

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth  
Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**Are we Changed?  
Transfiguration Sunday  
Luke 9:28-36**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**New Member Class**

Everyone is invited to join the new member class where we are working through understanding what it means to be a church member. Even if you are not considering joining the church or are already a church member this class is free for you to join. **Saturdays at 9:30am**

**Confirmation Class**

This class is for anyone considering confirmation or baptism, it will cover the same material as the New Member class with the addition of a study on the apostle's creed and how to give personal testimony. This class is also open to any who wish to attend. **Mondays at 7:00pm.**

**Bible Studies**

The book of Esther is being Studied on **Mondays with Walter**. If you are interested, please reach out to him

The book of James is our current Community Bible Study, and it takes place on **Wednesdays at 8am, 12pm and 7pm, as well as Thursdays at 7pm by zoom.**

**Youth Group**

The youth group is once again meeting. This will be a time of study and fellowship and will take place on **Fridays at 4pm**. All youth are invited and encouraged to bring their friends.

**Ash Wednesday Service**

This Wednesday March 2nd, marks the First day of Lent, often called Ash Wednesday and it is a day where we recognize the truth of Jesus's journey to the cross and our part in it as Christians. We will celebrate this day with a service that will take place at 6:00 pm.

This service is meant to be the beginning of the process of self-evaluation that Christians are meant to go through during the season of Lent. There will be the opportunity to receive the Ashes, a mark that symbolizes that we are reflecting on our lives and eventual death.

The Ash Wednesday service is not specifically laid out in the Bible, but the concept of using ashes to show repentance, dates to the story of Job and when he covered himself in ash as a sign of repentance. We also see ashes appear in the stories of Esther, Samuel, Isaiah, and Jeremiah.

So, we invite everyone who is joining us together through this season of Lent to join us for the service and begin this time of self-reflection and self-evaluation together.

### **Call to Worship**

Our God is mighty and merciful, ruling with kindness over all the earth;  
**Let all people praise God's holy name.**

The Lord loves justice and creates equity for all God's people;  
**We come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing songs of joyful praise;**

For the Christ of glory shines in this place;  
**The Holy Spirit meets us here, and so we come to worship.**

### **Prayer of Adoration**

God of grace and God of glory,  
you reveal your presence to the world  
in radiant glory and gentle whispers,  
on mountain tops and lowly plains,  
in classrooms and hospital beds,  
in homes and churches,  
in the silence of nature and the sounds of cities.  
Yours is the presence that pushes past our fears,  
yours is the touch that transforms our doubts.  
We come before you to celebrate your goodness,  
to focus on your light,  
and offer you all praise, honor and thanksgiving,  
for you are our God and we are your people,  
now and always.

**Opening Hymn # 13: “Ye Gates Lift Up Your Heads” (V 1, 2)**

Ye gates lift up your heads on high;  
 ye doors that last for aye,  
 be lifted up, that so the King  
 of glory enter may.  
 But who of glory is the King?  
 The mighty Lord is this,  
 even that same Lord that great in might  
 and strong in battle is.

Refrain:  
 Alleluia! alleluia!  
 alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!  
 Amen, amen, amen.

Ye gates, lift up your heads; ye doors,  
 doors that do last for aye,  
 be lifted up, that so the King  
 of glory enter may.  
 But who is he that is the King,  
 the King of glory? who is this?  
 The Lord of hosts, and none but he,  
 the King of glory is.

**Call to Confession**

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of mercy and forgiveness,  
 facing the light of your goodness,  
 we confess all that keeps us from sharing that goodness.  
 We are distracted by the desire to have more than we need.  
 We focus on our own disappointments  
 rather than trust the future you create.  
 We feel discouraged by the pandemic  
 and fail to claim the hope you hold out to us in Christ.**

**Transfigure us by your grace,  
and shape us into disciples who follow Christ's leading each day.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Do not be afraid. God's forgiveness shines into the world.  
The morning star rises in our hearts and we are made new.  
Know that you are forgiven and forgive one another in Christ's name.

