

Prayer of Invocation

Our Father,
 you are in heaven, high and lifted up,
 higher than our highest thoughts.
 Holy is your name;
 beside you there is no other!
 You are God, and you alone!
 Receive us into your kingdom—the coming kingdom—
 the kingdom of your anointed Son, Jesus, whose name we bear.
 Receive us, for we come to you in his name—
 we pray in him and with him.
 For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn: **“Be still for the presence of the Lord”**

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

<https://youtu.be/ZugvUQ4m90U>

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here;
 Come bow before him now with reverence and fear.
 In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.
 Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord, is shining all around;
 He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:
 How awesome is the sight, our radiant king of light!
 Be still, for the glory of the Lord, is shining all around.

Be still for the power of the Lord, is moving in this place.
 He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
 No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.
 Be still for the power of the Lord, is moving in this place.

Call to Confession

Our Lord Jesus said:
 “You shall love the Lord your God
 with all your heart,
 and with all your soul,
 and with all your mind.’
 This is the greatest and first commandment.
 And a second is like it:
 ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
 On these two commandments
 hang all the law and the prophets.”

As God has instructed us in these great commandments,
and because we have not lived in full obedience,
let us now confess our sins to God,
trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord. —based on Matthew 22:37-40

Prayer of Confession

Eternal and merciful God,
you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding,
and you have set us on paths of righteousness for your name's sake.
Yet we have strayed from your way;
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
through what we have done and what we have left undone.
As we remember the lavish gift of your grace
symbolized in baptism, O God,
we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again.
Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin,
and to rise daily to new life in Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
and in whose strong name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news of the Gospel:
There is now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.

—Romans 8:1, NIV

If you are in Christ Jesus, know that your sins are forgiven.

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

Psalm 37

1 Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;

2 for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.

3 Trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

**4 Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

5 Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him and he will do this:

**6 He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.**

7 Be still before the LORD
and wait patiently for him;
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,
when they carry out their wicked schemes.

**8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;
do not fret—it leads only to evil.**

9 For those who are evil will be destroyed,
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.

Ministry of Music: Praise The Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him, Young Oceans

(Click on the link below to listen to the Ministry of Music.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sx9I_amxyCA

Praise the Lord Ye heavens adore him
Praise him angels in the height
Sun and moon, rejoice before him
Praise him, all ye stars of light
Praise the Lord for he hath spoken
Worlds his mighty voice obeyed
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance he hath made

All creation join the song of praise
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy all of our days

Praise the Lord for he is glorious
Never shall his promise fail
God hath made his saints victorious
Sin and death shall not prevail

All creation join the song of praise
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy all of our days

Glory! Glory! All glory to you Lord (X 4)

Praise the God of our salvation!

Hosts on high his power proclaim
 Heaven and earth and all creation
 Laud and magnify his name.

All creation join the song of praise
 Let every tongue declare His mighty ways
 And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy all of our days
 And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy all of our days
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Scripture Reading:

Romans 12:9-21

Love in Action

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. **10** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. **11** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. **12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **13** Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. **16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. **18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19** Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. **20** On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
 if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ^e

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

"Thy Word Is A Lamp Unto My Feet", Amy Grant

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6LC8cu03Ig>

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid

Think I've lost my way

Still you're there right beside me

And nothing will I fear
 As long as you are near
 Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
 Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

I will not forget
 Your love for me and yet
 My heart forever is wandering
 Jesus be my guide
 And hold me to your side
 I will love you to the end

Nothing will I fear
 As long as you are near
 Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
 Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of eternal life!
 Help us now to hear and obey what you say to us today.
 Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.** (Based on John 6:68)

“Four Steps To A Deeper Relationship With God”

Psalm 37:3-9

I am always amazed at how little we retain of what we learn in our youth. We go to school for years but would be hard pressed to remember specific classes or lessons that we were taught. There are other things that you would think would quickly slip from our minds, yet we remember them vividly for years.

I don't remember a great deal about going to Sunday School in my teen years, or about any of the sermons I heard in church either, for that matter. I went to Sunday School for two reasons.

1. My parents made me go and no excuses were accepted. I did manage to get out of a few evening services by playing the “I'm not feeling well” card.
2. There were girls present and that was a definite drawing card for a teenage boy.

