

Welcome to First-St Andrew's UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



November 19, 2023 “Before There Were Kings” 10:30 am



350 Queens Avenue, London, ON N6B 1X6
TEL (519) 679-8182
www.fsaunited.com

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 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

Marilyn Arthur Shared Youth & Young Adult Minister

Rev. Dr. David McKane Minister Emeritus

Rev. Karen Low Voluntary Associate Minister

Dr. Jo Ann Silcox Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer

Kathryn Skelly Office Manager

Christina Lindsay Children's Program Coordinator

Paul Merritt Organist Emeritus

David Wardlaw 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, if able.

Gathering Music:

How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place
Nearer, My God, to Thee

Chris Fischer, piano
Johannes Brahms, arr. Marilyn Ham
Lowell Mason/Franz Schubert, arr. Marilyn Ham

Welcome and Announcements:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Stewardship Moment: Children & Youth Programming Chris Lindsay & Dakota Adams

Remembering Terry Head: Dedication of quilt Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory

Lighting the Christ Candle & Peace Candle

Candle Lighting Hymn: Queerly Beloved Amanda Udis-Kessler
Verse 1- solo, Chris Fischer; verses 2 & 3 Congregation
See insert

Call to Worship: Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

- One: Seeking God's way, unsure of what lies ahead,
- ALL: Let the wisdom of God's word help us learn to love.**
- One: Confronted by difficulty, stretched by possibility,
- ALL: Let the strength of God's faith help us grow in love.**
- One: Challenged by setbacks, disconcerted or confused,
- ALL: Let the promise of God's grace help us persist in love.**

Opening Prayer: Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

It is in the knowing that we can find ourselves in loving community that we come to this sanctuary, O God. It is in the sharing of prayer and in upholding one another through difficult times that we feel called to be here. It is in singing together that our spirits are uplifted. It is in reflecting together that we discern how best to serve you and one another. It is in summoning your name that we are healed from our wounds and our weariness. Gather us close to you so that we may feel the warmth and the comfort we seek and the deep love you have for us. Amen.

***Hymn:** VU #820 Psalm 100 - Make a Joyful Noise PSALM 100

Children and youth come forward during the singing of the last verse

Children's Time:
Children leave for Sunday School

Chris Lindsay

Scripture: Judges 4: 1-7

Susan McKane

Musical Reflection: Abide with Me
Choir; Ken Baldwin, trumpet

Jason 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.

I need your presence ev'ry passing hour;
what but your grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like yourself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

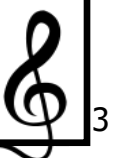
I have no fear with you at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still, if you abide with me.

Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Musical Notes

Tomorrow is the Transgender Day of Remembrance, so our song for candle lighting this morning is a new hymn (included in the sampler for the upcoming United Church music resource, "Then Let Us Sing!", which we as a congregation are testing this fall): "Queerly Beloved" by Amanda Udis-Kessler. The text is from the queer perspective, speaking of being "hated" and "treated as outcasts," but of discovering "love that is perfect, ending our fear." As with any song of liberation, I invite us all to consider the words through the lens of those who are oppressed, to learn together and to grow toward a more just and inclusive church and world.

The anthems this morning both speak of being accompanied by God through darkness and uncertainty, even death. "Still, Still with Thee" (1986) sets poetry by Harriet Beecher Stowe. "Abide with Me," which combines the words of Henry Francis Lyte with both the traditional hymn tune, EVENTIDE (by William Henry Monk, Voices United #436), and new music by Jason Locke (2017), was dedicated by Jason (Minister of Music at Toronto's Islington United Church) as a memorial to FSA Music Minister Terry Head, who died unexpectedly on November 17, 2019. He gifted a special printing to our Senior Choir in celebration of Terry's life and work, and we offer it today in worship at First-St. Andrew's for the first time.



***Scripture:** Matthew 25: 14-30

Sermon: "Before There Were Kings"

***Hymn:** VU #590 A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

MEGERRAN

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Jesus

Musical Offering: Still, Still with Thee
Solo: Chris Wood, tenor

John Ness Beck

Still, still with Thee, when purple morning breaketh,
When the bird wakens, and the shadows flee;
Fairer than morning, lovelier than daylight,
Dawns the sweet consciousness, "I am with Thee."

When sinks the soul, subdued by toil to slumber,
Its closing eyes look up to Thee in prayer;
Sweet the repose beneath Thy wings o'ershading,
But sweeter still to wake and find Thee there,
So shall it be at last in that bright morning,
When the soul wakens, and life's shadows flee;
O in that moment, fairer than daylight dawning,
Shall rise the glorious thought, "I am with Thee.
Still, still with Thee."

Text: Harriet Beecher Stowe

Gratitude

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

ST MICHAEL (OLD 134TH)

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:
When in Our Music God is Glorified

Chris Fischer, organ
David Cherwien

The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Patti Crosby-Moldowan, Kaitlin Norman and Karla Peña-Mendez
Narthex Co-ordinator: Janice Elliott
Service Support: George Jolink
Tech Team: Tyler Koustrup, Andrew Richardson, Jim Silcox, Kathryn Skelly and Chris Wood
Coffee and Conversation: Planning Committee
Gift Card Table: Margo Christodoulou and Ken Wright.

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