

Welcome to First-St Andrew's UNITED CHURCH



September 13, 2026
Homecoming Sunday
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	Chris Fischer Minister of Music
Rev. Anne-Louise Jannaway Minister of Pastoral Care	Kathryn Skelly Office Manager
Christina Lindsay Children's & Youth Program Coordinator	
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	



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

Singing Solidarity

TLUS #150 Here in This Place
TLUS #159 Way way way
TLUS #99 I Am Sending You Light
TLUS #135 Send Your Peace

Chris Fischer (they, them)
Maria Case
Traditional Anishnaabe lullaby
arr. Peter Amidon
Traditional Palestinian & Lebanese

Gathering (Candle lighting) Music: This Little Light of Mine Traditional Spiritual
Ukulele group: Christine Cavers, Gillian Channer, Jess Huber, Susan McKane
& Barb Ridgewell and congregation

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

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Opening Prayer:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Holy One, Source and Sustainer of every living thing, we gather this morning not because we have earned a place before you, but because we are already held within your welcome. You are the God who exceeds our ledgers—whose grace does not wait upon our innocence, whose mercy is not rationed according to our worth. On this Homecoming Sunday, we remember all who have gathered in this place before us: those who built this house of faith with their hands and their hope, those who are far from these doors today and long to be near, and those who walk through these doors for the first time, strangers who are already kin. Meet us here, in our arriving and our returning. Gather us into a home built not on who is right, but on who is welcomed. We pray in the Spirit of Christ. Amen.

***Hymn:** TLUS #138 Let's Go Together
with Roland Beach & Jess Huber, guitars

Mark A. Miller

Scripture: Romans 14: 1-12

Mike Bancroft

One: A Word of God for all people,
ALL: thanks be to God.

Musical Reflection: Light of a Clear Blue Morning arr. Craig Hella Johnson
Choir; Soloist: Sonja Gustafson, soprano; Marg Trethewey, flute

***Scripture:** Matthew 18: 21-35

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Sermon: "Forgetting Forgiveness"

***Hymn:** TLUS #127 We Resist

Mark A. Miller

Prayers of the People:

One: Holy God, in your mercy...
ALL: (Sung Response below)

Sung Response: TLUS #135 Send Your Peace Traditional Palestinian & Lebanese
(English only)

**Send your peace on our world, God,
you, the creator of peace.
Our hearts fill with peace, God.
You are the source of healing peace.**

Prayer of Jesus: (unison)

Inspired by the Maori translation in the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain Bearer, Life-Giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God in whom is heaven.

The hallowing of Your Name echo through the universe;
the way of Your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your will be done by all created beings;
Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

For the hurts we give to one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trial too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For You reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Musical Offering: Turn
Choir; Soloist: Sophie Wilhelm, soprano

adapt. Carrie Tennant

Gratitude:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

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

ASSAM

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 This Train Is Bound for Glory
Ukulele group

Traditional Gospel



*Please join us downstairs
in Proudfoot Hall
after worship
for our
Homecoming Lunch!*

(Freewill donations gratefully accepted)

The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Heather Clark, Jane Eberhard and David McKane
Narthex Co-ordinator: Carol Riddell-Elson
Service Support: Paul Merritt
Tech Team: Scott Agboola, Robin Neaves, Jim Silcox, Kathryn Skelly and Chris Wood
Lemonade on the Lawn: Faith Formation Committee
Gift Card Table: Pam Salmoni & Heather Vouvalidis

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