### **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 the Evil One.  
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Responsive Reading**

Catechism: The Catechism is a summary of the Christian faith. It used to be taught to and usually memorized by everyone before they became a church member. There are many different Catechism, the Westminster Shorter Catechism is the one that is predominately used in the Presbyterian faith as it was approved as the primary form of instruction in faith by the Church of Scotland. It is interesting to note that the Free Church of Scotland will still give a free Bible to any child who can answer all 107 questions in a single sitting.

As part of our responsive readings, we will be answering a few questions each week; I hope that they serve as a jumping point for each of us to explore our Faith in new ways. If you have questions or seek the scripture that supports each question, I would invite you to reach out to me. I hope to run a proper Catechism class at some point this year for anyone who is interested.

*Question 1. What is God's purpose for our lives?*

**We have been made for joy: joy in knowing, loving and serving God, joy in knowing, loving and serving one another, joy in the wonder of all God's works.**

Gen 1:27-28, Isa 65:18

*Question 2. What does it mean to know, love and serve God?*

**We know God in Jesus Christ witnessed to in scripture. We love and serve God in worship and in the care and compassion we show for all creation. Worship draws us into the work of Christ. In union with him we pray and work for the healing and salvation of the world. Christ calls us to a life of kindness and generosity. How can we love God, whom we cannot see, without loving those whom we can see?**

Jn 1:18, Mt 22:37-39, 1 Jn 4:20

**Music Ministry: “Find In Me A Thankful Heart”**

**Prayer for illumination**

God of all wisdom and truth,  
we seek your guidance as we hear the Scriptures read and interpreted today.  
Send your Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts,  
to give us fresh understanding and a renewed commitment to follow your Word. Amen

**Scripture**

**Luke 9:28-36**

**The Transfiguration**

**<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup> who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup> As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” <sup>36</sup> And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.**

**Children’s Hymn # 655: “Give Me Oil In My Lamp” (V 1, 4)**

Give me oil in my lamp; keep me burning;  
give me oil in my lamp, I pray.

Give me oil in my lamp; keep me burning;  
keep me burning till the break of day.

Refrain:

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the Servant King;  
sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna, let us sing!

Give me love in my heart; keep me serving;  
give me love in my heart, I pray.  
Give me love in my heart; keep me serving;  
keep me serving till the break of day.

(Refrain)

### **Children's Lesson**

In today's gospel reading we hear a story about a time when Jesus took Peter, John and James to an incredible event! We call this event the transfiguration, which is just a fancy name for change.

While they are there on the mountaintop, Peter, John and James get to see Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah, two of the most important people from the Old Testament, religious legends to many of the Jews who lived around Jesus's time. Peter is so excited to witness this that he does not know what to do, so he offers to build some tents so that they can all stay on the mountaintop together. I think he was just so excited that he wanted the moment he was living to go on forever, kind of like when we are doing something we enjoy, and we never want it to stop.

Then when they think nothing can get better, Peter, John and James hear the voice of God. Could you imagine hearing the voice of God? They hear it speak and it tells them that they are to listen to and obey Jesus because he is the Son of God! Just imagine how amazing that would be.

However, just like in real life we cannot always keep doing what we want to do or stay where we want to stay. Peter, John and James must accept that they have to come down from the mountain. They have to go back to travelling with Jesus and helping him with his ministry.

Yet this story is about a transfiguration because something has changed! Do you know what has changed?

Jesus's life has changed. He glowed while on top of the mountain showing that he was truly God and Peter, John and James all know that Jesus is telling the truth when he says he is the Son of God. They are not guessing he might be, or they are not thinking he could be, they know he is the Son of God, because God told them so.

