

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Guest Worship Leader: Rev. John McIntyre**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

(Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

**Serve the LORD with gladness!**

**Come into his presence with singing!**

Know that the LORD, he is God!

**It is he who made us, and we are his.**

**we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**For the LORD is good;**

**his steadfast love endures forever,**

**and his faithfulness to all generations.**

**Prayer of Invocation**

O Lord our God and heavenly Father, words are not enough to express your awesomeness, your majesty, your holiness. Our highest expressions of theology are but baby talk next to you: Your creation, your very self. Make us aware, through Your Holy Spirit, that you are here among us. May this awareness lead us to approach this hour more carefully. The words we speak, the songs we sing, the thoughts we think, the joy and sadness we feel, may these be pleasing to you. For in spite of the inadequacy of our words, our worship is offered to you. Be pleased to make it complete, whole, and full to overflowing, O God, our rock, and our redeemer. In Christ's name we pray.

**Amen.**

**Hymn: "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" (Lyric Video) Celtic Worship**  
 (Click on the link below to view the video. The words will appear on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pi1-5kmbkyQ&feature=youtu.be>

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,

all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.

### **The Act of Remembrance**

Let us remember before God those who have died for their country in war;  
those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived  
and died in the service of mankind.

- Reading of Bible verse: **Isaiah 2:4**

He will judge between the nations  
and will settle disputes for many peoples.  
They will beat their swords into ploughshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war any more.

- The Ode

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

**We will remember them.**

- Recitation of “In Flanders Fields”

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

- The Last Post (please stand)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9RwkNVqtog>

- **Anthem #800:**

(Click on the link below to view the video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h31M1EgrVD4>

**“O Canada”**

O Canada!  
Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all of us command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The True North strong and free!  
From far and wide,  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

- Prayer for Remembrance Sunday

God of peace and love, on this Remembrance Sunday, we again gather to

remember. We know that You have called us to be people of peace saying, “Blessed are the peacemakers” and reminding us that we are to love our neighbour and our enemy as we love ourselves. But we also acknowledge that there are times when we as an international community fail to abide by those words, times when young men and women hear the call to don the uniforms of their country and serve under their flag.

Today we give thanks for all who have chosen to serve their country. For their bravery, their commitment, and their love. But we know that when armies meet on the battlefield there are always some who don’t come home. And so, we paused in the memory of those who went and did not return to families left behind.

God, we pray too for those who returned from battle forever changed by what they had seen. For those who bore, and still bear, wounds of body and soul. May the remembering we have done here today reawaken and strengthen our commitment to work for peace, true peace. Help us to remember that peace will never come from a gun barrel but from the depths of our hearts. Help us remember our calling to be peacemakers at home and abroad. And may we never forget the cost that has already been paid. God of peace that surpasses all understanding, we pray our remembrances and our hopes in the name of Christ, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

### **Call to Confession**

Pr 28:13 tells us that *“Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”*

### **Prayer of Confession**

Dear Heavenly Father, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to you and your gospel. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in the likeness of our Lord Jesus. Give us clear minds and open hearts so that we may bear witness to you in our world. Remind us to be who you would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Hold us to yourself and build our relationship with you and with those you have given us on earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Assurance of Pardon

*In Psa 103:8-14 we read that, **The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.***

## 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 147

Praise the LORD!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

**The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

**He determines the number of the stars;  
he gives to all of them their names.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.

**The LORD lifts up the humble;  
he casts the wicked to the ground.**

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God on the lyre!

**He covers the heavens with clouds;  
he prepares rain for the earth;  
he makes grass grow on the hills.**

He gives to the beasts their food,  
and to the young ravens that cry.

**His delight is not in the strength of the horse,  
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,**

but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

**Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!**

**Praise your God, O Zion!**

For he strengthens the bars of your gates;  
he blesses your children within you.

**He makes peace in your borders;  
he fills you with the finest of the wheat.**

He sends out his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.

**He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**

He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs;  
who can stand before his cold?

**He sends out his word, and melts them;  
he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.**

He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and rules to Israel.

