

**SA, SL, TS & DSM United Churches**  
***167<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Andrew's United Church***  
***– June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025***

**Prelude:** - by Debi Guy

**Welcome & Announcements:**

Thank you for your support of all our past services, which are posted on our websites - [Talbotstreet.ca](http://Talbotstreet.ca) and [Southbuxton.ca](http://Southbuxton.ca)

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

**Call to Worship:**

**Eric:** We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world.

**People:** **We are called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, loving what he loved, living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place.**

**Eric:** Our ancestors in faith bequeath to us experiences of their faithful living;

**People:** **Upon their lives our lives are built.**

**Eric:** Our living of the gospel makes us part of the communion of saints,

**People:** **Experiencing fulfillment in God's reign, actively anticipating a new heaven and a new earth.**

**Eric:** Let us come together, as God's Church, to celebrate God's Spirit, alive in the United Church of Canada for well over 100 years, and at St. Andrew's South Buxton for over 167 years. Come let us worship and celebrate! \*\*

**Opening Hymn:** VU 326 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

*(Methodist hymn sang in the 1925 "church union" service)*

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of God's grace.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken-hearts rejoice,

the humble poor believe.

Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,  
your tongues again employ;  
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,  
and leap, you lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name. \*\*

### **Opening Prayer:**

**People:** The church has not always lived up to its vision. We require the Spirit to reorient it, helping it to live an emerging faith while honouring tradition, challenging it to live by grace rather than entitlement, for we are called to be a blessing to the earth.

**We** are each given particular gifts of the Spirit. For the sake of the world, God calls all followers of Jesus to Christian ministry. In the church, some are called to specific ministries of leadership, both lay and ordered; some witness to the good news; some uphold the art of worship; some comfort the grieving and guide the wandering; some build up the community of wisdom; some stand with the oppressed and work for justice.

To embody God's love in the world, the work of the Church requires the ministry and discipleship of all believers. In grateful response to God's abundant love, we bear in mind our integral connection to the earth and to each other. We participate in God's work of healing and mending creation, as we pray and act in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen. \*\*

### **Responsive Psalm: Isaiah 40: 1 - 8**

#### ***Encourage God's People***

Our God has said: "Encourage my people! Give them comfort.

**Speak kindly to Jerusalem and announce: Your slavery is past; your punishment is over.**

I, the Lord, made you pay double for your sins."

**Someone is shouting: "Clear a path in the desert! Make a straight road for the Lord our God.**

Fill in the valleys; flatten every hill and mountain.

**Level the rough and rugged ground.**

Then the glory of the Lord will appear for all to see.

**The Lord has promised this!"**

Someone told me to shout, and I asked, "What should I shout?"

**We humans are merely grass, and we last no longer than wild flowers.**

At the Lord's command, flowers and grass disappear, and so do we.

**Flowers and grass fade away, but what our God has said will never change.**

### **Children's Story:**

### **Children's Prayer & Lord's Prayer:**

### **Children's Song: VU 43 "Go, Tell It On the Mountain"**

*Go, tell it on the mountain,*

*over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth!

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.*

Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born. \*\**

### **Gospel Reading: John 1: 1 - 14**

#### ***The Word of Life***

In the beginning was the one who is called the Word. The Word was with God and was truly God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. And with this Word, God created all things. Nothing was made without the Word. Everything that was created received its life from him, and his life gave light to everyone. The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out. God sent a man named John, who came to tell about the light and to lead all people to have faith. John wasn't this light. He came only to tell about the light. The true light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. The Word was in the world, but no one knew him, though God had made the world with his Word. He came into his own world, but his own nation did not welcome him. Yet some people accepted him and put their faith in him. So he gave them the right to be the children of God. They were not God's children by nature or because of any human desires. God himself was the one who made them his children. The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him the complete gifts of undeserved grace and truth have come down to us. \*\*

## **History of St. Andrew's United Church:**

### **Message: "167 Years and Counting"**

We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God!

## **History of The United Church Of Canada:**

### **Reflection Hymn: VU 332 "The Church's One Foundation"**

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation by water and the word;  
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore,  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the three in one,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee. \*\*

### **Invitation to Share Our Gifts:**

**Eric:** We strive to offer fullness of life; which includes moments of unexpected inspiration and courage lived out, experiences of beauty, truth, and goodness, blessings of seeds and harvest, friendship and family, intellect and sexuality. We offer our gifts today so all can live the fullness of life.

*Music while collecting Offering:*

### **Offertory: VU 541 "Praise God From Whom..."**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

### **Offertory Prayer:**

**People:** The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy, not only in what is familiar, but also in that which seems foreign. Today as we offer these gifts, we sing of the Spirit, who speaks our prayers of deepest longing, and enfolds our concerns and confessions, transforming us and the world. Thanks be to God, in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**Hymn: VU 400 “Listen To Your Children Praying”**

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

**Pastoral Prayer:**

**Closing Hymn: VU 580 “Faith of Our Fathers”**

Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy,  
whene'er we hear that glorious word:  
    faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
    we will be true to you till death.

Faith of our mothers, daring faith,  
your work for Christ is love revealed,  
spreading God's word from pole to pole,  
making love known and freedom real:  
    faith of our mothers, holy faith,  
    we will be true to you till death.

Faith of our sisters, brothers too,  
who still must bear oppression's might,  
raising on high, in prisons dark,  
the cross of Christ still burning bright:  
    faith for today, O living faith,  
    we will be true to you till death.

Faith born of God, O call us yet;  
bind us with all who follow you,  
sharing the struggle of your cross  
until the world is made anew.  
    Faith born of God, O living faith,  
    we will be true to you till death. \*\*

**Blessing:**

**Eric:** May we reaffirm our commitment to deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. Go with the grace of God, the Father, the compassion of Jesus, the Son, and the wisdom of our sister, the Holy Spirit, now and forever more. \*\*

**Go Now In Peace:**

Go now in peace, never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

**Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**Postlude:** – Debi Guy