

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**  
**Guest Worship Leader: Rev. John McIntyre**

**Introductory Song: "Ancient Words" by Lyn Deshazo**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vmTkXNpwzs>

Holy words long preserved  
 For our walk in this world  
 They resound with God's own heart  
 O let the ancient words impart

Words of life words of hope  
 Give us strength help us cope  
 In this world where'er we roam  
 Ancient words will guide us home

**Chorus**

Ancient words ever true  
 Changing me and changing you  
 We have come with open hearts  
 O let the ancient words impart

Holy words of our faith  
 Handed down to this age  
 Came to us through sacrifice  
 O heed the faithful words of Christ

Holy words long preserved  
 For our walk in this world  
 They resound with God's own heart  
 O let the ancient words impart

**Chorus x 4**

Ancient words ever true  
 Changing me changing you  
 We have come with open hearts  
 O let the ancient words impart

We have come with open hearts  
 O let the ancient words impart

**Call to Worship**

Clap your hands, all you nations;

shout to God with cries of joy.

**For the LORD Most High is awesome,  
the great King over all the earth.**

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,  
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing to him a psalm of praise.

(Psalm 42:1-2, 5-7)

### **Prayer of Invocation**

All glorious God, we give you thanks:

in your Son, Jesus Christ,

you have given us every spiritual blessing  
in the heavenly realms.

You chose us, before the world was made,  
to be your holy people, without fault in your sight.

You adopted us as your children in Christ.

You have set us free by his blood;

you have forgiven our sins.

You have made known to us your secret purpose,  
to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ.

You have given us your Holy Spirit,  
the seal and pledge of our inheritance.

All praise and glory be yours, O God,

for the richness of your grace,

for the splendor of your gifts,

for the wonder of your love.

### **Hymn:**

### **“How Firm A Foundation”**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZCG3I5IKLw>

- 1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
- 2 “Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”
- 3 “When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,

My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
 The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
 Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.”

- 4 “The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
 I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
 That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
 I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!”

### **Call to Confession**

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34:18)

Let us admit our brokenness to God.

### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious and Almighty God, You are the One who keeps promises. In Your providence, we can place all our trust. Yet we confess we often do not trust You. We worry. We argue. We fight. We do things our way, not Your way. We profess our faith in You, then we live like atheists. Forgive us, O Lord, in Your great mercy. Renew our hearts and our minds. Teach us to trust you in all things, and the courage to step forward in faith. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

### **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 138**

I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;

before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and will praise your name  
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,  
for you have so exalted your solemn decree  
that it surpasses your fame.**

When I called, you answered me;  
you greatly emboldened me.

**May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD,  
when they hear what you have decreed.**

May they sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for the glory of the LORD is great.

**Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;  
though lofty, he sees them from afar.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life.

You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;  
with your right hand you save me.

**The LORD will vindicate me;  
your love, LORD, endures forever—  
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

**Ministry of Music: "Turn Your Eyes", The Glorious Christ Live**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2tKVqZZil4&feature=youtu.be>

1. Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace
  
2. Turn your eyes to the hillside  
Where justice and mercy embrace  
There the Son of God gave His life for us  
And our measureless debt was erased

**Chorus**

Jesus to You we lift our eyes  
Jesus our glory and our prize  
We adore You behold You our Savior ever true  
Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

3. Turn your eyes to the morning  
And see Christ the lion awake

What a glorious dawn fear of death is gone  
For we carry His life in our veins

4. Turn your eyes to the heavens  
Our King will return for His own  
Every knee will bow every tongue will shout  
All glory to Jesus alone

### First Scripture Reading:

Matthew 25:1-13

**1** “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish and five were wise. **3** The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. **4** The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. **5** The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

**6** “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

**7** “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. **8** The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ **9** “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ **10** “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

**11** “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ **12** “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ **13** “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

### Second Scripture Reading:

Proverbs 1:20-33

**20** Out in the open wisdom calls aloud,  
she raises her voice in the public square;

**21** on top of the wall she cries out,  
at the city gate she makes her speech:

**22** “How long will you who are simple love your simple ways?  
How long will mockers delight in mockery  
and fools hate knowledge?

**23** Repent at my rebuke!

Then I will pour out my thoughts to you,  
I will make known to you my teachings.

**24** But since you refuse to listen when I call  
and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand,

**25** since you disregard all my advice  
 and do not accept my rebuke,  
**26** I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you;  
 I will mock when calamity overtakes you—  
**27** when calamity overtakes you like a storm,  
 when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind,  
 when distress and trouble overwhelm you.  
**28** “Then they will call to me but I will not answer;  
 they will look for me but will not find me,  
**29** since they hated knowledge  
 and did not choose to fear the LORD.  
**30** Since they would not accept my advice  
 and spurned my rebuke,  
**31** they will eat the fruit of their ways  
 and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.  
**32** For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,  
 and the complacency of fools will destroy them;  
**33** but whoever listens to me will live in safety  
 and be at ease, without fear of harm.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** “Wonderful Words of Life”, Fountainview Academy  
 (Click on the link below to play the video. Lyrics are on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVh--AlfkH4>

1. Sing them over again to me  
 Wonderful words of life  
 Let me more of their beauty see  
 Wonderful words of life  
 Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty

**Chorus**

Beautiful words, wonderful words  
 Wonderful words of life  
 Beautiful words, wonderful words  
 Wonderful words of life

2. Christ the blessed One, gives to all  
 Wonderful words of life  
 Sinner, list to the loving call  
 Wonderful words of life  
 Oh, so freely given, wooing us to heaven

3. Sweetly echo the gospel call  
 Wonderful words of life  
 Offer pardon and peace to all  
 Wonderful words of life  
 Jesus only Savior, sanctify forever

### **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.**

## **“Wisdom’s Reproofs – Shun Them At Your Peril”**

**Rev. John McIntyre**

Last time we gathered around the book of Proverbs we learned that the purposes of Proverbs were to enable us, to cultivate a keen mind in us, to establish discretion & purpose in our lives, to develop alertness in our walk and conduct, to provide us with discernment and to revere and obey God from the heart. These purposes have an objective, and that is to instill *“The fear of the Lord”* in us. In summation these proverbs teaches us that we are to show reverence toward God, serve Him, worship Him, obey Him and love Him. All of which amounts to a healthy *“Fear of The Lord.”*

Today we consider wisdom from another perspective (Pr 1:20-33) where wisdom is personified as a lady. Wisdom in this passage is spoken of as a lady that instructs us. Dr. Chuck Swindoll refers to her as *“Lady Wisdom.”* In (Vss 20-21) *“Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks.”* Another feature of the term wisdom in these verses is that in the original Hebrew language of the text, wisdom is literally “wisdoms.”

Theologians & Bible scholars attribute this personification of Wisdom in Proverbs to a divine person and especially so in Proverbs chapters 8-9. Their studies convince them that the things ascribed to Wisdom in Proverbs refer to the person of Jesus Christ. They reason that since Christ is the Word & Wisdom of God, and since *“all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge [are] hidden”* in him, (Col 2:3), and since (Isa 11:2) reveals that *the Spirit of the LORD, the spirit of wisdom & understanding,*

*the spirit of counsel & strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD* rests on Him, and all this without measure, that he alone is entitled to be called “Wisdoms.” Because of the consummate & perfect wisdom that is in him, when we think of Wisdom personified we need to think preeminently of Christ who alone is Wisdom Incarnate, and also the wisdom which flows from Him, through the consequent agencies He has appointed.

In our text “Wisdom” gives us some basic information about herself.

First of all we see that Wisdom makes herself available to us (vv. 20-21) *Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks.* Wisdom doesn't conceal herself in a hideaway somewhere. She isn't shy. In fact she's accessible & easy to find. She makes herself conspicuous in public. The implication is that Wisdom goes out of her way to make herself known, speaking to us in a number of ways. Of course wisdom speaks to us through God's word, but also through creation and often, through lessons in our daily lives.

Yet even as wisdom makes herself freely available to us, she can be ignored and spurned (vv. 24-25) *Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof...* According to these words, Wisdom is freely available. If a person is lacking in wisdom, it's not because it is unavailable. The problem is in shunning, ignoring and the spurning of Wisdom's counsel. We often saunter by the outstretched arms of wisdom as if she were some street vendor pedaling cheap cast-offs.

On one occasion a pastor & his wife were walking along a very crowded St. Catherine Street in Montreal when they came upon a number of young people handing out literature in front of the Arts Centre. As the pastor went along in the press of the crowded street, he was given a brochure with the word "Satisfied" and the quote from the Rolling Stones on the outside of it. He shoved it into his pocket as he kept moving along. Later he looked at it, discovered it was a great gospel tract and sent an email to the address written on it commending the ministry team for their efforts. He received this response that read in part:

*“Thank you for thinking to write us an e-mail to encourage us. Of the 50,000 tracts we have distributed you are response number five – The first believer to offer encouragement. I read your letter to our team that works hard all summer on the streets and they were encouraged. Thank you for thinking to do that. We value your*