**He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know his rules.**

**Praise the LORD!**

**Hymn: “May The God Of Hope Go With Us Every Day” – (Lyrics)**  
(Click on the link below to view the video. The words will appear on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UILL3GIBpoc>

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

**Refrain:**

Praying, let us work for peace,  
Singing, share our joy with all,  
Working for a world that's new,  
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

**Scripture Reading:**

**1 Corinthians 15: 1-11**

**The Resurrection of Christ**

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,<sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Our Father and our God, since all fullness of wisdom and light is found in you, we ask you to enlighten us by your Holy Spirit in the true understanding of your word, and to give us grace to humbly receive it that we may glorify your holy name in all that we do, for Jesus sake. Amen

## **“The Quarrel Taken Up and Won”**

**Rev. John McIntyre**

As we approach Remembrance Day many of us will recall memorizing the poem “*In Flanders Fields*” by Lieut. Col. John McCrae

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

John McCrae's "*In Flanders Fields*" remains to this day one of the most memorable war poems ever written. It is a lasting legacy of the terrible battle at Ypres in the spring of 1915. As a surgeon, Major McCrae, had spent seventeen days treating injured men – Canadians, British, Indians, French, and Germans. Listen to the lines he writes about it:

*"I wish I could embody on paper some of the varied sensations of that seventeen days... Seventeen days of Hades! At the end of the first day if anyone had told us we had to spend seventeen days there, we would have folded our hands and said it could not have been done."*

"*Seventeen days of Hades!*" inspired "*In Flanders Fields.*" It is a poem written amid despair & death.

"*We are the dead,*" goes the poem. It is written as it were by a dead man. Listen to his plaintive cry emerging from his grave below the poppies; "*Take up our quarrel with the foe.*"

Who is the enemy – Who is this quarrelsome foe? It is that which brings us death. And what is it that brings death? The Bible tells us that the sting of death is sin. Our sin amounts to falling short of God's holy law. It is the blight that causes death. And so, our quarrel is with sin & its consequence; Death. This quarrel is a fight that none of us can win. Why? Because all people sin. Therefore, all die. Yet the dead cry out "*Take up our quarrel with the foe.*"

But the good news of the gospel is that, the quarrel has been taken up and won! We read about it in I Cor 15:1-10 which was read earlier in our service. In this passage we are presented with several comforting insights the first insight being The Source of the Gospel – Christ died for our sins. In verse 3 Paul writes the following: *What I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins*. Of all the things in life that are deemed important, this is of first importance! Why? Because what profit is there in gaining the whole world, and then lose your own soul?

Nothing is more important than the gospel message that, Christ died for our sins. It is important because (Rom 1:16) tells us that the gospel *is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes* it. In the gospel we have the good news that the penalty for sin has been paid. Remember (V. 3) of our text. It says *Christ died for our sins*. In other words, Christ has taken up our quarrel with the foe and in his death



on the cross he has paid the penalty for our sins. Because of Christ's death on the cross, God has pardoned our sins since Jesus has suffered the penalty due us. The Bible says, *The wages of sin is death – But the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.* (Rom 6:23).

But now only has the penalty for our sin been paid off, the pollution of our sin has been purged for (I Cor 15:4) tells us that *He was buried, and He was raised on the third day.* Jesus died, & was officially pronounced dead. He was rendered subject to corruption by being placed in the grave where his – destined for decay by the perpetrators who plotted his death. But the pollution of sin that brings death & decay to sinners failed to destroy Jesus! He was raised from the dead in an incorruptible condition! Thus, his death purges away, the pollution of sin. The penalty for sin has been paid, the pollution of sin has been purged and also, the power of sin has been defeated. (V. 4) says *“He was raised on the third day.”*

Christ's physical resurrection from the dead has defeated the power of sin. Sin, death & the grave proved powerless to hold Him. In (Acts 2:24) St Peter tells us that, God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, *because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.* Jesus, the Son of God, has taken the torch from failing hands. He has taken up the quarrel with the foe and he has gained the victory. He has won the battle the most important battle. He has demolished the power, pollution & penalty of sin, death & hell.