Then after graduating from high school, I went off to university. For the first time in my life I didn't have to go to Sunday School or church. I was free to do what “normal”

students do and that is sleep in on Sunday morning. Nobody knew I came from a church going family and made fun of me. After three glorious months I woke up with this empty feeling inside and said: "I am missing the most important ingredient in life." Soon enough Christmas break came along and I went home for the holidays. After having hardly darkened the door of a church for months, I had to go to Sunday School again. I realized that my thinking had undergone a change. I wasn't forced to go. I wanted to go.



The class I attended was called College and Careers. We didn't actual meet in the church but in the family room of a home across the street. This class was taught jointly by Mrs. Ellen Trimmer, our pastor's wife and by Jim the youth pastor. Not only did I want to go to the class, but I was eager to participate in the discussion. Jim was leading the class that Sunday and he talked about how we can have a closer relationship with God. The study focused on Psalm 37:3-7. I remember because I underlined some of the passage in the Scofield Reference Bible that my parents had given me in 1965. Jim laid out the four steps from this passage.

Step 1, verse 3 **Trust in the Lord.**

Step 2, verse 4 **Delight yourself in the Lord.**

Step 3, verse 5 **Commit your way to the Lord.**

Step 4, verse 7 **Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for the Lord.**

In this passage we have four words – **trust, delight, commit** and **be still**. Four words, four steps and four consequences of taking those steps.

I wish I could say to you that these four steps had characterized my walk with God on a regular basis over the years since then, but that would not be true. On rare occasions, when I stumble across this passage in my reading or in sermon preparation, I would say to myself: "That's the passage that Jim talked about." You see, this is one of those foundational passages of Scripture on which we can build our lives. This is another "Bell Ringer" passage as I mentioned last week. This is another passage worth meditating upon.



Let's begin by looking at the context. The psalmist is David, the shepherd king of Israel. He makes an observation about what he sees going on around him. David was a man who had a big heart for God. The deepest desire of his heart was to be in intimate relationship with God. You can't deny his passion. In Psalm 63 he writes:

1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. (ESV)

In Psalm 27:

4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. (ESV)

What a depth of passion for God we find in these and other passages.

As David looked around him in his humanness, he saw that frequently people who had no passion for God seemed to do quite well in life. In fact, he observed that evil people – the wicked, those who did wrong – seemed to prosper. Realizing that many would take the prosperity of the wicked as the best way to live life, in this passage David sets out a warning that the prosperity of the wicked is an illusion. He states plainly that the way of the wicked is a dead-end street. Before laying out the four steps to a deeper relationship with God, David points out why such people should not be our heroes. There is good reason why we should never even contemplate following them.

1 Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! 2 For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

These people look like they have all the trappings of success but there is no future in following them or living like they do. Only a fool would be taken in by this illusion.

You see, there is a better way and God, speaking through the pen of David, lays it out for us.

Step 1 involves **Trust**.

Don't trust in yourselves or your abilities. Don't trust in the world's way of doing things. Don't trust in the way that appears to lead to success. No, **trust in the Lord**.

There is something that I want you to notice as we look at each step and that is that there is a consequence that accrues in taking it. There is a benefit contained in each step. **3 Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.**

I remember visiting some friends. I knew them but had never been to their home before. They were blessed with a troublesome, hard to get along with neighbour who complained about everything that was not to his liking. He was no Mr. Rogers. Just as I was getting ready to leave, he came over and began to complain about another perceived problem. My friend remained civil throughout the confrontation.

When it was all over and the man walked away, he said: "Buddy, one of these days I am going to get you. When I do, I am going to get you good, because I am not a very good Christian!" Hey, I understand his thinking. Revenge on such a stupid, ignorant person would be sweet. However, my friend knew what he should do. He was well aware that Jesus said: **"Do not resist an evil person."** (Matthew 5:39) **"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."**(v. 44) As a PK (preacher's kid) he knew what Paul said: **17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends ... 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.** (Romans 12) People, we are not to respond to situations like this in the same way that unbelievers respond. Having said this, my own response in such situations has not always been Godly.