*prayers for Quebec. We share the gospel with thousands every year and only see a handful of converts. People are so reticent to commit here in this province...*

Yes wisdom is all around us yet it is and can be ignored and spurned. Who are the people that spurn it? (V. 22) tells us who they are. *“How long, O simple (Another translation uses ‘Naïve’) ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?”* Here the text tells us that one group of people who spurn Wisdom is the “Simple, or the Naïve.” This group lacks discernment and is easily influenced or gullible. Charles Bridges in his fine commentary speaks of this group when he says they are of; *“...The temper of mind of those who fear not God. They weigh not what they say or do. They live as if there were neither God nor eternity. Their understandings are blinded by the love of sin. They consider all endeavours to enlighten them, as, breaking in upon an indulgent repos and exciting a groundless alarm.”* While living riotously, slothfully, or licentiously, they do not consider in their hearts (Hos 7:2) – *That, God remembers “all their wickedness” – and (Eccl 11:9), that “God will bring you to judgment for all these things.”*

Think about the day in which we live. Are our churches packed this Sunday or any Sunday for that matter? Are the roads congested with people driving to church? Or, is the traffic heavier leading to the cottage, the flea markets, the sports fields, and the mall? Are crowds fainting for Christ as a deer pants for water? Does our general culture weigh ideas & words & programs in light of God’s judgment? Do the masses have a healthy fear of God? Do people – Even church people fear God or crave Christ? Do you? If not – Wisdom shouts out, *“How long O **simple/naïve ones?**”*

Another group who spurn Wisdom is the Scoffers. This group takes great delight in their scoffing & ridiculing of wisdom. Again Bridges comments saying that this is a group, *“Who have neither fear nor shame, remorse of heart nor decency of manner, who take active delight in their scorning.”* This group is like those (Ps 64:3), *“Who have sharpened their tongue like a sword [and] aimed their bitter speech as their arrow.”* To these folks, any hint of religious and in particular, Christian zeal is, *“A weakness unworthy of rational people.”* While Scripture regards those who trust in Jesus Christ and are sanctified by the Holy Spirit, as saints, the scoffer finds such a truth revolting. He instead reckons them to be fools at best & hypocrites at worst.

We need only read of the animosity toward Christ and his followers poured out by many who promote atheistic, humanistic or secularistic worldviews as the answer to the world’s ills. Indeed Peter writes in (II Pet 3:3) *“... you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.”* A number

of years ago, speaking to a religious gathering in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said: *"God assumed from the beginning that the wise of the world would view Christians as fools and he has not been disappointed. If I have brought any message today, it is this: Have the courage to have your wisdom regarded as stupidity. Be fools for Christ. And have the courage to suffer the contempt of the sophisticated world."*

The *"contempt of the sophisticated world,"* is fleshed out in scoffers. They are too elevated in the vanity of their conceit to stoop to the childlike thoughts & lifestyles of the gospel. They are too wise in their own eyes & the eyes of their friends, to submit to Jesus Christ who is the Word made flesh – Wisdom incarnate! The way of wisdom and of blessing is not to be found in association with those who scoff at the things of God. In fact the Bible tells us (Ps 1:1) *"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers."*

We don't advocate total hermitic withdrawal from non-believers, but we need to be careful of mockers of the church/gospel. I think this is applicable to all but particularly to men. Often men of the faith that are weak in the faith are too easily dragged down & away from godliness by scoffers they associate with. Who do you hang out with? What influence do they have on you? Are they building faith in you? Or, are they tearing away at your faith & stand for Christ? Remember, (Pr 19:29) *Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and blows for the back of fools.*

Another group portrayed in (v. 22) is that of – The fool. It is a rhetorical question that declares that the simple love being simple, scoffers delight in their scoffing and *"fools hate knowledge"*. I think it's safe to note a regression here. This group has regressed from naivety, to scoffing, to being fools. We generally think of a fool as someone who lacks intelligence. But in the Bible a person is determined to be a fool, not so much for being mentally deficient, but for being a person who misuses his or her mental powers. This isn't a person who does not reason. Rather it is a person who reasons wrongly.

