

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Minister: The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Music Director: Gillian Lyons

Choir Conductor/Soloist: Terri-Lynn Mitchell

April 19th, 2020

2nd Sunday of Easter

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses" - Acts 2:32

Welcome and Announcements

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prayer of Adoration

Praise: "The Day of Resurrection" #249

The day of resurrection-earth, tell it out abroad, the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God! From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky, our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light, and, listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain, his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin; let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein; invisible and visible, their notes together blend, for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

Prayer of Confession:

O God, in raising Jesus from the dead, you showed us your power to defeat all that brings fear and sorrow to our lives. In his resurrection, Jesus promised to be with us always. Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain about how to find him. Like Thomas, we are unsure if we can trust the promise of resurrection for ourselves. Forgive us when we struggle with doubt about your presence with us. Breathe your Spirit upon us and bring us the peace Christ promised. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Praise: "Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord" #260

Chorus: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord; alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the King of creation:

Spread the good news o'er all the earth; Jesus has died and has risen:

We have been crucified with Christ; now we shall live forever:

Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour:

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 16

John 20: 19-31

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

Leader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon: "We are all witnesses"

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Solo: "Alleluia" -Mozart

Prayers of the People

Leader: Lord, in your mercy;

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Praise: "Thine be the glory" #258

Chorus: Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son, endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son, endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won; angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes, where thy body lay.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom; let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life; life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife; make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love: bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Benediction and Sung Response

Amen, Amen, A - - men.

Musical Postlude "Lord of the dance" arr. Carter

Announcements



Dear Friends in Christ,

What a blessing it has been to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with you all through the gift of technology. Though this year's Easter did not follow the usual pattern of gathering joyfully in the sanctuary, it is certainly one that I will never forget. Thank you all for your kind words and prayers and for tuning into online worship through Holy Week.

It was a joy also to get to catch up with your St. Andrew's Session and Board at our meeting on Tuesday night (update below). In these times of social isolation, it is wonderful to hear about all of the good phone conversations, emails, and check-ins that are happening throughout the church community. Thank you all for taking the time to reach out to one another and maintain the bonds of fellowship in this time.

This week, as I have been reflecting on the power of a simple check-in with a brother or sister in Christ, I have been praying through this passage (with thanks to my friend and mentor Rev. Dr. Jean Morris):

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep..."



Sometimes, as Christ's followers, we do not feel that we are doing enough.

Sometimes, as Christ's witnesses, we feel that we are letting the kingdom down.

Sometimes, as we spend our days in isolation, unable to see and to reach out to those whom we love, we feel that our world and our

hearts are shrinking.

In those days, our Lord comes close and reminds us of what is truly important:

"Feed my lambs"

"Tend my sheep"

"Feed my sheep"

Lord, we know that you are the Great Shepherd.

We know that the sheep, the field, and everything in it are yours; that there is nothing in creation beyond your ability to redeem for your purposes.

Move within our hearts, O Lord, remind us of the gracious call you make: that though you tend us and care for us, you also give us the ability to tend and care for one another.

Give us the strength to do so.

That in seeking your rod and staff, your cross for ourselves, we would more fully grow into your likeness and walk more humbly and closely with you.

That in both green pastures and dark valleys we would walk in your ways and love one another with your heart.

The heart that you so readily poured out for our salvation and our freedom; that we might learn to accept your love and tend your flock.

Amen.

Blessings,

The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli



Update on Church Building Closure:

Your St. Andrew's Session and Board met by Zoom conference on Tuesday evening. Our ongoing church building closure was discussed and it was decided that we will keep our doors closed for the time being. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely and to discuss and communicate any future decisions with

the congregation.

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of the **Board**, I wish to thank members of St Andrew's who took time to review the church's financial statement and proposed 2020 Budget. We received a couple of enquiries concerning the Budget that our Treasurer answered with alacrity.

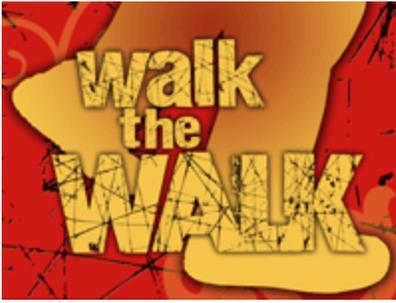
As of 2nd April, the church office had received 37 'Yes' votes approving the financial statement and budget; no negative votes were sent in. The Board and the Session agreed at a special meeting on 14 April that this constitutes sufficient support for the proposed budget from members to consider it passed.



Of course, with the public health situation changing from day to day, the Board (and Session) are aware that aspects of the 2020 budget will almost certainly have to be revised in light of unforeseen developments. It might be the case that a special congregational meeting will need to occur in the late summer or early autumn (or perhaps even later) to approve a revised budget. The Board will keep both Session and the congregation informed about any significant revisions to the budget as events unfold.

The Board is also grateful to the congregation for finding ways to support the church financially in the absence of regular worship. Such actions are a testimony of love and gratitude in extraordinary times: Thank you!

Matthew Neufeld



St. Andrew's Walkers:

With the Global Walk challenge concluding this month, Nurse Laura is inviting all new and returning St. Andrew's walkers to embark a new journey: all 90km of the Meewasin Trail! Through the month of May we will be working as a team to log kilometres and cover the 90km trail as a group. Please contact Nurse Laura to get involved (lauralene66@gmail.com). Special thanks to Jeff O'Brien, Chief Archivist at the City of Saskatoon