

**St. Andrew's River Heights United Church
Thanksgiving Sunday
October 9, 2011**

ORDER OF SERVICE

*Congregation please stand, as you are able, and join congregational responses in **bold print**.

(Listening aids are available in the narthex; large print bulletins with hymns are available from the usher's table.)

CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING

Emma Roche

PRELUDE:

Now thank we all our God

arr. M. Burkhardt

We Gather

WELCOME

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

We Approach Our God

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Do you remember who first invited you to worship?

We come in praise for those who brought us here.

K: Do you remember the first community of faithful ones you joined?

L: A nursery class who welcomed you with care and open arms?

K: A youth group who accompanied you with energy and open minds?

L: A small group meeting in someone's home?

K: A congregation, large or small, urban or rural, quiet folk or rowdy ones?

We come in praise for those who meet and receive us here.

L: Do you remember the God you have come to worship?

K: The One who delivered Israel from Egypt;

L: the Maker of Earth and Sky;

K: the Ground of all Being;

L: the God of Jesus, born of Mary;

We come to worship God in remembrance that leads to hope.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (unison):

God of the harvest, from seed and sun you have blessed us with a harvest to help feed the world. For this we give you our highest thanks. You also offer us seed and sun for the times of famine in our lives. In the times we know the famine of silence and grief, cause us to remember you as the God of harvest. For with you, the faith we offer serves as seed for the harvest of your life-giving food. Amen.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 516**

Come, You Thankful People, Come ST GEORGE'S, WINDSOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison):

Forgive us, God, when we forget you, speaking and acting and organizing as though you are not here. Forgive us, O God, when we forget you: failing to see you in neighbour, failing to care for you in creation, failing to recognize your Spirit in our own being. Forgive us, O God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUNG RESPONSE: **MV68**

Kyrie Eleison (Guarani)

O God have mercy, O God have mercy,
O God have mercy, have mercy on us.

*HYMN: **MV182**

Grateful

T. Tomaszek

CHILDREN'S TIME

We Listen for God's Word

SOLO: When I Think upon Thy Goodness
(Soloist: Susanne Reimer)

Franz Joseph

THE HEBREW LESSON: Exodus 32:1-14 O.T. pg.78

read by Barbara Coombs

THE EPISTLE READING: Matthew 22:1-14 N.T. pg.24

read by Kevin Coombs

ANTHEM: All good gifts (from "Godspell")

Arr. by John Leavitt

Music and Words adapted by Stephen Schwartz

(Soprano solo: Heather Kozak; Flute: Sarah Cory; Cello: Yaxin Sun)

MESSAGE: “What Is Essential Is Invisible to the Eye”

*HYMN: **517**

Praise God for the Harvest

STOWEY

We Make Our Response

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS:

K: On behalf of the Caring Community of the church, we present these prayer shawls to be dedicated to the glory and praise of God. Each shawl is knit or crocheted with prayers or blessings in mind for the recipients.

L: We give thanks for the work of human hands for we know that in this world we are God’s hands and feet. We ask for God’s blessing upon these shawls that we may return them to God’s service.

(Karen and Lesley lay on hands on shawls)

Creator God, source of all inspiration and beauty, we thank you for the gift of these prayer shawls now dedicated to the glory of your name. May the beauty of their colours, and the hours of knitting in prayerful reflection invite us to ponder the symbols and stories of our faith, and the rhythm of life’s seasons. May they comfort the lives of your people, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY:

Sonata

G. Martini

*DOXOLOGY: **537** (verse 1)

Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands

KILMARNOCK

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU914)

We Go Forth

*RECESSIONAL HYMN: **236**

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET

*BLESSING

*BENEDICTION: **MV212**

Sent Out in Jesus' Name

POSTLUDE:

Now thank we all our God (from Cantata #79)

J. S. Bach

Our postlude music is a time for quiet reflection and listening, or it can be a time to leave the sanctuary and greet the ministers at the back of the church and begin coffee hour and fellowship with others. Please feel free to choose either option!

Anyone who would like to take home either the extra vegetables or flowers from the Thanksgiving display is more than welcome to do so.



Please join us for coffee, tea and juice
after the service.



Welcome to Worship

We extend a special welcome to all our guests and newcomers. Please sign our guest register and introduce yourself to an usher so that we may help you feel at home. Would you like someone to phone you about St. Andrew's River Heights United Church? Please leave your phone number in the register and a representative of the Fellowship and Pastoral Care Committee will be happy to contact you. You are welcome to take this bulletin home with you. If not, please place your bulletin in the paper-recycling bin.



The Anthem this week

The text of the hymn which Stephen Schwartz included in his hit Musical "Godspell", is a very popular harvest hymn in the English speaking world. It was originally an 18th century German poem and was translated by Jane Montgomery Campbell in 1861. Schwartz included two of the original four verses in "Godspell". The show appeared as an off-Broadway production in 1971, and has remained popular ever since. This arrangement features a soprano soloist that introduces the main melody, and later "improvises" "I really want to thank you, Lord" above the choir. There is also a flute and cello accompaniment added to the piano.

Sunday School

The scriptures in the Sunday School today are: Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and Luke 17:11-19. Thanksgiving is a time to be aware that our bounty comes sometimes at the expense of others. The passages from the lectionary remind us that God has provided the feast for all people, and that we, whose plates are full, must commit ourselves to share with those whose plates are empty. In the Sunday School this morning, we will be remembering with thanks God's love and bounty.

The United Church of Canada

ST. ANDREW'S RIVER HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH

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