They know the truth about who Jesus is and this changes all their lives, because now they know what they are called to do for the rest of their lives. It's a moment filled with many changes. The disciples move on from that mountain with a new idea of who Jesus is and how they are to serve and obey him, and Jesus changes too. You see this story marks the beginning of Lent, the beginning of Jesus's journey to Jerusalem, to the Last Supper and eventually to his death on the cross and his resurrection.

This Wednesday is the First day of Lent, often called Ash Wednesday and it is a day where we recognize the truth of Jesus's journey to the cross and our part in it as Christians. This Sunday marks for all of us the beginning of our journey together towards Easter and we should all move on like the disciples, filled with awe and wonder as we obey our Lord Jesus Christ and letting him make changes in our life to be better followers of Him.

Let us Pray,

Amazing God, we thank you for teaching us about the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountaintop. We thank you for all the changes we have seen in our own lives because of you being at work in our lives. Help us all to recognize these changes that happen in us and in the lives of those we love so that we can offer you praise and thanks. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Sermon

Mountains are important in scripture.

Moses Climbed up mount Sinai, he disappeared into a cloud that had come down to rest upon its top. The cloud that represented the presence of God on that mountain. Moses stayed on that mountain in that haze for days, apart from the world and in the presence of the Lord. After receiving the ten commandments from God, he slowly makes his way back down the mountain.

At the bottom, the people cannot look at him, he has changed in some way. They cannot look at his face, they avert their eyes from him. They can see that something has happened on the mountain to Moses, his face is glowing bright, and it scares those who look upon him.

Four hundred years later something similar happens with Elijah. Elijah climbs a mountain, this time there is no cloud. Instead, there is an earthquake and the sound of thunder that somehow represents God's presence on the mountain. Elijah fears that his face will be too bright like Moses' face was, so he covers it with a mantle. He comes to the mouth of the cave and hears the Voice.

Nine hundred years after Elijah, Jesus and three of his disciples climb up a mountain to pray. Peter, James, John and Jesus intend to spend some time set apart from the crowds in prayer. The disciples are just like many of us, they are having trouble focusing on prayer. They were with Jesus praying, their minds started to wander off, they started to get a little too comfortable and a little bit sleepy, dozing while they prayed.

Just as they are at the point of rest a sudden change occurs, they are no longer alone on the mountain with Jesus. Jesus himself has changed he is not the man they walked up the mountain with, He is glowing, shining, emanating glory. As light comes forth from him, not a reflection of light like was on the face of Moses, but a light that comes from within him.

The two men that have joined them are Moses and Elijah, The great law giver and the great prophet. The two other men who met God upon mountain tops in the scripture. Peter, James and John are overwhelmed. Peter stammers out something about setting up tents for the three men, completely unaware of what he is saying.

Then the clouds descend upon them. The cloud that represented God's presence to the people of Moses's time. They are afraid, they do not know what to expect. Then they hear the Voice. The Voice of God in the presence of God telling them that Jesus is the Son of God, the chosen one, and they are to listen to Him.

Then as suddenly as it occurred it is over. They are once again alone on the mountaintop praying with Jesus. They have no way to understand, comprehend or explain what has happened to them, so they keep it to themselves, not sharing what had happened with the other disciples.

The transfiguration of Christ is a critical event in the lives of these disciples. Peter was so impacted by the transfiguration that he wrote about it.

### **2 Peter 1:16-18**

**<sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," <sup>18</sup> we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.**



They had witnessed the power and glory of God on that mountain. They had seen Jesus meet with Moses and Elijah. Moses, the man who carried down God's laws from the cloud covered mountaintop, the one who set about the Law of Moses that all Jews obeyed. Elijah, the prophet or prophets, the one prophet who is held in such high esteem that he still is mentioned at the end of almost every Sabbath day and the one who an empty seat is left for at the Passover feast even by Jewish people today.

These two men were a complete representation of the entirety of the Old Testament scriptures. On that mountain these three disciples witnessed a coming together of the Old Testament and the New in Jesus Christ.

Luke leaves out one element that is mentioned in Matthew

**Matthew 17:6**

**<sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear."**

When they witnessed all of this, they were terrified. They were enveloped in the cloud in God's presence. Laying their eyes upon two of the most recognized people in Jewish history having a conversation with their teacher, Jesus. Then the voice of God rang out in their ears, and they fell on their faces in fear.

God was making a statement upon that mountaintop. He had brought the two most prominent people he could to that mountaintop and let the disciples lay eyes upon them for a reason.

Moses and Elijah were very important to the Jewish faith, God planned for them to be there and be seen. He wanted James, John and Peter to know who they were, to recognize their importance and then once the event was over to have them disappear with the clouds. He wanted these men to know that Moses and Elijah were the most faithful of Gods servants, But Jesus, Jesus was the Son of God!

The Voice of God declared '**This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!**' God was making it clear to these three men that Jesus was much more than a lawgiver or a prophet. God wanted them to know and understand that Jesus was the only one with the power and authority in Heaven to demand that mankind listen and obey.

Jesus had the power to make people listen to him, Jesus has the power to make people obey him and yet he did not do that.

**Philippians 2:5-9**

**<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born**

**in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Jesus is God. He has the power and authority to do whatever he wishes, and he set all of that aside to come to Earth and die upon the cross for our sins, so his blood could pay the penalty that we owe to God and bring us forgiveness from our debts.

Here upon the Mount of Transfiguration, God is telling the disciples that this is My Son, Listen to Him, obey Him. He is not just another great teacher, He is not just another prophet, He is not just another moral leader. He is so much more than that. In fact, he is far greater than those whom you consider to be the greatest, He is greater than Moses and Elijah combined.

He is the Son of God. You can listen to Him; you can obey Him and through him be saved.

Peter made it clear when in the book of Acts he said:

**Acts 4:12**

**<sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."**

You are not going to be saved by following Elijah, or Moses, or Buddha, Hara Krishna, Or Mohammad, or any other false prophet or manmade religious leader or Religion. You are saved by Christ alone, because Jesus can do for us what no one else can do. He can remove the debt of our sins against God, he can transform us through the Holy Spirit into the Children of God. No one else can do that. No One.

It is Jesus or nothing.

Those three men understood this like no one else ever will, for they were witnesses to the truth in person. That mountaintop experience forever changed Peter.

**2 Peter 1:16**

**<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty**

He knew Jesus was the one true path to God because he had experienced it. He had been in the presence of the Lord of Lords and knew the truth. He had seen it, experienced it and it profoundly changed the way he understood his faith and shaped his life.

It changed the way that James and John lived their lives, they both become dedicated followers of Christ. Living their lives to serve out his teachings. Living their lives as an example of what all Christians are called to be in this world.

These mountaintop experiences changed the lives of everyone who walked up and met God. Once they experienced God, they were never the same.

And here we are just 2000 years later. In a society which claims to be spiritual, in a society where many people claim to have religious experiences. Yet, while many people claim to be spiritual and have religious experiences, the truth is that very few of them attend church regularly.

How is it that so many people can claim to have met God and not be changed in the way that James, John and Peter were changed?

Maybe we are not having as dramatic an experience in our lives as James, Peter and John. We are not climbing up upon the mountain top and experiencing the clouds coming down over us and the booming, thunderous Voice of the Lord. Perhaps our experiences with God are a little more subtle, that sense of awe that overwhelms you when you receive the sacrament of the eucharist, maybe it is the sense of peace that you feel when you are praying, or someone is praying over you. Maybe it is just that sense of calm in chaos that Christians experience when the world is out of control all around them and they know that Christ is in control.

Yet, no matter how dramatic our experiences with God may have been, I would be willing to bet that none of our faces glowed physically like that of Moses's when he came down from the mountain.

So how are we to react to be transfigured through our experiences with God? What can we learn from the unique experiences of Moses, of Elijah and of Jesus when Peter, John and James witnessed his transfiguration?

First off, we must understand that we have experienced God. When we have a religious experience, a spiritual experience it should impact us in some way. Peter, James and John were terrified, sure they might have proudly written about it later in life, but in that moment, they were full of fear. They knew that something beyond their understanding was taking place.

Sure, we may not have that same experience, but how often in life do we attribute something to luck or to karma and not recognize that it was God's hand at work in our lives? How often do we tell a fellow Christian that they are lucky instead of blessed? I ask this in all seriousness, because I believe that for many people, they fail to recognize God's actions in their lives. God is at work in the lives of all people, and sometimes we need to call that to people's attention.

Out of all the people who claim to have had a spiritual experience, who have claimed to sensed God at work in their lives, very few of them let it have any impact upon their lives. They write it off as luck, as karma, as good timing and it makes absolutely no difference in how they live their lives day to day. Even when they do acknowledge that God is active in their lives, they fail to praise and worship him, instead they brush it off and continue to live their lives as they wish, never changing who they are, never participating in worship, praise and fellowship with Christians.

Do remember the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers. Ten people who had their lives radically altered by the presence of God in their midst. Healing them and forever changing their identity and how society identified and treated them. Ten people who experienced the power, authority and might of God directly. And one, one, who came back to thank God. One who came back to offer praise and recognition of what was done and the blessing they had received.

How is this world any different now? People can be completely caught up in the praise and worship of Christ on a Sunday morning, they can be caught up in knowing and understanding all the things that God is actively doing in their lives. Then by Tuesday morning they are like those nine lepers, they have moved on with their own lives forgetting the blessings that Christ has given them in their lives.

Many of us are like this, we have seen, heard or experienced miraculous things in our lives. People who have survived accidents that they should not have survived, people who have been healed of illness and injuries where doctors could not explain the reasons, Sudden windfalls that happen at the zero hour of financial crisis, the urge to change a plan at the last minute that results in missing an event that would have caused irreparable damage to their lives.

When we hear, see or experience these things we are in awe with the power and presence of God. We acknowledge in that moment the truth of God's hand in the event. Yet a week later it is all but forgotten and we are once again living our lives as if the event never took place.

Worse yet is that even in contemporary society where these events are shared out globally and the miraculous nature of them cannot be explained other than through divine intervention. We shrug it off and simply say, 'oh that was interesting' acting as if nothing miraculous had occurred, crediting luck or karma or some other worldly explanation.

The Israelites responded to the change in Moses with fear and awe. Peter, James and John responded with fear and awe. We should be able to respond as the one leper did, with a recognition for the power and authority of God in our lives and a sense of thankfulness and praise.

The presence of God's action in our lives and in the lives of others should influence us. Secondly, when we start to see and experience the Glory of God in our lives, we should start to reflect that glory in our lives, it should transfigure, change us.

After Moses came down from Mount Sinai, from spending time in God's presence and His Glory, Moses's face began to physically glow. It reflected his experience with God. While we may not have that glow, I am sure we have all experienced the presence of someone who spends a lot of time in God's presence in prayer and in study, their face may not physically glow, but we sense and feel that inward glow that they have, that sense of God's touch upon them. We can get that same sense from a place where God's presence is known to be, when you walk into some churches you gain a profound sense of God's presence, and it changes the way we behave.

This is God's call for all his people, to spend time in his presence. To spend time in praise, worship, study and prayer with our God so that we too develop that inward glow, that inward sense of God's presence in our lives. Moses spent 40 days upon the mountaintop, 40 days in the presence of God – as of Ash Wednesday, this Wednesday, we are about to begin our 40 days of lent – what a great time for us to spend in the presence of God. In daily praise, worship, study and prayer, letting God's light shine upon us until we begin to reflect that light in our lives. Like Moses when we do this, we probably will not even recognize that we are reflecting God's light in our lives and into the lives of others, it will just be part of who we are in this world.

Finally, when we spend time in the presence of God recognizing Him in our lives, we begin to get a better understanding of our call as Christians. Moses spent time in the presence of God and came down with the law, the ten commandments. Elijah spent time in the presence of God and was shown that he was not alone, he was given the task of anointing Kings and prophets. James, Peter and John spent time on the mountain in the presence of God and they witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus, they came to a new and clear understanding of Jesus as the Son of God.

When we first begin to explore our faith, it can be confusing. We will wrestle with the things of the world and how we understand them and the scriptures which often contradict the ways of the world. We will wrestle with those things which draw us away from God, the desire for money, power, fame, popularity, acceptance and obedience to the scripture.

It is only when we begin to recognize the hand of God in our lives that we can begin to turn away from the things which draw us into the world and focus on those things which draw us closer to God. When we recognize that all those things which we attributed to luck, to karma, to good timing or intuition were in fact God at work in our lives we begin to appreciate His power and authority and the things of this world become more and more insignificant.

Like Paul on the road to Damascus, or the Disciples of the road to Emmaus, when we spend time with Christ the veil of this world is removed, and we begin to see him in our lives and the lives of those around us.

There will be those people of the world who refuse to understand the blessing Christ has given them in their lives. They will walk through this world, never seeing Him, never acknowledging him, never praising, worshiping or thanking him, in the same manner as the nine lepers who walked away never to be seen again.

But for those who have the veil lifted who seek him out the whole meaning of their existence will change when the presence of the Holy spirit is in them. We will begin to seek out God, to seek out his presence in our lives and experiences with him

They will seek him in praise and in worship, attending services regularly and with joy and exuberance. They will seek him out in bible studies and in fellowship with other Christians. They will seek him out in prayer and private time. Seeking to find Christ in all aspects of their lives.

Moses went up the mountain when he wanted to experience and hear God. Elijah, even when he was burnt out and angry with God went up the mountain to be in the presence of the Lord. John, James and Peter, were at the point of falling asleep from exhaustion, yet they still followed Jesus up to the mountaintop to pray and there they experienced the presence of God.

Each of them took time and put in the effort to be in the presence of God. We need to do the same, we need to set aside time in our busy lives to spend in the presence of God, we do not need to go climb a mountain to do it. We can set aside time and pray in our own homes, or even here at the church. If you ever want to pray just let me know and I will happily open the doors for you to spend time here in the presence of God.

We need to take time to pray and to listen for that voice of God in our hearts. Yes, sometimes God's voice shouts out, like the voice from the clouds that the disciples heard on the mountain of transfiguration, or the voice that was heard by all when John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the waters of the Jordan. At other times it will be a simple thought, feeling or intuition that when we recognize it, we know comes from God. But if we are too busy to spend time with God, we might just miss it.

So, this season of Lent let us spend time each day with God. Do not get drawn in by the devils' lives, do not think that because you only have a few minutes its not worth it, do not get drawn in by his lie that because you spent time with God yesterday you can skip spending time with him today. Do not think that because you begin to doze off or get distracted when you try to pray its not worth spending time in prayer. Instead remember that every day is a new day that God has given us, spend some of it in prayer and praise of God.

Spend time every week in study and worship of God. Don't think that skipping one week will make no difference. If you sleep in come to a later service, if you are out of town go to church somewhere new. Make time in your life to recognize what God is doing in your life. Make time in your life to let God be an influence upon you. Make time in your life to spend time in fellowship, in study, in praise and in worship of Christ. Be active in your church, be active in your faith and God's activity in your life will become clear to you.

If we want to be changed by God, we must spend time with God, letting his light shine upon us so that we can reflect that light in our own lives and into the lives of others in this world.

Let us Pray,

**For the Faithful**

O Lord Almighty,  
 the Most High,  
 who dwells on high,  
 the Holy One,  
 who rests among the saints,  
 without beginning,  
 the Only Power.

By Christ you have given us the preaching of knowledge,  
 that we may confess your glory and your name,  
 which he has made known to us,  
 for our understanding.

Through him look down on this your flock,  
 and deliver it from all ignorance and wickedness,  
 and grant that we may fear you in earnest,  
 and love you with affection,  
 and have a due reverence of your glory.  
 Be gracious and merciful to us,  
 and listen to us when we pray to you.

Keep us,  
 that we may be steadfast and blameless,  
 and holy in body and spirit,  
 without spot or wrinkle,  
 or any other blemish,  
 but complete,  
 and none of us defective or imperfect.  
 You are our support,  
 our powerful God,

you are not influenced by people.  
 Help your people,  
 whom you have redeemed with the precious blood of your Christ.  
 Be their protector,  
 helper, provider, and guardian,  
 their strong wall of defense,  
 their bulwark and security.  
 For “none can snatch them out of your hand.”  
 There is no other God like you.  
 We rely on you.  
 “Sanctify us by your truth; your word is truth.” Amen.

***Source: Apostolic Constitutions***

**Music Ministry: “I’m Bound By Your Love Alone” by Byenog Uk & Jinny Kim**

### **Invitation to Offering**

#### **Offering**

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3). We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer:

**E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. [standrewsperthoffering@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsperthoffering@gmail.com) If you have an Offering Envelope #, please include it in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (e.g., Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

Gracious God, you have given us life and blessed us in Christ with new life. Bless the gifts we offer today, and bless our lives, so that others may see his grace at work in us and what we offer the world in Jesus’ name.

**Closing Hymn # 81: “Unto the Hills Around” (V 1, 4)**



Unto the hills around do I lift up  
 my longing eyes:  
 oh whence for me shall my salvation come,  
 from whence arise?  
 From God the Lord doth come my certain aid,  
 from God the Lord who heaven and earth hath made.

From every evil shall he keep thy soul,  
 from every sin:  
 Jehovah shall preserve thy going out,  
 thy coming in.  
 Above thee watching, he whom we adore  
 shall keep thee henceforth, yea, forevermore.

### **Pastoral Prayer**

Revealing God,  
 You bless us with your presence and wisdom,  
 and we marvel at the wonders of your love.  
 You created a beautiful world that reveals your majesty.  
 You sent your Son to show us how to live with compassion.  
 Your Holy Spirit guides us on our way.  
 Thank you for opening our eyes to your presence each day.  
 Help us to recognize you not only in mountaintop experiences,  
 but also in everyday tasks and in times of great challenge.

Loving God,  
 Much in this world needs the transformation only you can provide.  
 Where there is violence, bring calm;  
 where there is poverty, send sustenance;  
 where there is confusion, bring wisdom;  
 where there is chaos, create order;  
 where minds and hearts are troubled, bring comfort;  
 where pain is crippling, grant release.  
 Move the hearts of the rich to share with those in need;  
 and call the powerful to act with justice for those at risk.  
 Give us all the will to work for the wellbeing of the earth  
 and to live with respect for the fragile balances within your creation.  
 Hear us now in this time of silence  
 as we raise to you the names and situations on our hearts this day:

Eternal God, we pray for your church around the world

and for our congregation.  
Give your people the energy to shine  
wherever there is persecution, despair or discouragement.  
Bless each congregation with wisdom and vision,  
as we face the changes in the world caused by the pandemic.  
Renew our imagination and commitment  
to develop new forms of ministry and mission for the days ahead.  
Gather us as a people again after months of distancing,  
and inspire us with greater delight in your mystery,  
and greater joy in seeking your presence.

We ask all these things through Christ Jesus, Our Lord,  
who revealed your will to us through your revolutionary love. Amen

### **Benediction**

May God the Father bless you,  
God the Son heal you,  
God the Holy Spirit give you strength.  
May God the holy and undivided Trinity  
guard your body, save your soul,  
and bring you safely to his heavenly country,  
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.