In what way does the fool reason wrongly? The text says *"...fools hate knowledge."* Why does the fool reason that way? The fool reasons along these lines: (Pr 1:7) tells us that *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge."* But (Pr 1:29) *(fools) hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD"*. In the biblical sense, fools despise wisdom and instruction. Even though wisdom shouts her wisdom in the byways of life, (v. 30) [They] *would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof.*

Picture someone diagnosed with a curable cancer that will prove terminal if not treated. Now, picture that person naively avoiding the doctor's findings, canceling any further appointments, scoffing at the diagnosis, refusing to accept curative treatment, and foolishly refusing to acknowledge his terminal condition. Actually there is no such thing as a terminal condition! Created in the image of God, every human being is an eternal being in a general sense. We all die physically to be sure; (Heb 9:27) tells us that, *"It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment."* At the resurrection everyone will be judged, either as those who by faith are in Christ and thus inherit eternal life with Him, or as those who by foolishness have rejected Christ and thus inherit the reward of their folly, eternal separation from God & His goodness. Jesus warned us in strong terms by saying there will be eternal weeping and wailing & gnashing of teeth.

With his hatred of the knowledge and fear of God, the fool professing to be wise, shuts out all that makes for wisdom & happiness. The fool hates the knowledge of his lost condition. And so he excludes everything that would give him, *"... The wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."* It's not that the fool has no intelligence. He may have lots of knowledge – even good things. He's likely really smart. But he shuts out knowledge of the better things and he renders himself as one, whose eye is drawn toward evil, whose soul is filled with darkness, and who hates true knowledge. Jesus implied as much in (Jn 3:19, 20) *People love darkness rather than light ... so that they will not come to the light, lest their deeds should be reproved.*

The fool, the scoffer, and the naïve ignore and spurn wisdom – although it is readily available. (V. 24) *"... I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded... you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof..."* How is it with you? This is a pivotal question because how it is with you now, determines how it will be with you in eternity.

This leads to a sobering truth - Wisdom spurned yields severe consequences (vv. 24-32). *Because I have called and you refused to listen... because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them.*

We shun, ignore and reject wisdom's reproof at our peril. These verses mete out an intensely somber indictment. Jesus the Saviour, Source and Supply of wisdom for salvation, calls to people by his word and his providence. He cries out by his ministers and by the voice of our own consciences. And upon hardened refusal and rejection of such infinite grace, he sounds forth His dire warnings, and they aren't pretty. The fool – the grace-rejecting sinner, reaps his own harvest of rejection in utter calamity. The Lord says, (V. 26) *"I will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you."*

Think of the fool standing for judgment at the bar of God's court! Guilty! No appeal! Cast out and into destruction! His ruin is laid at his own door. The sinner's waywardness and foolish complacency renders it's own destruction in the end. Every refusal, every errant step, every willful neglect led to the rejecting sinner's demise – and with no one to blame but himself for he failed to consider that what he sowed he'd also reap. The spurning of Christ yields severe consequences. "Payday – Someday" (V. 24) *"I have called and you refused to listen, stretched out my hand and no one has heeded."* Some think that this passage indicates a limit to the day of grace. That is, that there is a knock that will be the last knock. That there is a plea, and offer of salvation in Christ, that will be the last one. Then, as Scripture tells us, it will be a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Such consequences however, need not be the case for you. For we find the grace of the gospel within our text! (V. 23) *"If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you"*. Apart from God's grace extended to us in Jesus Christ, each one of us stands condemned as a sinner. But look! Here is grace! In spite of our naivety, our scoffing, our foolishness, there is an invitation and offer of grace! *"Turn to my reproof"* he says, and *"I will pour out my spirit on you!"*

Turning at God's reproof engenders wisdom to know the darkness of your own heart. It's a wisdom that shows a person that nothing less than the power of God can save, that God's wisdom and power to you is none other than Jesus Christ, that I cannot turn myself at his call – but I must, and that His promise is to pour His Spirit into me! And I therefore cast myself upon Him for mercy & grace. Consciousness of our own helplessness is His Spirit's gift to us. For with that sense of helplessness, comes the power to bring it to Him in defeat, and there to find forgiveness, joy and life in Him as He takes our sin and helplessness – And gives us his holiness, wisdom and power in exchange. (I Co 1:30) *"But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption."*

And note the consequences of accepting Christ, God's wisdom. He says *I will make my words known to you*. The Bible – Once a sealed book to you will, by his Spirit become a revealed book to you! And (v. 33) “... *whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.*” As one hymn says:

*No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No pow'r of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
'Til He returns or calls me home  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand*

Is this the wisdom – the power in which you stand?  
If so – all praise to God!

If not – wisdom calls out to you right now with these words.  
“*How long, O simple ones?*” – To delay is naïve, mockery & foolishness.  
Turn to Jesus now – And live securely – Not precariously.

