



# July 27, 2025

## “Blest Be the Tie that Unbinds”

### 10:30 am



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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

**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



# 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 in body or spirit

## Gathering Music:

Now, my tongue

Aria

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Kelsey Lenti (she/her), organ

Flor Peeters

Johann Pachelbel

Dieterich Buxtehude

## 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 - verses 1 & 2 OLIVET

**Call to Worship:** 'What to Do When We Don't Know' Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

One: We woke up this morning unsure of what this day might hold.

**ALL: We had plans, we had hopes, we had expectations.**

One: We are here and now reminded that none of us knows the hour.

**ALL: We breathe in the wisdom of what we cannot understand.**

One: What remains when our plans disappear in the face of the moment.

**ALL: We are told that faith, hope, and love remain.**

One: Let us then trust in what we cannot see, what we cannot say.

**ALL: Let us then hope, let us then love.**

## Opening Prayer:

Mystery that gathers us, you are at once ineffable and intimate. Closer than our thoughts, nearer to us than we can conceive. We ask for the strength to bear witness to your holy interruption. We hold fast to the promise of presence even unto the ends of the earth, no matter the depths or heights we traverse. May the invitation of the Spirit extend from us as surely as it was extended to us. Amen.

**\*Hymn:** VU #660 How Firm a Foundation - verses 1-3 & 5

ST DENIO

**Scripture:** Colossians 2: 6-14

Marilyn Norman (she/her)

**Musical Reflection:** Look Not In My Eyes from *Six Songs from A Shropshire Lad*  
Nohl Egan (he/him), baritone George Butterworth

Look not in my eyes, for fear  
They mirror true the sight I see  
And there you find your face too clear  
And love it and be lost like me.  
One the long nights through must lie  
Spent in star-defeated sighs.  
But why should you as well as I  
Perish? gaze not in my eyes.

A Grecian lad, as I hear tell,  
One that many loved in vain,  
Looked into a forest well  
And never looked away again.  
There, when the turf in spring-time flowers,  
With downward eye and gazes sad,  
Stands amid the glancing showers  
A jonquil, not a Grecian lad.

**\*Scripture:** Luke 21: 20-28

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

**Sermon:** "Blest Be the Tie that Unbinds"

**\*Hymn:** VU #688 O Day of God, Draw Nigh

ST MICHAEL

**Prayers of the People:**

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

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

**Prayer of Jesus: (*unison*)**

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Musical Offering:** It Is Enough from *Elijah*  
Nohl Egan, baritone

Felix Mendelssohn

It is enough! O Lord, now take away my life,  
For I am not better than my fathers.  
I desire to live no longer: now let me die,  
For my days are but vanity.  
I have been very jealous for the Lord God of Hosts!  
For the children of Israel have broken Thy covenant,  
Thrown down Thine altars,  
And slain Thy prophets with the sword.  
And I, even I only am left,  
And they seek my life to take it away.  
It is enough! O Lord, now take away my life!

**Gratitude:**

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

**\*Hymn:** VU #25 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending - verses 1, 3 & 4 HELMSLEY

**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:** C major Prelude from *Acht kleine Präludien und Fugen*  
Kelsey Lenti, organ

J. S. Bach

**The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:**

Welcoming Ushers: Bonnie Adamson, Linda Badke and Stu Bailey  
Narthex Co-ordinator: Lillian Reid  
Service Support: George Jolink  
Tech Team: Scott Agboola, Jim Silcox, Kathryn Skelly and Chris Wood  
Lemonade on the Lawn: Membership & Nurture Committee  
Gift Card Table: Heather Vouvalidis and Margaret Wardlaw  
We thank God for all those who share their gifts and talents.