

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

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Transfer of Membership Sunday & Reconvening of Sunday School Teachers Sunday, September 18, 2011



Our Mission

To send our people into the world
restored, refreshed, forgiven, and joyful;
to live as Christ would have us live,
with love and justice as our goals.

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

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

PRELUDE:

Ar hyd y nos (For the fruit of all creation)

arr. W. Held

We Gather

WELCOME

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

We Approach Our God

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

*People of God, we do not live by our own strength alone,
but draw life from God.*

God is our root, deeply planted and firmly established.

*Let us draw close to God, listening for guidance and trusting
in divine love. Let us worship God together.*

PRAYER OF APPROACH (unison):

O God, though your ways are hidden from our sight, and your messengers often come to us in disguise, there is no question about the reality of your astonishing grace in our lives. We give you thanks for blessings we have recognized and blessings we are slow to realize. We thank you for mercies plain and mercies concealed. Give us eyes to see your glory, ears to hear your word, and faith to act on holy impulses when no guarantee of results is in sight. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: **227**

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God, you pour your living Spirit into our lives. We confess that we are not receptive to your presence. You stir us like the unpredictable wind – suggesting astonishing things like feeding and forgiving our enemies, when we feel most uncharitable.

Without your Spirit, we are as lifeless dry bones strewn in the desert.

O God, you can bring us to life again – sensitive to the presence and call of your Spirit.

Forgive us and make us receptive to your Spirit. 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: MV127**

I Saw the Rich Ones

Mayberry

***RECOVENANTING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:**

Introduction

Names of Teachers

Minister: A covenant is always between at least three parties. We believe that God is part of the covenant. At times of Baptism and Confirmation we confirm our faith—we state what we believe about God our Creator, Jesus our teacher and example, the Holy Spirit our daily support and guide.

On occasions like this, a Recovenanting Service, we confirm what we will do. As your ministers of this congregation we will seek to nurture the vision of all of us being together with the worldwide human family as “The Whole People of God.”

Teachers: We offer our gifts through the leading and the teaching of the children and youth of this church. We promise to prepare carefully, listen patiently, and share ourselves fully, as together we learn and seek to be “Alive in God’s Way.”

Children and Youth: We thank God for our Sunday School and for the teaching of Jesus. We will come, so together we may grow toward the fullness of all we can be.

Congregation: We echo these sentiments. Thank you, teachers, for offering your gifts. Thank you children and young people for being amongst us—not as the church of

**the future but as an important part of the church now.
May God bless us as we come together Sunday by Sunday
to restore our lives as the Whole People of God.**

Minister: *We have made a covenant to be God's people in
this place. May God bless us and give us Shalom.*

All: **Amen.**

We Listen for God's Word

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20:1-16 N.T. pg.21

read by Bernard Boland

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM: Rejoice, O land

Derek Healey

Rejoice, O land, in God thy might,
His will obey, Him serve aright;
For Thee the saints uplift their voice:
Fear not, O land, in God rejoice.

Glad shalt thou be, with blessing crowned,
With joy and peace thou shalt abound;
Yea, Love with thee shall make His home
Until thou see God's kingdom come.

He shall forgive thy sins untold:
Remember thou His love of old;
Walk in His way, His word adore,
And keep His truth for evermore.

MESSAGE: "Beyond Mountains There Are Mountains" (Haitian proverb)

*HYMN: **260**

God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness

ABBOT'S LEIGH

We Make Our Response

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS:

Statement of Purpose

Introduction

Minister:

Sandra and Jodie, will you join with us as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice and resist evil?

New Member:

I will with God's help.

***Congregational Commitment** (unison):

As your brothers and sisters in the community of faith, we welcome you. We rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church together.

Presentation of Candles: (ministers light the candles from the Christ Candle and pass to new members)

Welcome

OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY:

Melodie

A. Guilmant

*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

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

We Go Forth

*RECESSIONAL HYMN: **651**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

*BLESSING

*BENEDICTION: **MV212**

Sent Out in Jesus' Name

POSTLUDE:

Sortie on "Conditor alme siderum"

A. Guilmant

*Today we welcome Sandra Brown and Jodie Smith
who have transferred their membership
to St. Andrew's River Heights United Church.*



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

Although Derek Healey was born in England, and now lives in retirement in The United States, an important part of his career was spent in Canada. Of note are his settings of Canadian folk songs and of the Robert Service poem "In Flanders Fields". This is a setting of the Robert Bridges poem which was published in the *Yattendon Hymnal* in 1899. Premiered one hundred years later at the end of the 20th century, this sturdy anthem is a fitting way to look forward to the new Church year.

Sunday School

"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread". The theme in the Sunday School this week is to appreciate God's generosity. The scripture readings this week are: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16. The readings describe people in difficult situations who experience God's generous gifts of daily bread. We pray "Give us..." not "Give me..." and we are challenged to live what we pray.

The United Church of Canada

ST. ANDREW'S RIVER HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH

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Ministers:	All the people of the congregation
Clergy:	Lesley Fox Karen Lumley
Ministry of Music:	Wes Elias Derek Morphy
Interim Sunday School Superintendent:	Tara McCallum
Office:	Maggie Zoske Bill Craddock
Caretaker:	Lou Jubinville

