

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

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



*"Today, if we have no peace,
it is because we have forgotten
that we belong to each other."*

— Mother Theresa, Saint Teresa of Calcutta

July 21, 2024
“A Queer Story”
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

Rev. Marilyn Arthur Shared Youth & Young Adult Minister

Rev. Dr. David McKane Minister Emeritus

Rev. Karen Low Voluntary Associate Minister

Dr. Jo Ann Silcox Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer

Kathryn Skelly Office Manager

Christina Lindsay Children's Program Coordinator

Paul Merritt Organist Emeritus

David Wardlaw Chair 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
One License #A-729129
unless otherwise indicated*

Bold type indicates congregational response. * indicates to stand, if able.

*No Children's Time until September.
Children should meet in the Fireside Room before worship.*

Gathering Music:

Melodic Suite

1. 'Trumpet Voluntary'
3. 'Invocation'

I Lift My Eyes

Paul Merritt, organ
Charles Callahan

Dale Wood

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Karen Low (she/her)

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory

Lighting the Christ Candle & Peace Candle

Candle Lighting Hymn: VU #664 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

FRIENDSHIP

Call to Worship:

Rev. Karen Low

One: We are the body of Christ! The hand clapping, toe tapping, heart pumping,
arms embracing, risk taking body of Christ!

**ALL: Varied in gender, race, sexuality, age, ability ... we are connected
like muscle and bone. If one suffers, we all suffer. If one rejoices,
we all rejoice.**

One: Together we find the wholeness we seek.

ALL: Thanks be to God who in Christ has made us one.

One: Together let us worship God!

Opening Prayer:

Holy One, known to us in many ways, yet never fully known, this day we pray that you might grant us the courage to find our voices, to sing the unwavering truths that reside within us, and to live authentically in every vibrant hue. Ignite our spirits that we may become unwavering champions for one other, and may our faith be a constant reminder that we are loved exactly as we are in all our glorious complexities. May this day, and all our days, be an effervescent testament to love, acceptance, and the radical joy of being exactly who we were created to be. Remind us, Divine Weaver, that we are forever cherished, forever worthy, forever a dazzling reflection of Your infinite love. All of this and more. Amen.

***Hymn:** VU #339 When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

Scripture: Ruth 1: 1-19

Rev. Annie Jannaway

Musical Reflection:

Lord, make me an instrument

Rebecca Neaves, soprano & Alex Neaves, handbells
Jonathan Willcocks

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, may there be union,
Where there is doubt, faith;
Lord, make me an instrument, Lord, make me an instrument,
Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace, Thy peace.

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
Where there is despair, let there be hope,
Where there is darkness, light,
Where there is sadness, where there is sadness,
May there be joy, may there be joy, may there be joy! Joy!
Lord, make me an instrument, Lord, make me an instrument,
Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace, Thy peace.

May we all be in peace, peace, and only peace,
and may that peace come unto each of us.

***Scripture:** Mark 12: 38-44

Rev. Karen Low

Sermon: "A Queer Story"

***Hymn:** VU #506 Take My Life and Let It Be

MOZART

Prayers of the People:

Rev. Karen Low

Prayer of Jesus: (unison)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-Bearer, Life-Giver, source of all that is, Loving God in whom is heaven, the hallowing of your name shines for in the diversity of your children. May your will for liberation and wholeness be done, on earth and where every being has begun. Give us courage as we give to others, to face the challenges that silence truths. Forgive us for the times we have hidden our light, as we forgive those who bring oppression's darkness. Lead us not into conformity, but fierce authenticity embrace, and deliver us from the fear of speaking out against the wrongs we see. For yours is the love, the passion and the glorious diverse design, now and forever. Amen

Musical Offering:

Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown

Solo: Rebecca Neaves

arr. K. Lee Scott

Come, O thou Traveler unknown,
Whom still I hold, but cannot see;
My company before is gone,
And I am left alone with thee;
With thee all night I mean to stay,
And wrestle till the break of day,
With thee all night I mean to stay,
And wrestle till the break of day.

I need not tell thee who I am;
My sin and misery declare;
Thyself hast called me by my name;
Look on thy hands and read it there.
But who, I ask thee, who art thou?
Tell me thy name and tell me now,
But who, I ask thee, who art thou?
Tell me thy name and tell me now.

'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou diedst for me!
I hear thy whisper in my heart;
The morning breaks, the shadows flee;
Pure universal love thou art.
To me, to all, thy mercies move;
Thy nature and thy name is Love,
To me, to all, thy mercies move;
Thy nature and thy name is Love, thy name is Love!

Gratitude

Rev. Karen Low

***Hymn:** VU #418 Go Forth for God

OLD 124TH

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:

Let the Earth Rejoice!

Paul Merritt, organ
Dale Wood**The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:**

Welcoming Ushers: David Flynn, Annie Jannaway and Alan & Pam Salmoni
Narthex Co-ordinator: Carol Riddell Elson
Service Support: George Jolink
Tech Team: Merran Neville, Jim Silcox and Kathryn Skelly
Lemonade on the Lawn: Membership & Nurture Committee
Gift Card Table: David and Winifred Wake

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