfort, joy and love.

Kids: We pray for our pets who have died. We are so glad that we got to share our lives with them, and that they taught us how to be kind and gentle.

ALL: We are grateful for animals who have jobs, like healing and therapy animals. Some carry on their back; some guide with their eyes, and some others provide comfort for those who are sick. Thank You God for all of the animals that are working animals.

Kids: In the Bible, we have learned that a giant fish saved Jonah; Ravens brought bread to Elijah; Donkeys carried people including Jesus' mother Mary; and brave Doves brought signs of Your peace and love, O God.

ALL: We, therefore, gather to ask for Your blessing upon all our animals, and as we do so, we praise You, the Creator of them all.

***Hymn:** VU #291 All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

*Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.*

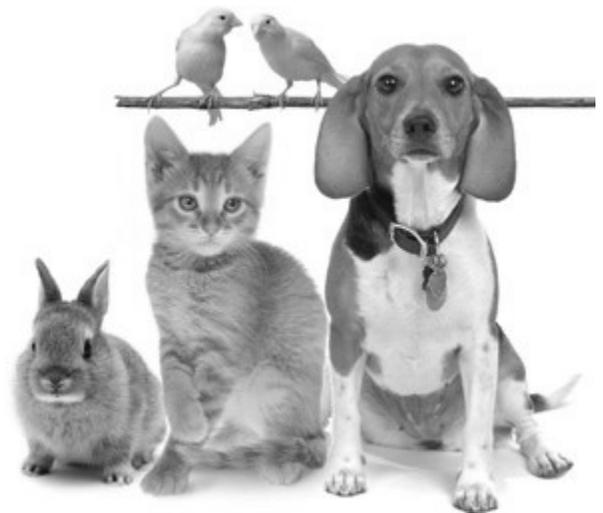
1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings. *Refrain*

2 The purpleheaded mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky; *Refrain*

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one. *Refrain*

4 The rocky mountain splendour,
the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall; *Refrain*

5 God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker,
who has made all things well. *Refrain*



Forming Young Faith: The Blessing of the Animals

"We bless you and thank you for your companionship."

Scripture: Genesis 1:20-25

Dana Conn

Sermon: St. Francis of Assisi

***Hymn:** O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

ELLACOMBE

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
and every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn to offer you their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in - they're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, they offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace these creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace to all pets everywhere.

You made the creatures on each farm; you know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm, and safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep, you know their joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep; may all farms be humane.

Your creatures live in every land; they fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command to love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here - to care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, we offer you our praise.

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Offering

Offertory Music:

Lynda Kennedy

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.

Prayers of Dedication

Stewardship Seconds:

As we are open to possibilities, opportunities abound.



***Hymn:** VU #217 All Creatures of Our God and King - verses 1, 2 & 5

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

- 1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
sing praises, sing praises,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 2 O rushing winds and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,
sing praises, hallelujah!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;
O lights of evening, find a voice:
sing praises, sing praises,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 5 Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness:
sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

***Blessing and Benediction**

One: Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for her creatures.
Will you care for creation?

**ALL: We will care for creation!
We will nurture our animals!
We will celebrate the circle of life with them!**

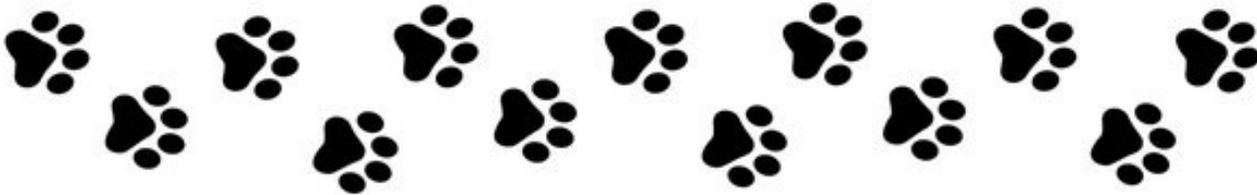
One: May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all,
fill you with the knowledge of God's presence on Earth
and the presence of Christ within you.
Go in peace!
Serving Jesus Christ and loving all creatures!

**ALL: We go in peace,
serving Jesus Christ
and loving our animal kin.**

Music to Commission us into Service and Witness:

Lynda Kennedy

Thank you to Lynda Kennedy for providing music today!



The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Sandra Black-Evans, Nancy Quinn, Mary Vernon
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	Kendra Shouldice Nursery Care
Jane Dockrill Youth & Young Families	George Jolink Part-time Custodian
Tim Miedema Facilities Manager	Barry Tiffin Atrium Steward
Heather Vouvalidis Church Administrator	Paul Merritt Organist Emeritus
Kathryn Skelly Administrative Assistant	Dr. Jo Ann Silcox Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer