

**everywhere in his dominion.
Praise the LORD, O my soul.** (from Psalm 103)

Prayer of Invocation

You are the Sovereign One, O God, and rightly to be blessed.
Your name shall ever be upon our lips.
You have heard the poor and saved them from trouble.
You have enlightened believers; their faces reflect your radiance.
Aglow with the splendor of your promised redemption,
we gather to worship you, ruler of nations. **Amen.**

Hymn:

“How Great Thou Art”

(Click on the link below to play the hymn. The lyrics are on the screen.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdE_NKyY_o0

1.O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:

How great thou art! How great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:

How great thou art! How great thou art!

2.And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

3.When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, My God, how great thou art!

Call To Confession —based on John 3:6-8; 16:8

Do not marvel that Jesus says to us, “You must be born again.”
What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.
The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes;
so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit,
who convicts us of sin and leads us into all righteousness.
Let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession

Come, Holy Spirit!

Rain upon our dry and dusty lives.

Wash away our sin and heal our wounded spirits.

Kindle within us the fire of your love to burn away our apathy.

With your warmth bend our rigidity

and guide our wandering feet. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

“I will take you out of the nations;

I will gather you from all the countries.

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;

I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees.

You will be my people, and I will be your God.”

Friends in Christ: by the power of the Spirit,

we are united with Christ and given a new spirit.

Live in the joy and peace of that assurance. (Based on Ezekiel 36:24-28)

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

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. standrewspert offering@gmail.com Please include your Offering Envelope # 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 (eg Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Offertory Prayer

God of wind, word, and fire,
 we bless your name this day for sending
 the light and strength of your Holy Spirit.
 We give you thanks for all the gifts, great and small,
 that have been poured out upon your children.
 Accept us with our gifts to be living praise and witness
 to your love throughout all the earth,
 through Jesus Christ, who lives with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, forever. **Amen.**

Prayers for the People by the People – please continue to pray for members of our congregation and others that you personally know of.

- For the leaders in our government (federal, provincial and municipal) to make responsible plans for reopening the economy and other activities that will not put our province at risk of further outbreaks of COVID-19.
- Those in hospital or needing medical attention other than for COVID-19 related needs.
- **Those on the front line in the fight against COVID-19, especially the nurses and PSW's in our congregations.** (Destiny Bowes, Glenda Gould, Connie Young, Tracey Laffine)
- **Those who are out of work and struggling financially to pay their bills.**
- **Joanna Savage:** After spending the past 12 days at the Kingston General Hospital with Joanna, I was finally able to bring her home yesterday afternoon (Tuesday, June 2nd). Thankfully they made allowance for me to stay with her in a cot beside the bed for the duration of her stay. She had been quite ill with fever and nausea the first week after a successful embolization on the 14th but was home and making a good recovery. However, on May 22, she suddenly became very confused and was having sustained seizures. She was admitted through emergency and continued a steady decline over the next few days until she could no longer walk, talk, or swallow. She has been a mystery to the medical teams who attended her but as best as they can tell, a sudden release of massive amounts of hormones from the dying neuroendocrine tumour caused this horrific assault on her body and mind. At several different points it looked like she was slipping away, so we are grateful to still have her with us, weak and long as the journey ahead may yet be. (Marilyn Savage)
- **Stuart McKim & Louise Burke**
- **Ann Savage**
- **Dave Crawley & Paul Thompson**
- **University and College Students** (Holly, Caitlin, Colleen, Jonathan, Liam, Caleb and Issac)

My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art Thou
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

I love Thee because Thou has first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

I'll love Thee in life and I will love Thee in death
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

I love You Jesus
I'll always love You
Now and forever
I belong to You

In mansions of glory and endless delight
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'tis now

Lift Jesus higher
Lift Jesus higher

Scripture Reading:

John 6:25-40

Jesus the Bread of Life

25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” **26** Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. **27** Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

28 Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” **29** Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

30 So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? **31** Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” **32** Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. **33** For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” **34** “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

35 Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. **36** But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. **37** All those the Father gives me

will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. **38** For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. **39** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. **40** For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

41 At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." **42** They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. **44** "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. **45** It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.'^d Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. **46** No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. **47** Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. **48** I am the bread of life. **49** Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. **50** But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. **51** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "Open Our Eyes, Lord, We Want To See Jesus"

(Click on the link below to play the video. Lyrics are on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZsZkB-HcyE>

Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus

Prayer for Illumination

Lord God, help us to know your ways; teach us your paths.

Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation;
for you we wait all day long.

Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

(Based on Psalm 25:4-5)

“Jesus, The Bread of Life”

John 6:25-50

One of the things that John’s Gospel is known for, which does not appear in any of the other Gospels, is the “I am” sayings of Jesus. These are powerful declarations of exactly who Jesus is.

John 8: [12](#) ... “**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**”

John 10: [7](#) ... “**Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.**”

John 10: [11](#) “**I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.**”

John 11: [25](#) Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; [26](#) and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.**”

John 14: [6](#) Jesus answered, “**I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**”

John 15: [1](#) “**I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. [2](#) He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes ^a so that it will be even more fruitful.**”

I have saved for last the very first “I am” saying that Jesus made. We are looking at it today because it relates directly to Communion.

John 6: [48](#) **I am the bread of life. [49](#) Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. [50](#) But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.**

John 6 begins with Jesus retreating to a wilderness area not far from the Sea of Galilee for some “time out” with his disciples. Such times were rare for Jesus and this one didn’t work out as planned. Jesus was at the height of his popularity and as usual he was followed by a multitude of people. – at least 5,000 we are told. The result was a logistical problem. How do you feed so many people when you are in the middle of nowhere and all you can muster from what people have brought with them is five barley loaves and two small fishes?

Most of us know the outcome of this dilemma. Jesus took this small quantity of food and multiplied it so that there was plenty for everyone. For



a second time, Jesus tries to get away from the crowds with his disciples. Again, they find him in less than a day's time. Jesus knows that they are looking for him for only one reason.

26 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

He then uses the subject of bread as a jumping off point to give them a sermon on **27 ... food that endures to eternal life.** Today I want to do a similar thing. I want to use the bread of The Lord's Table to also speak to you of the **food that endures to eternal life.**

Bread is often seen as being symbolic of something which is necessary for life. Bread is more than just a food. Think of how the word is used: A person's "bread and butter" is his or her main source of income, while bread or dough can be cash, plain and simple. When people "break bread" they share more than just a meal: they come together in body as well as spirit.

The verses I want to focus on are John 6: **48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."**



One of my favourite breads is olive bread. We don't eat a lot of bread, but recently Susan brought home a small loaf as a treat. Olive bread and butter! I love it!! That small loaf didn't last any time at all. We inhaled it. Well, maybe it would be closer to the truth to say that I inhaled it. I could have eaten another loaf the next day.

Jesus promised the people who were following him **food that endures to eternal life.** He obviously got their attention. **34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."** **35** Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life."

It is almost like Jesus has something hidden in his hand. He could open his fingers all at once to display what he is holding, but that could be overwhelming. Instead, he opens his hand slowly – a finger at a time – and reveals little by little the treasure

that lies there. He begins by making an offer in which people everywhere would be interested. His hearers may have believed that he was talking about a new kind of “wonder bread”. Yes, he was talking about bread but the bread was a symbol of a new kind of life that they could have and experience.

The people liked what little Jesus first revealed to them and asked to know more. Slowly, Jesus opened up another finger or two. He told them that this new kind of life was to be found in him. **“I am the bread of life.”** Slowly he opens the remaining fingers of his hand until the truth stands fully revealed. Jesus is the bread of life. What does that mean?

Its meaning is not at all clear, so let me tell you what it means. It means that you cannot

separate what Jesus gives from who Jesus is. You cannot separate Jesus from what he claims for himself; or what he teaches from what he has to offer. You can take the truth that any other person teaches and you can separate it from the individual. You can take the philosophy of Plato and separate it from the man. You can do whatever you want with Plato, but his philosophy will stand by itself without him. You can take the religious teachings of Mohammed or Confucius or Buddha. You can do away with the founder of any of these world religions and their religious teaching will still hold together.

That is not true of the Christian faith. You cannot take the teaching of Jesus Christ and do with him whatever you please. Why? Because Jesus emphasized throughout his ministry that **he** was the most important thing he had to talk about. Jesus pointed to himself and said:

“I am the bread of life.”

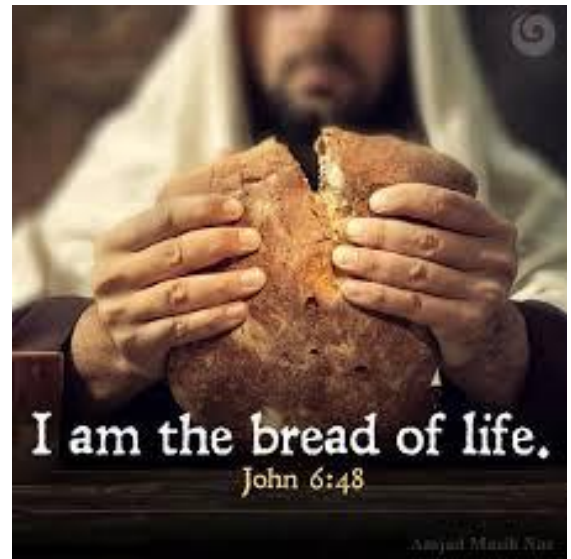
“I am the light of the world.”

“I am the resurrection and the life.”

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

How often people believe that it is possible to accept the teaching or even the morality of Jesus (By the way, accepting the morality of Jesus is very rare these days!) and reject Jesus himself.



If you think you that you can obey the 10 Commandments or keep the Golden Rule; if you think that you can attend church or live by high moral standards; if you think that by doing any or all of these things you can earn God's favour then your thinking is not aligned with biblical teaching. If you think that in some way you can merit eternal life and yet never invite the living, resurrected Christ into your life, then you are mistaken. You cannot have the eternal life which Jesus offers without having Jesus himself. You cannot separate what Jesus offers from who Jesus is.



This morning, as we come to Communion and partake of the bread, realize that at the very least it is symbolic of the fact that in accepting Jesus you are taking into yourself the very life of Christ. To partake of the bread is to partake of the Bread of Life. To eat of the bread – but to be unwilling to have Jesus in your life – is to take part in an empty charade.

Moving on, Jesus says: **49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.** The claim of Jesus was that he was the Bread of Life. Here we have the requirement of Jesus that we eat of this Bread. If as Jesus suggests the Bread is symbolic of a new kind of life which he offers, the eating of this Bread must hold some deeper meaning as well. Earlier in this chapter Jesus says: **35 ... “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.** In this passage, coming and eating both refer to the same thing. They are symbols of the same thing – namely **belief.**

When we eat, we incorporate food into our bodies. That food becomes part of us. When we believe in Jesus – that is, when we put our total faith, trust and reliance in him for our salvation, we take into our innermost being the life of Christ. When you receive Jesus, you receive more than the gifts he has to offer. You receive Christ himself.



It is the requirement of Jesus that we eat of the Bread of life. That is, we must **believe** and put our total faith, trust and reliance in him. It does us no good if we have food on the table, on our plate or in our hands, if we do not eat it. No one receives nourishment simply from looking at food. No, we must eat it before it can do us any good.

In the same way, it does us no good to only believe that Jesus is the Christ; that he is God in the flesh and the Saviour of the world. The important thing is that we have received him into our lives. The Psalmist encourages us: **8 O taste and see that the LORD is good.** (Psalm 34) Have you done this? Have you tasted and eaten of Jesus Christ the Bread of Life?

You need to realize that when we talk about eating and coming to Christ, we are talking about more than just an initial act of faith. I am not minimizing that step of faith when we first come to Jesus – when we first turn from our sins and trust in Christ alone for our salvation. But think of it. The meal that you ate last year, no matter how memorable, sumptuous or delicious, is useless in overcoming today's hunger. In the same way, that act of faith you took long ago when you first trusted Christ will do nothing to nourish your soul today. Just as eating is a daily thing that must be repeated every day of our lives, so this spiritual meal must be repeated again and again. Every day we must feed on Christ and be nourished and strengthened by the relationship we have with him.

Finally, Jesus makes us this promise. Eating only natural bread results in a life that leads to death. Eating the Bread of Life results in eternal life. As Jesus put it: **50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.**



The bread or food that we eat daily is like the manna that God gave to the Israelites as they travelled through the desert. It appeared on the ground every morning and it had to be eaten that day. It did not last. It spoiled. Manna sustained the Israelites for 40 years. It kept them alive but eventually they died. But everyone who eats of the Bread that Christ offers finds a new kind of life. It is called eternal life and it is a life which

never ends. It is the only food that truly satisfies. Jesus said: **27 Do not work for**

food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. (John 6) This is the promise of Jesus.

When it comes to Communion, we talk freely about the cup representing the Blood of Jesus which he shed on the cross for us to be cleansed of all our sins. We know that the bread represents the Body of Christ which was broken for us. But what was it broken to accomplish? I hope that it has become clear to you today that while the Cup represents the shed blood of Jesus which washes away our sins, the Bread represents the body of Jesus that was broken for us in order that we may receive Life. Today, the Bread speaks loud and clear that from the death of Jesus we receive Life – Eternal Life – the very Life of Christ in us.

The prophet Isaiah asked this question: **2 Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?** (Isaiah 55) There is no reasonable response to that question. Today may we listen to the call of our Lord Jesus Christ who encourages us: **“This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”** And in partaking may we receive the life of Christ.

Hymn: “Just As I Am, Without One Plea” – Celebration Choir
(Click on the link below to play the hymn. Lyrics on screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tdmQh-MIIA>

1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come, I come
2. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind
Sight, Riches, healing of the mind
Yea, all I need in Thee to find
O Lamb of God, I come, I come
3. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve
Because Thy promise I believe
O Lamb of God, I come, I come
4. Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Hath broken every barrier down
Now, to be Thine, yet Thine alone
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Note: If you wish to participate in this service of Communion by video, please click the following link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cBpwUV9rcA&feature=youtu.be> . If you prefer to participate using the written version, please continue.

Let us confess our common faith in the words of The Apostles Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
AMEN.

The Invitation to Communion

Jesus said: **28** “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11) As we come to Communion today, I want to stress to you that this is an open and not a closed Table. It is open to all who know and love Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and desire to walk with him in obedience. It does not matter what church you belong to. This is the Lord’s Table and all of his children are welcome to come and share in this feast. **8** **O taste and see that the LORD is good.** (Psalm 34)

Prayer Before Communion

Lord Jesus, as we come to your Table today, we may come with a sense of our unworthiness to take part in such a sacred meal. Thank you that when we come to you in repentance for our sin, we do not have to worry about our worthiness or goodness. You make us worthy through what you accomplished for us in your death on the Cross. Lord, these elements of Bread and Wine are symbolic of your body and blood. We now set them aside from all common uses to this one holy use. Draw near to us in a special way as we share together in this time of Communion. Through Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen**

The Communion

Take the Bread, and say after me:

The Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and said: “This is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

The body of Christ broken for me.

You may partake of the bread.

Take the cup and say after me:

In the same way, he took the cup after supper, saying: “This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Whenever you do it, do it in remembrance of me.”

The blood of Christ shed for me.

You may drink of the cup.

Say your own prayer of thanksgiving for this special time of Communion.

Closing Hymn:

“Lamb of God” – Twila Paris

(Click on the link below to play the hymn. Lyrics will be displayed on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QGNUDsQ6fi>

1. Your only Son no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God
2. Your gift of love they crucified
They laughed and scorned Him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God
Chorus
O Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
O wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God
3. I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called the Lamb of God

Benediction

Go out into the world and live in peace.
 Bear witness to the God of love and peace,
 and make disciples of all nations,
 teaching them to obey all that Christ has taught us.

And may God look upon you and take delight in you;
 May Christ Jesus be with you always, to the end of the age;
 And may the Holy Spirit lead you into the dance of love
 that is the life of the Trinity.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.



On Palm Sunday and on Easter Sunday the Churches of
 Perth Rang Their Bells
 (Click on the link below to play)

[St. Andrew's Perth- Bell Ringing](#) (short version)

[St. John's Perth-Bell Ringing](#) (short version)

[St. James Perth - Bell Ringing](#) (short version)

St. Andrew's and St. John's are continuing the Sunday 12-12:10 pm ringing of the bells as a call to pray for all aspects of the current crisis and everyone affected. You are encouraged to do the same!