

Welcome to First-St Andrew's UNITED CHURCH



April 5, 2026
Easter 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

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:

Come Sunday
Rhapsodie (on 'Lasst uns erfreuen')

Chris Fischer (they/them), organ
Duke Ellington
Gilles Leclerc

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: TLUS #42 God,* I Will Lift Mine Eyes
Choir & Reverberations; Chris Fischer, director
(*Alternative)

arr. Stephen Key

God, I will lift my eyes to the hills
Knowing my help is coming from you.
Your peace you give me in time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength.
You are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to you.

God, I will lift my eyes to the hills
Knowing my help is coming from you.
Your peace you give me in time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength.
You are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to you.
Amen.

Call to Worship:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

One: We gather on the far side of the stone—in the place where what was sealed shut has been broken open.

ALL: We come not to a grave but to a garden. Not to mourn the end but to name what has been born.

One: Before we were formed, a voice called our names across the deep. That voice does not grow silent in death, in exile, in the long nights of our forgetting.

ALL: The One who made us has not abandoned us to the shadows.

One: And yet—we confess—we have grown comfortable in the tomb. We have learned the grammar of resignation. We have spoken the language of despair as though indifference were wisdom, as though the world's inevitabilities were also ours.

ALL: Forgive us, O Living One. We have called our paralysis prudence.

One: But today, the stone is rolled away not merely from a garden tomb. It is rolled away from our hearts, from our communities, from the church that has forgotten it is a sign, not a service provider—a witness, not a mirror of the age.

ALL: Today we refuse despair. Today we show up.

One: This is the gift we could not earn and cannot contain: resurrection—not as a reward for correct belief, but as an unbearable, overwhelming freedom.

ALL: We are called. We are sent. We are alive. Thanks be to the Source of all life.

Opening Prayer:

O Groundless Ground, Love that will not stay buried—we come to you this morning carrying our own sealed places: the grief we have normalized, the injustice we have learned to tolerate, the fire of our prophetic calling that we have allowed to cool into ceremony. We come as Mary came—before the sun has fully risen, before we know what we will find, before we have the right words. We come in the dark of not-yet-knowing, and we ask only that you meet us here. Do not let us turn resurrection into a doctrine to be defended rather than a life to be lived. Do not let us trade the wild, ungovernable gift of Easter for the tidy satisfactions of correctness. Shake loose from us every idol we have built to avoid the encounter with You—the living, breathing, unsettling Real. Remind us that we are not alone in this work—that the universe itself participates in liberation, that creativity and love are written into the fabric of what is, that every wound carries within it the possibility of resurrection. Make of us this gathering not a monument to what once was, but a living sign of what still can be. Let us be, in our very bodies and relationships, a bold witness and covenant to the people. In the name of the risen, ever-creating Love we call God. Amen.

***Hymn:** VU #232 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You (omit vs. 3) HYMN TO JOY, arr. Fischer
Congregation; Solo verse: Reverberations
(see insert)

Children (Gr. 8 and younger) leave for Worship & Wonder

Scripture: Isaiah 49: 1-13

Jill Kennedy

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

Musical Reflection: The Rain Is Over and Gone
Choir; soloist: Sonja Gustafson (she/her), soprano

Paul Halley
based on
The Song of Solomon 2: 10b-12a

“Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
for lo the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come.”

***Scripture:** John 20: 1-18

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Sermon: “Showing Up: Resurrection as Refusal”

Musical Reflection: The Battle of Jericho
Choir

arr. Moses Hogan

Joshua fit the Battle, the Battle of Jericho,
and the wall come tumbalin’ down.

Talk about your kings of Gideon,
talk about your men of Saul,
but none like good old Joshua
at the Battle of Jericho.

That mornin’
Joshua fit the Battle, the Battle of Jericho,
and the wall come tumbalin’ down.

Right up to the walls of Jericho,
he marched with spear in hand.
‘Go, blow that ram-horn!’ Joshua cried.
‘Cause the battle am in my hand.

Then the lamb, ram, sheep horns begin to blow
and the trumpet begin to sound.
Joshua commanded the children to shout
and the walls come a tumbalin’ down.

Oh, Lord, you know that
Joshua fit the Battle, the Battle of Jericho,
and the wall come tumbalin’ down.

Prayers of the People:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

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

Prayer of Jesus: TLUS #70 Our Creator in Heaven
sung in unison (see insert)

Jason D. Locke

Communion

Communion Liturgy:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Sung Acclamation: VU #951 Santo, santo, santo / Holy, Holy, Holy
anon., Argentina

Words of Remembrance:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Prayers of Transformation

Communion Hymn: TLUS #28 I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table
see next page

WELCOME TABLE

At FSA we receive Communion by Intinction.
You will be invited up the centre aisle to one of the stations at the front. When you receive the bread, dip it lightly into the cup and partake. You may then return to your seat by the outside aisle. Our Communion elements are gluten-free.
If you wish to have Communion served in your pew, please signal the roving server and they will bring Communion to you.



I'm gonna eat at the welcome table

G C/G G C/G D7/G G

1 I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble;
 2 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus;
 ♦ 3 I'm gon-na join with all God's chil - dren;
 4 Here all the world will find a wel - come;
 5 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey;

C G

I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble, al - le - lu - ia.
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus, al - le - lu - ia.
 ♦ I'm gon-na join with all God's chil-dren, al - le - lu - ia.
 here all the world will find a wel-come, al - le - lu - ia.
 we're gon-na feast on milk and ho - ney, al - le - lu - ia.

G Em C6 B7 Em C#m7(b5)

I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble; I'm gon - na
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus; I'm gon - na
 ♦ I'm gon-na join with all God's chil - dren; I'm gon - na
 Here all the world will find a wel - come; here all the
 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey; we're gon - na

G/D Em6 A9 D9sus4 D9 G

eat at the wel - come ta - ble, al - le - lu - ia.
 eat and drink with my Je - sus, al - le - lu - ia.
 ♦ join with all God's chil - dren, al - le - lu - ia.
 world will find a wel - come, al - le - lu - ia.
 feast on milk and hon - ey, al - le - lu - ia.

Words and music: African-American spiritual, alt.; arr. Carl R. Diton, alt.

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WELCOME TABLE
 irregular

Prayer after Communion:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

***Hymn:** Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Andrew Donaldson (Tune: VU#155)

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
Roll the stone of grief away! Hallelujah!
Women bring the joyful word, hallelujah!
Christ is risen, Christ is Lord! Hallelujah!
2. God has silenced pow'rs of death, hallelujah!
Let us sing with every breath, hallelujah!
Pow'rs and tyrants, flee away! Hallelujah!
Christ is risen, now, today! Hallelujah!
3. Gone the ways of pow'r and fear, hallelujah!
Christ is risen, present here, hallelujah!
Servant, Healer, Shepherd, Friend, hallelujah!
With us now, till ages end, hallelujah!
4. Let us walk, then, Jesus' way, hallelujah!
Lift the cross and, day by day, hallelujah!
Die with Christ and rise again, hallelujah!
Live with love God's joyful reign, hallelujah!

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: Toccata
Chris Fischer, organ

Denis Bédard

The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Susan Bell, Heather Locking Cusolito and Jean Wright
Narthex Co-ordinator: Carol Riddell-Elson
Service Support: George Jolink
Tech Team: Tyler Koustrup, Robin Neaves, Jim Silcox, Kathryn Skelly and Chris Wood
Coffee & Conversation: Outreach Committee
Gift Card Table: Margo Christodoulou and Margaret Wardlaw

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

Happy Easter!

