



August 30, 2026

“On the Impossible”

10:30 am



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TEL (519) 679-8182
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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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Bold type indicates congregational response. * indicates to stand in body or spirit

Gathering (Candle lighting) Music: TLUS #142 With Compassion
Chris Fischer (they/them), tenor & David Kai (he/him), piano
Congregation joins on vs. 3

EVELYN

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.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Opening Prayer:

Holy and Mysterious God, you are the One who calls from the flame, who makes the ordinary radiant with your presence and who sends hesitant people into difficult places. Gather us now from the scattered places of our lives. Quiet the voices that insist that nothing can change, no new future can emerge, that our failures have the last word or that we are too small for the work before us. Open our hearts to what exceeds our understanding; open our lives to the impossible. As we hear the inspired words today, make us attentive to the fire that does not consume, the name that cannot be mastered, and the future that cannot yet be seen. Through Jesus Christ, who calls us to lose our lives in order to find them, and in whose resurrection the impossible becomes the promise. Amen.

***Hymn:** VU #642 Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Children & Youth leave for Worship & Wonder

Scripture: Exodus 3: 1-15

David Beach

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

Chorus:
Fear not, for I am with you,
Be not dismayed, for I am near,
I will strengthen, I will help you,
Uphold you, cast away your fear.

In the night of weeping I am with you,
Holding 'til you reach the morning bright,
In the day of storms I am beside you,
Guiding 'til you find the rainbow's light. *Chorus:*

Enemies surround you, do not fear them,
They can never harm the hope within,
Friends will soon abound to hold, support you,
Love in just community will win. *Chorus:*

Cruelty and selfishness astound you;
Still we will perceive the kingdom come
All the world's injustices confound you,
We shall overcome working as one. *Chorus:*

***Scripture:** Matthew 16: 21-28

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Sermon: "On the Impossible"

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

BLANN

***Prayers of the People:**

One: God of the impossible,
ALL: hear our prayer.

***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: Hope Is an Anchor
Chris Fischer, tenor & David Kai, piano

David Kai

Chorus:
*Hope is an anchor that steadies the soul,
With Christ as our rock we'll not drift towards the shoals,
Look 'cross the waves, bravely set out each day
Knowing hope, strong and firm is our anchor.*

When troubles o'ertake us and storms cloud our view,
We struggle and strain at the oars,
But true to the promise, our hope will renew,
With power and strength that are yours. *Chorus:*

Abounding in hope and with Christ as our guide,
We'll go where we've ne'er been before,
Our hearts yearn to go, so whatever betide
We'll pull towards that heavenly shore. *Chorus:*

Gratitude:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

***Hymn:** VU #575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

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: Will You Come and Follow Me
Chris Fischer, organ

Mark Himmelman

Musical Note from David Kai

It is my custom to name my hymn tunes after internment camps and ghost towns where Canadians of Japanese descent were interned during the Second World War. In this way I hope that these historic places and injustices will not be forgotten.



The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Anne Cummings, David & Marilyn Beach
Narthex Co-ordinator: Carol Riddell-Elson
Service Support: George Jolink
Tech Team: Scott Agboola, Robin Neaves, Merran Neville, Barb Ridgewell and Jim Silcox
Lemonade on the Lawn: Membership & Nurture Committee
Gift Card Table: Margo Christodoulou and Barb Ridgewell

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