

SA, SL, TS and DSM United Churches
St. Andrew's 166th Anniversary Service – June 16th, 2024

Prelude:

Welcome & Announcements:

Good morning! Welcome to St. Andrew's today, as we celebrate our 166th Anniversary Service.

St. Andrew's is hosting their Strawberry Social with Broasted Chicken next Sunday June 23rd at the Merlin hall. Tickets are \$30 each. Take out available.

Thank you for your support of all our services, which are posted on our websites - Southbuxton.ca and Talbotstreet.ca .

Thank you to Debi Guy for this morning's music and to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides, and for Annette projecting today's slides.

Special Music: "Amazing Grace" – Stacey and Terry Griffith

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: We walk by faith, and not by sight.

People: Here at St. Andrew's the Faithful have been leading for over 166 years, looking for and enjoying your company.

Eric: We desire your presence with us today, as we celebrate.

People: As the Spirit moves, let us welcome the unexpected:

Eric: This past year has brought us the very unexpected, yet we have felt you move among us.

People: In 1918, following the return of the World War 1 veterans, this congregation dealt with the unexpected "Spanish Flu" lockdown.

Eric: We trust that they also felt you amongst them, and appreciated your unfathomable love for them.

People: O God, may we too feel you and your astounding grace.

Eric: As we worship this morning, may you surprise us again, as we raise our voices in praise.

Opening Hymn: VU 602 "Blest Be the Ties that Binds"

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.
- 2 Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;

our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

- 3 We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.
- 4 This glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.

Opening Prayer:

Spirit of God, settle in among us; look past our external features and peer inside our hearts. See us for who we really are: yours - Stubborn, doubting, self - centred and yet, still yours. Grant us insight to see as you see and the confidence to allow your unpredictable choices to lead us closer to you. Amen.

Children's Story:

Children's Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Children's Hymn: VU 227 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 20

A Prayer for Victory

I pray that the Lord will listen when you are in trouble, and that the God of Jacob will keep you safe.

May the Lord send help from his temple and come to your rescue from Mount Zion.

May he remember your gifts and be pleased with what you bring.

May God do what you want most and let all go well for you.

Then you will win victories, and we will celebrate, while raising our banners in the name of our God.

May the Lord answer all your prayers!

I am certain, Lord, that you will help your chosen king.

You will answer my prayers from your holy place in heaven, and you will save me with your mighty arm.

Some people trust the power of chariots or horses, but we trust you, Lord God.

Others will stumble and fall, but we will be strong and stand firm.

Give the king victory, Lord, and answer our prayers.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16 1 - 13

The Lord was sorry he had made Saul the king of Israel. One day he said, "Samuel, I've rejected Saul, and I refuse to let him be king any longer. Stop feeling sad about him. Put some olive oil in a small container and go visit a man named Jesse, who lives in Bethlehem. I've chosen one of his sons to be my king." Samuel answered, "If I do that, Saul will find out and have me killed." "Take a calf with you," the Lord replied. "Tell everyone that you've come to offer it as a sacrifice to me, then invite Jesse to the sacrifice. When I show you which one of his sons I have chosen, pour the olive oil on his head." Samuel did what the Lord told him and went to Bethlehem. The town leaders went to meet him, but they were terribly afraid and asked, "Is this a friendly visit?" "Yes, it is!" Samuel answered. "I've come to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Get yourselves ready to take part in the sacrifice and come with me." Samuel also invited Jesse and his sons to come to the sacrifice, and he got them ready to take part. When Jesse and his sons arrived, Samuel noticed Jesse's oldest son. "He has to be the one the Lord has chosen," Samuel said to himself. But the Lord told him, "Samuel, don't think he is the one just because he's tall and handsome. He isn't the one I've chosen. People judge others by what they look like, but I judge people by what is in their hearts." One by one, Jesse told all seven of his sons to go over to Samuel. Finally, Samuel said, "Jesse, the Lord hasn't chosen any of these young men. Do you have any other sons?" "Yes," Jesse answered. "My youngest son David is out taking care of the sheep." "Send for him!" Samuel said. "We won't start the ceremony until he gets here." Jesse sent for David. He was a healthy, good-looking boy with a sparkle in his eyes. As soon as David came, the Lord told Samuel, "He's the one! Get up and pour the olive oil on his head." Samuel poured the oil on David's head while his brothers watched. At that moment, the Spirit of the Lord took control of David and stayed with him from then on.