God's word says that there is a better way to respond to the various situations of life that we face. Let me take this verse, turn it around and paraphrase it. Now it reads something like this:

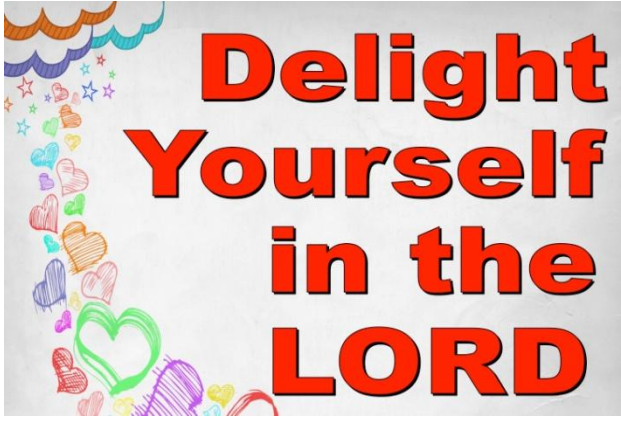
If you want to dwell in the land and enjoy safety, then trust in the Lord and do good.

This verse is a call for us to put our absolute confidence and trust in God in any and every given situation. Don't depend on your own resources and abilities. And don't follow the way of the wicked, even though they seem to succeed and prosper. **Put your trust in God alone!**



Step 2 centres on the word **Delight**.

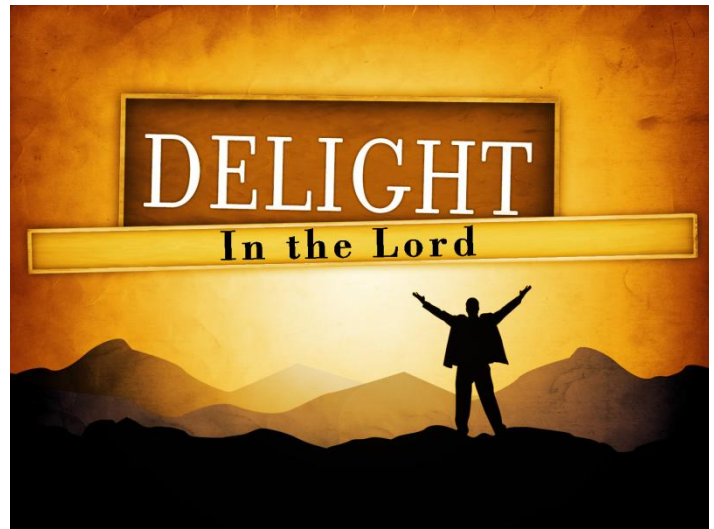
4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.



At first glance you may figure that this is a surefire way to manipulate God and get what you want. I don't think so! The key is in the word "**delight**". When you delight in someone, you take great pleasure in that person. I "delight" in Susan. I take great pleasure in her. I enjoy being with her. I miss her when she is not present. Even during this pandemic, when some might figure that

we have spent way too much time together, I miss her when she goes grocery shopping and I look for her return. I don't delight in her so that I can manipulate her into doing things my way. I delight in her for who she is. Do you know how it makes you feel when someone delights in you?

God also wants us to delight in him. He wants to be the source of our greatest pleasure and joy. He desires nothing more than that we want to be with him, to be aware of his presence and to hear the sound of his voice. David was a man who delighted in the Lord. More than anything else he wanted to **dwelt in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple**. David took great pleasure in being in the presence of the Lord.



It is my observation that when we do not delight in the presence of the Lord, then the desires of our hearts are usually selfish ones. There are many things in life that I have wanted. And some of those things I managed to acquire by hook or by crook. In those times I was not taking great pleasure in the Lord.

It has also been my observation that when I delight in the Lord and find my greatest pleasure in him, the desires of my heart change because my values

change. When my values change and come into line with what God wants for me, then God delights to give to me those things that he desires for me. And I can tell you, his provision is way beyond what I thought was going to be so wonderful.