**Hymn:**

**“In Christ Alone”**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWiFYJMGas0>

1. In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

2. In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

3. There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain

Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
 Up from the grave He rose again  
 And as He stands in victory  
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
 For I am His and He is mine  
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ

4.No guilt in life no fear in death  
 This is the power of Christ in me  
 From life's first cry to final breath  
 Jesus commands my destiny  
 No power of hell no scheme of man  
 Can ever pluck me from His hand  
 Till He returns or calls me home  
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

### **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) 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.**

### **Invitation to Offering**

Our ancestors in faith gathered together long ago to remember, to be restored, to be renewed. They shared their story, prayed together, and made an offering to God as they prepared to set out on the long journey to freedom in the Promised Land. Today we gather to remember and to pray together, to be restored and renewed, and we bring our own offerings so that the ministry of this church will continue to participate in the saving works of God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

### **Offertory Prayer**

You are the Great Provider,  
 the Giver of all gifts;  
 your love the only true currency.  
 Thank you for putting money into our hands,

and so we freely offer it back to you,  
for use in your service.

We do this in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## **Prayers for the People by the People**

In response to the Covid-19 Pandemic:

- For the **leaders in our Government** (federal, provincial, municipal).
- For the **Frontline workers.**
- For **St. Andrew's Church and its leadership.**
- For **marriages that are struggling, as a result of the pandemic.**
- For the **Education system**, that safeguards will be put in place to protect the students, teachers and staff.
- **Shut-ins and Nursing Home residents and in hospital:** (Elva Fair, Audrey Ferrier, Germaine Vanderklok, June O'Hara, Gwen Travis, Lyn Harrington, Bing Juen, Jo Mott, Ruth McTavish, Jackie and Brian Stapleton, (Karen McKim's parents), Nellie Larabie).
- **Shelagh Stevens's mother, Lyn Harrington.** Mom is now settled at Lanark Lifestyles. She is making a remarkable recovery and can now manoeuvre about the facility with her walker. Praise God! Shelagh.

Please continue to pray for:

- **Stuart McKim & Louise Burke.**
- **Ann Savage** - A scan scheduled for September 1<sup>st</sup>. Praying that results are favorable.
- **Rick and Colleen Richardson and their daughter Deborah** - We are not sure what the next step is but heard yesterday that Colleen is scheduled for an MRI but don't know for what. Doctor to call today, Aug 21. Other than that no change in Colleen's health. Still problems reading and loss of memory, but the Lord is in control and we will pull through. Much love to our church family who support us each and every day. Rick.
- **Joanna Savage** - We are waiting to hear from the surgeon to discuss next steps regarding the removal of the primary tumor in her intestine now that the liver tumor has reduced in size. Marilyn
- **Paul Thompson (eye condition)** - Next appointment in September.
- **Dave (Parkinson's) and Anne Crawley (foot infection)** - I have an appointment booked for mid-August with the Infectious Control Specialist. I am still awaiting an Orthopedic appoint. Please pray the root cause will be discovered.
- **University and College Students** - to have a summer job and return to school in the fall.
- **Angus Funston** - For healing of his liver and for his appointment at Sick Kids in August.
- **Eric and Laurie Cosens & Family**- Yesterday, Aug 20, Eric went to Oshawa as his sister Carol has started end of life care for their mother, June, and his brother Mark is

not coping emotionally. We rest in the knowledge that June has an abiding faith in her Saviour. Please keep them all in your prayers that they may feel the Spirit's comforting embrace. Thank you for your faithfulness in this ministry. Blessings to you all, Lorrie.

- **Fabiola's mother, Sofia Flores** – Doctors found a big ulcer in her stomach. She was also diagnosed with depression and anxiety. She is having a hard time eating and taking her prescribed medication. Please pray that our Lord would heal her ulcer; that her depression and anxiety could be put under control and that my Mom's heart will be transformed and filled with God's permanent joy and peace.

### Closing Hymn:

### “O Master Let Me Walk with Thee”

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXwXQnsaL3A>

1. O Master let me walk with Thee  
In lowly paths of service free  
Tell me Thy secret  
Help me bear the strain of toil  
The fret of care
2. Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee  
In closer, clearer company  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong  
In trust that triumphs over wrong
3. In hope that sends a shining ray  
Far down the future's broad'ning way  
In peace that only Thou canst give  
With Thee, O Master, let me live

### Benediction

Go now, strong in the mercies of God.  
Do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,  
so that knowing the will of God  
your whole lives may become a sacrifice of praise,  
holy and acceptable to God.

And may God, the Creator of earth and sky, be your help;  
May the Son of the Living God ground you on solid rock;  
And may the Holy Spirit equip you with all the gifts and graces of Christ.

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.