Message: "Leaders at St. Andrew's"

Yes, no, maybe, not now, who – me? How do we answer the call to leadership? Do we believe the call to leadership comes from God? If we accept the call, can we trust that God will equip us and guide us with every step of the journey? It's not an easy answer; to accept the call and to trust God – that God will be there to help us. But today we hear the call of David. There is no doubt that David is being called when Samuel anoints him with oil. It may not be that obvious when we are called – but then again it might just be that obvious.

Throughout the years at St. Andrew's, the change in leadership was likely accompanied by anxiety and uncertainty. Leadership in earlier years of St.

Andrew's would connect as a leader both in public life and church life. Those called to leadership learnt as they lead; either from the existing wise leaders or from their mistakes. As leaders, we are not perfect. If we waited until our leaders were perfect – nothing would get done. Great leaders get out there and make decisions. When they realize they have made the wrong decision they make changes immediately to lessen the losses. Mistakes are considered to be a learning. The goal is to learn as fast as you can, and try not to make the same mistake twice.

Today we hear David's call story. King Saul, who was Israel's own choice for king, ultimately disobeyed God. Change in leadership was needed. Israel's next king would be one of God's choosing, and God's choice would surprise everyone. A young man, hardly more than a boy. Samuel tells us that God looks deep into the heart, not to external qualities.

As the story goes, one by one, each of Jesse's seven sons are rejected by God. They were strong good-looking men, even with some brain smarts – but God, we are told, does not look on the outside – God was not looking at skin colour, age, or gender. No, God does not use physical characteristics, birth order, or other standard criteria. What matters to God is the core of one's character and intentions. Samuel finally anoints Jesse's youngest son, the one overlooked and left in the field with the sheep. Jesse had to send someone to bring David home to meet Samuel. "He's the one", God says to Samuel, "Anoint him"!

Even though God has picked David to be the next King, and Samuel has anointed David, David will have to wait until the time is right and likely until David is older and has had opportunities to prove himself. As leaders are picked, usually they are not expected to jump right in and take over. They need some time to be familiar with the job and they too need opportunities to show they can be trusted and they can do the job.

God picked David to be the next king – the leader of the Nation of Israel. As we tell more of the story over the next few weeks, we will see that David builds a strong team of leaders to help him. Great leaders find those people who can help support their leadership. As with David, and with us in the church today, we rely on God to help, lead and guide us in our leadership roles. Much of what we do in the church we do for God. It makes sense that God is involved and consulted in prayer.

Many United Churches have selected young adults to help with their leadership team. Not only can the young adults give input into decisions from their generation, it also helps to prepare them as leaders in our community and in the church. In the

past year, these young adults have been instrumental in getting their churches online and relevant during the pandemic. Young adults have offered to host the technology for Sunday morning. They've offered to produce the videos into the finished product. They offer their own version of a Bible Study electronically for their fellow young adults. Technology and youth are like two peas in a pod. To those young leaders, they can lead in what they know very well and understand better than anyone over 40. The young people have become an unexpected gift to our church.

As the old saying goes: "God does not call those who are equipped to lead; God equips those who are called". We in the church have seen this lived out when we encourage our leaders to become Bible study teachers, Sunday School teachers, worship leaders, capital project managers, and other roles in churches. If we as the church can offer the proper support, those folks do become good leaders. The story of David's anointing suggests that the qualities that constitute a good leader are sometimes apparent to God, but not always obvious to the rest of us. Today's scripture reminds us that God calls leaders to unexpected leadership. We must remember God is on our team! We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 288 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,

strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: David led when called – imperfectly, but obedient to God. Let us live into and share the gifts God has given us – our talents, our resources, and our very lives. Let us give in love!

Offertory: VU 544 “In Gratitude and Humble Trust”

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

Offertory Prayer:

People: For the gift of those in leadership, may we offer our support, and in so doing, respect and honour you, Holy One, and your role in their choosing. For the gift of talents you provide to each of us, may we be thankful. Help us commit to exercising them to do your work. While our offering today may seem small compared to your generosity, may it be the seed you use to grow our community into a place where everyone finds rest and welcome. Amen.

Chorus to Prayer: VU 400 “Lord, 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:

Special Music: “It’s a Wonderful World” – Stacey Griffith

Closing Hymn: VU 686 “God of Grace, and God of Glory”

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;

bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.

Blessing:

Eric: As we go, may we expect the unexpected. May we go leading by serving. May we remember those leaders gone before us, as we continue their work. Go in peace, love and joy, now and forever more.

Closing Chorus: VU 602 "Blest Be the Ties That Bind"

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude: