

Welcome to First-St Andrew's UNITED CHURCH



October 19, 2025
“A Reconciling Faith”
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

(Vacant) 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
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unless otherwise indicated*

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

Gathering Music:

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Chris Fischer (they/them), organ
Iouri Grichetchkine

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

Lighting the Candles

Candle Lighting Music: VU #663 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OLIVET

Call to Worship: (*Inspired by Psalm 18: 2-11, 16-19*)

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

One: The One who reaches down from on high is our refuge,
ALL: our rock, our fortress, our deliverer in times of oppression.
One: From the depths of injustice, God hears our cry,
ALL: from the waters of despair, God draws us out into spacious places.
One: The One who rides upon the wings of the wind comes to those pushed to the margins,
ALL: descends into our darkness, parting the clouds of empire and power.
One: Come, let us worship the God who takes hold of us,
ALL: who delights in us, who delivers us, who makes us free!

Opening Prayer:

God of the Oppressed, Mother of Liberation, Spirit who broods over the chaos: We gather in this acceptable time, in this day of salvation—not waiting for heaven but claiming your kin-dom now. You are our rock when systems seek to crush us, our fortress when powers close in around us. We come as Paul came—beaten down yet not destroyed, persecuted yet not abandoned. But you have delivered us into a broad place and called us beloved—not because we are pure, but because we are yours. Give us strength to be your servants in the work of liberation. Through affliction, let us know solidarity. Through hardship, let us practice mutual aid. Shake the foundations, part the heavens, and ride upon the winds of change. We pray not for escape from this world but for courage to transform it—to be midwives of the new creation already breaking forth. In the name of Jesus the Liberator, Amen.

***Hymn:** TLUS #149 Yeshuko pachhi / I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
see insert - vs. 1 in Nepalese, then vs. 1-3 in English

*Children & Youth come forward, receive a candle from Pastor Joshua,
then go to Worship and Wonder*

Scripture: Psalm 18: 2-11, 16-19 Pat Pettit

Musical Reflection: All Things Bright and Beautiful
Laudamus Bells; Richard Frank, director

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6: 2-10

Sermon: "A Reconciling Faith"

***Hymn:** MV #176 Three Things I Promise BLANN

Prayers of the People: Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

One: Creator of Life,
ALL: hear our prayer.

Sung Prayer of Jesus: TLUS #70 Our Creator* in Heaven
see insert (*Change text –Permission given by composer)

Jason Locke

Musical Offering: Abide with Me
Choir; Richard Frank, alto saxophone

arr. Jason D. Locke

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.
Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O Christ, who changes not, abide with me.
Abide with me, abide with me. O Christ, who changes not, abide with me.

I need your presence every passing hour;
what but your grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like yourself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
I have no fear with you at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still, if you abide with me.
Abide with me, abide with me. O Christ, who changes not, abide with me.

Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.
Abide with me, abide with me. O Christ, who changes not, abide with me.

Gratitude:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

***Hymn:** MV #138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines

Gordon Light

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: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Chris Fischer, organ

Dieterich Buxtehude

The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: John Anderson, Lindsay Rivard and Karin Symonds
Narthex Co-ordinator: Carol Riddell-Elson
Service Support: Paul Merritt
Tech Team: Scott Agboola, Jim Silcox, Kathryn Skelly & Chris Wood
Coffee & Conversation: Music Committee
Gift Card Table: David Manness and Winifred Wake

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