Step 1: **Trust in the Lord and do good.**

Step 2: **Delight yourself in the Lord.**

Step 3 calls us to **Commitment.**



5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: 6 He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. The word “commit” is used here in the sense of pledging or binding ourselves to a

certain course of action. It means that we are making a commitment to follow God’s way in a given situation, no matter what it costs us. When we bind ourselves to go God’s way, then we can expect definite outcomes. The committing and the trusting are what we choose to do. The outcome is God’s part.

**5 Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him and he will do this:**

**6 He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.**

I have been the kind of person who always had to be right. It didn’t matter if it was at church, on the job or at home. If what I said or wanted was called into question, then I defended myself or my point-of-view. I took everything personally. I am not that big or strong but believe me, I could be a formidable opponent if my viewpoint or stance was questioned. And then I read something that changed my way of thinking. Some of you are familiar with Neil Anderson and his writing. Anderson in one of his books said that as Christians we never need to defend ourselves. His point goes something like this. *If* I am right, then there is no need to defend my position. Defending myself will not make me any more right. And *if* I am wrong or in the wrong, then nothing I can say by way of defense will make me right. Our text says the same thing but in a different way.

Pledge yourself to go God’s way and trust in him.

HERE IS WHAT HE WILL DO:

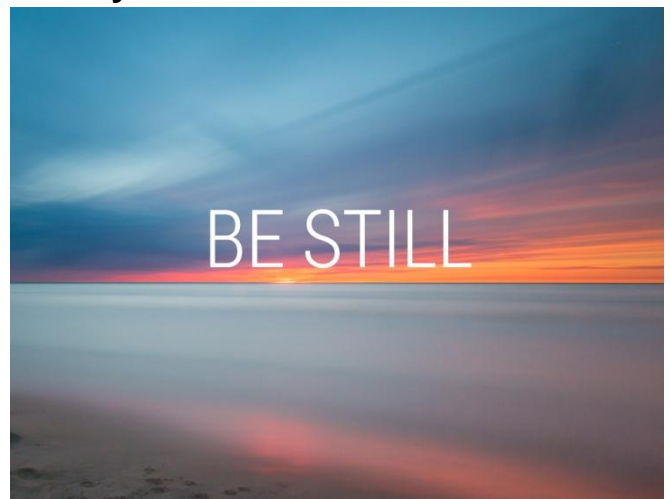
- 1. He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,**
- 2. The justice – the righteousness of your cause – like the noonday sun.**

Let me tell you, there is great relief in never having to defend yourself. All I have to do is commit my way to the Lord, put my trust in him and he takes care of all the rest.

Finally, we come to the last step which I find the hardest of all.

Step 4: **7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.**

When I was young, my Uncle Woody used to say that I had “ants in my pants”. I found it hard to sit still. As an adult I have been afflicted with the same problem. I hate sitting still. Watch me when I am sitting in a meeting. I keep shifting all around. I can’t even sit perfectly still watching a movie on TV.



I want to be proactive in any given situation. I want to make things happen. I’ve been like that all my life – always pushing the envelope. Trouble is, God says: “No! Don’t run ahead of me. Be still and wait patiently for me.” We are not told why right away. Instead, we are given a warning.

7 ... do not fret ...

The word “fret” can mean worried or distressed. It can also mean resentful. It is possible to read the verse like this:

Do not be resentful when others succeed in their ways – when they successfully pull off their little schemes.

Fretting must be bad because three times in this psalm alone we are warned against it. That leads me to believe that it is more than just worrying. Worry is bad, but the resentfulness that goes along with it is even worse. Verse 8 says: **Do not fret – or be resentful – it leads only to evil.** And the reality is this:

9 For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the LORD

- those who trust in the Lord;
- those who delight themselves in the Lord;
- those who commit their way to the Lord; and
- those who are still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;

these are the ones who **will inherit the land**. It sounds to me like these are the ones that Jesus referred to in the Beatitudes when he said: **Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

Let me sum up. I believe that God has a plan and a purpose for each of our lives. This will be unique for every one of us because God created each one of us unique. I also believe that God has a **way** he wants us to live. That way will be common to all Christians and it is called living by faith. **The righteous will live by faith.** (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11, Habakkuk 2:4) What does a life of faith look like? It is based on 4 things:

1. **Trust – Trust in the Lord and do good.**
2. **Delight – Delight yourself in the Lord.**
3. **Commitment – Commit your way to the Lord.**
4. **Patience – Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.**

I encourage you to examine your life before the Lord to see if these are the things that characterize your walk with him. If they do not, then ask the Lord to teach you and lead you in a way that will make a life of faith a reality for you. Remember: **Those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.**

Hymn: “Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me”– City Alight
(Click on the link below to play the hymn. Lyrics on screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zundjUFazfg&feature=youtu.be>

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

3. No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid

For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
 And he was raised to overthrow the grave
 To this I hold my sin has been defeated
 Jesus now and ever is my plea
 Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
 Yet not I but through Christ in me

4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus
 For he has said that he will bring me home
 And day by day I know he will renew me
 Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
 All the glory evermore to him
 When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
 Yet not I but through Christ in me (Repeat)

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
 Yet not I but through Christ in me
 Yet not I but through Christ in me

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. standrewspertthoffering@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

Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
 the power and the glory,
 the victory and the majesty.

**All that is in the heavens
 and in the earth is yours,
 and you rule over all.**

Therefore, Lord, receive these offerings,
 our tangible expressions of love and gratitude.

Transform them into a source of life for many,

**so that your kingdom may grow
in the hearts of all.
In the name of Jesus. 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 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.**
- **Jean and Jamie Wright** – Carl Wright passed away the morning of Tuesday, June 24th. Remember Jean and Jamie in the loss of a husband and father. A small family funeral was held last Saturday at Blair's Funeral Home. Ken and Glen Wright, Carl's brothers, led the service.
- **Joanna Savage:** Joanna continues to make progress but it is very slow. She has bad days when she runs a fever, but she has good days as well. The road ahead is uncertain but God has been good. Pray for Joanna, Marilyn and Dan as they walk with quiet faith the long road that lies ahead of them, knowing that the Lord is walking that road with them.
- **Stuart McKim & Louise Burke**
- **Ann Savage**
- **Deb Watring-Ellis** – had a procedure last week for macular degeneration. Here is the report: As for the diagnosis/prognosis it was confirmed that this is "wet macular degeneration" - the left eye is not too bad but there is a very large bulge on the retina of the right eye. There is some risk of that retina tearing as a result of this treatment. Overall prognosis is a 95% chance that today's procedure will arrest further progress - 40% chance of some improvement. Monthly treatments for the near future with wider spacing later on.
- **Dave Crawley & Paul Thompson**
- **University and College Students** (Holly, Caitlin, Colleen, Jonathan, Liam, Caleb and Issac)
- **Angus Funston**
- **Shut-ins and Nursing Homes** (Elva Fair, Audrey Ferrier, Germaine Vanderklok, June O'Hara, Gwen Travis, Lyn Harrington, Bing Jeun, Jo Mott, Ruth McTavish, Jackie & Brian Stapledon – Karen McKim's parents, Nellie Larabie)
- **St. Andrew's** – The Search Committee as they continue their work under what can only be described as discouraging & difficult circumstances.
- **Rick & Colleen Richardson and their daughter Deborah Richardson.**
- **Richard Hendry** as he waits the results of his latest MRI.

Closing Hymn: **“May the Mind of Christ My Saviour”**
(Click on the link below to play the hymn. Lyrics will be displayed on the screen.)

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

1. May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say
2. May the word of God enrich me
With His truth from hour to hour
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power
3. May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing
4. May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea
Him exalting self abasing
This is victory
5. May I run the race before me
Strong and brave to face the foe
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go
6. May His beauty rest upon me
As I seek the lost to win
And may they forget the channel
Seeing only him

Benediction

Go now at the call of Christ.
Take his yoke upon you and learn from him;
Dance when he sings and mourn when he cries.
Be generous in your hospitality to all.

And may God greatly bless you;
May Christ Jesus reveal the fullness of God to you;
And may the Holy Spirit lift your burdens and give you rest.

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 is continuing the Sunday 12-12:10 pm ringing of the bells as a reminder to pray for all aspects of the current crisis and everyone affected. This will continue until the church reopens for worship.