First-St Andrew's UNITED CHURCH

Order of Service
November 21, 2026 – Realm of Christ /
Trans Day of Remembrance / Red Scarf Sunday

Hymn and anthem texts reprinted under
One License #A-729129
unless otherwise indicated

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

Gathering Music: FSA Strings, Igor Saika (he/him), director

1. Offertory — Charles Gounod, arr. Philip Clark
2. Cantilena — Marc-Antoine Charpentier, arr. Philip Clark
3. Love One Another — Samuel Wesley, arr. Philip Clark

Candle lighting Music: TLUS #87 "We Have Been Forgotten" — Gloria Fanchiang
Trio: Roland Beach (he/him), Chris Fischer (they/them) & Jess Huber (he/him)

We have been forgotten and abandoned,
cast aside, erased, and counted out;
centuries of hatred and exclusion,
stories lost and rarely talked about.
Yet the poorest are your chosen,
your favoured are the least;
you are nearest to the outcast:
they are the ones you seek.

You are the God who sees us,
you are the God who hears.
You know we long for justice;
you witness all our tears.
Though the world ignores our pain,
our cries to you are not in vain:
you see us, God,
you see us and you hear.

God, you know the pain of losing fam'ly.
Jesus, you are weeping with us now.
As we face oppression, blame and violence,
you're drawing near to comfort, hear us out.

You revealed yourself to Hagar,
a foreign girl, enslaved.
In her time of desperation,
you met her on the way.

You see yourself within us.
You see us with delight
as precious, holy children,
heirs of the Most High.
You see your own reflection,
the very face of God,
in your beautiful creation,
a work inspiring awe.

You are the God who sees us,
you are the God who hears.
You promise us a new day,
when there are no more tears.
Though we struggle now in pain,
you will redeem all hurt and shame.
You see us and you strengthen us.
You see us and you empower us.
You see us God, El Roi,
And you hear.

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence (he/him)

Blessing of the Red Scarves for Regional HIV / Aids Connection

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Opening Prayer with Land Acknowledgment Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

***Hymn:** VU #699 "Live into Hope" TRURO
with FSA Strings

Children leave for Worship & Wonder

Scripture: Ephesians 1: 15-23 Bernie Bax (he/him)
One: A Word of God for all people,
ALL: thanks be to God.

Musical Reflection: "We Are Not Alone" Pat Mayberry
Choir

We are not alone, we live in God's world.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us, we are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

***Scripture:** Matthew 25: 31-46 Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Sermon: "Wisdom from Below"

***Hymn:** MV #10 "Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom" PICARDY

Prayers of the People:
One: Holy One, hear our prayer
ALL: Sophia, make us wise.

Prayer of Jesus: (unison)

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Musical Offering: "Fear Not" Karen Marrolli
Choir; Joanne Richardson, violin

Fear not, for I am always with you.
Come, my child, and dry your tears.
Though pain and trials the world may give you,
hope will bear you through all your years.

When fears for tomorrow capture the moonlight,
look to the edge of the night.
The answer comes at the end of yearning
as the new dawn takes its flight.

Fear not, for I will always guide you.
Come, my child, and take my hand.
For faith and love will walk beside you,
even when you can barely stand.
When grieving and sorrow capture the sunlight,
look to the edge of the storm.
The answer comes in the vibrant rainbow
reaching through a sky reborn.

Fear not, my child, fear not my child.
When fears for tomorrow capture the moonlight,
look to the edge of the night.
The answer comes in the breath of silence.
Hope waits with you, sculpting morning.
Hope waits with you:
Artist painting the dawning light!

Gratitude Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

***Hymn:** VU #702 "When a Poor One" EL CAMINO
with FSA Strings & percussion

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: "I Love My Love" arr. Sheila Sandys-Wunsch
FSA Strings

The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Barb Dalrymple, Winnie Wake and Katherine Wonfor
Narthex Co-ordinator: Carol Riddell-Elson
Service Support: Paul Merritt
Tech Team: Robin Neaves, Merran Neville, Jim Silcox, Kathryn Skelly and Chris Wood
Coffee and Conversation: Board of Trustees
Gift Card Table: Pam Salmoni and Heather Vouvalidis

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

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 & Youth Program Coordinator
Kathryn Skelly Office Manager
Rev. Karen Low Voluntary Associate Minister
Rev. Dr. David McKane Minister Emeritus
Paul Merritt Organist Emeritus
Dr. Jo Ann Silcox Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer
Steve Elson, George Jolink, David Wardlaw Co-Chairs of Council