

# Welcome to First-St Andrew's UNITED CHURCH



The Gala-Salvador  
Foundation representation of  
the Persistence of Memory by  
D'Argenta

## April 26, 2026 “Against Chronos” Fourth Sunday of Easter 10:30 am



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

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 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 & Youth Program Coordinator

**Rev. Dr. David McKane** Minister Emeritus

**Dr. Jo Ann Silcox** Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer

**Kathryn Skelly** Office Manager

**Rev. Karen Low** Voluntary Associate Minister

**Paul Merritt** Organist Emeritus

**Steve Elson,**

**George Jolink,**

**David Wardlaw** Co-Chairs of Council



# 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:

1. Variations on "SINE NOMINE"
2. Trio on "ENGELBERG"
3. Contemplation on "BEMERTON"

Paul Merritt, Organist Emeritus  
Denis Bédard  
Michael Burkhardt  
Malcolm Archer

## 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.**

## Acknowledging the Traditional Territory

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

## Lighting the Candles

**Candle Lighting Music:** Let It Be  
Laudamus Bells; Richard Frank, director

John Lennon and Paul McCartney,  
arr. Kevin McChesney

## Call to Worship:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

One: We come together not because we have mastered the mystery of time  
**ALL: But because time has opened to us—broken open by Love.**  
 One: We carry our clocks and calendars, our plans and anxieties—  
**ALL: Yet we are called into a time that clocks cannot measure.**  
 One: This is Kairos time—the fullness of the moment, the crack in the ordinary.  
**ALL: Where the Other breaks through and makes all things new.**  
 One: We are not waiting for a future that looks like the present, only longer.  
**ALL: We are invited into resurrection—a rupture, a gift, a world we  
 cannot make ourselves.**

## Opening Prayer:

Gracious and Ever-living God, we confess that we are creatures of habit and sameness. We build our lives around what we can predict, control and repeat. We mistake the ticking of the clock for the pulse of your Spirit. We imagine that the life you promise is simply more of this life—longer, tidier, finally under control in some other realm. Forgive us for that poverty of imagination. Open us this day to the rupture of resurrection. Let your Word today not confirm us in our certainties, but interrupt us—gently, graciously—with the gift of a future. We gather in the name of the one who broke the grip of death not by escaping it, but by being utterly given over to it, and being raised beyond what any of us could have imagined. In that name—and in that hope—we pray. Amen.

**\*Hymn:** VU #396 Jesus, Stand among Us

BEMERTON(CASWALL)

*Children & Youth leave for Worship and Wonder.*

**Scripture:** Acts 5: 12-16

Steve Elson (he/him)

One: A Word of God for all people,

**ALL: thanks be to God.**

**Musical Reflection:** God Be in My Head

John Rutter

Choir; Dr. Victoria Meredith, conductor; Alastair Smyth, baritone soloist

God be in my head and in my understanding.

God be in mine eyes and in my looking.

God be in my mouth and in my speaking.

God be in my heart and in my thinking.

God be at mine end and in my departing.

**\*Scripture:** Matthew 22: 23-33

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

**Sermon:** "Against Chronos"

**\*Hymn:** VU #706 Give Thanks for Life

SINE NOMINE

## Prayers of the People:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

One: Living Breath, in our holding and our releasing  
**ALL: hear our prayer.**

## Prayer of Jesus: (unison)

Loving Mystery, our Source and our Beyond, whose name is not owned but only received, whose dwelling is not a place but a breaking open—

Let your reign come among us: not as what we manage but as the rupture that sets us free. Let your will be done on this earth, in this body, in this moment—not as a fate we endure but as gift.

Give us today the bread that is enough, the need of the present hour. Forgive us our attachment to the same, our fear of the new, our refusal to be surprised. Teach us to forgive one another: to loosen our grip, to caress rather than grasp.

Do not leave us in our solitude but deliver us from foreclosure, from every certainty that shuts the door on the Other.

For you are the weakness that overcomes all power, the love that interrupts every ending, the time that holds all our times, now and in every moment to come. Amen.

**Musical Offering:** Pastorale on “ENGELBERG”  
Paul Merritt, organ

Michael Burkhardt

## Gratitude:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

**\*Hymn:** VU #448 We Know That Christ Is Raised

ENGELBERG

## 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:** Final on “ENGELBERG”  
Paul Merritt, organ

Michael Burkhardt

### **The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:**

Welcoming Ushers: Joan & Mike Bancroft and Charlotte Oldham

Narthex Co-ordinator: Carol Riddell-Elson

Service Support: George Jolink

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

Coffee & Conversation: Outreach Committee

Gift Card Table: Barb Dalrymple and David Manness

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