But was His victory just His own personal victory? No! The text informs us about the force of the Gospel in Christ dying for our sins. (V. 2.) says that *“By this gospel you are saved if you hold firmly to the word.”* And so, we can say that the Gospel is a saving force. It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes for in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, (Rom 1:17). How does this saving righteousness from God come to us? We are saved by God's grace through faith! It's a faith that rests in Christ alone. It's a faith that believes (II Co 5:19, 21), where it tells us that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting men's sins against them. It further states that God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The gospel is a saving force. Jesus is able to save completely those who come to God through him. But not only is it a saving force, the Gospel is a sanctifying force for our text tells us that *“By this gospel you are saved”* (NIV) or as another translation says, *“being saved”* (ESV). (Heb 7:25) tells us that, *“He (Jesus) is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.* The apostle Paul writes that believers can be, *“Confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.”* (Php 1:6) With faith resting in Christ we are assured that, *‘He is able to keep you from falling and to present you before God's glorious presence without fault and with great joy.’* (Jude 1:24)

Then too, The Gospel is a stabilizing force. Paul writes in (V. 1) *"I want to remind you of the gospel . . . on which you have taken your stand."* The gospel of Jesus Christ isn't a crutch to prop you up. It is a rock for a man or woman to stand on! It's the foundation that gives you standing with God.

Listen to what the Bible says about it. *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, (Ro 8:1) Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Ro 8:39) For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. It is God who makes you stand firm in Christ. (II Cor 1:20-21).*

The gospel is a saving force, a sanctifying force and a stabilizing force. If your faith rests in Christ, you are secured to the Rock which cannot move. You are positioned on the high ground and kept under His unconquerable cover. You are rendered impregnable to the foe of sin & death. And all this because the power of Christ revealed in the Gospel has conquered all that stands against us. In Christ's birth, life, death, resurrection & ascension, *"Death has been swallowed up in victory."* In other words, the quarrel has been taken up and won!

Listen to the taunt of the one who trusts in Christ. (I Cor 15:55-57) *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Christ's victory over our foe of sin & death was not for Himself. It was for us! He gives **us** the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who is the "Us?" referred to in this passage? It is the "Us" who believe in Him.

And so, there is the source of the Gospel, Jesus Christ. And there is also in him, the force of the gospel. And finally, there is the course of the Gospel. Paul writes (Vss. 8-10) *"And last of all he appeared to me . . . the least of the apostles not deserving to be called an apostle because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect."*

In speaking of the course of the gospel I am referring to the fact that the gospel is extended to every person. It extends to the least of persons, the most undeserving person and even to Christ's enemies. The apostle Paul writes: *"I persecuted the church of God,"* and he extended His grace even to the likes of me for he says, *His grace to me was not without effect.* In other words, the gospel of the saving power of Jesus Christ was effective in Paul's case and in this he rejoiced. And so, as Paul testifies, Jesus as presented in the gospel is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through him. The gospel extends to every person.

Further to this, the gospel extends to every place. Paul met Christ along the highway to Damascus, and Christ's grace was effective.

A thief met Christ as he hung on the cross beside him, and Christ's grace was effective for that thief though he was only moments away from death. A Roman

centurion heard the gospel in his home, and Christ's grace was effective for the one considered a foreigner outside the place of god's blessing and reach. The gospel extends to this place & to the person sitting where you are. Christ's grace is and will be effective for you, if and when you place your faith in Him. There is no place that you can go and be out of the reach of Christ and his power to save.

And finally, the gospel extends to every problem. At one time prior to this, Paul had a problem. His problem had been self-righteous rejection of Jesus. Yet his rejection of Christ was not equal to the gospel's power. When Jesus confronted him on the Damascus road, Paul cried out to Him in faith and was gloriously saved. Christ's grace showed its effect in Paul's faith and the change it brought to his character and life. The fact of the matter is that all our problems flow from sin. Sorrow and death and all the other adversities of life are offshoots of sin. But Christ has overcome them all and now resides and is in session on our behalf at the right hand of God the Father almighty awaiting the moment when he returns in great power and glory to make all things new.

And so, we can say with certainty that Christ has taken up our quarrel with the foe, and he has won.

He has won the victory for us. It is ours for the taking. We make His victory ours by trusting in Him for the Bible declares that *"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord – shall be saved."*

Christ died for our sins – This is of first importance. He is the power/revelation of God for salvation to all who believe. May this salvation be yours today.

## Hymn:

## "My Hope is Built" (Lyrics)

(Click on the link below to view the video. The words will appear on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1LtGQLZ87c>

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
And I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

### **Chorus**

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide His face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, his covenant, His blood  
Support me in the whelming flood;

When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in Him be found!  
Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne!

### **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. [standrewspertchoffering@gmail.com](mailto:standrewspertchoffering@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**

Even the smallest inclination toward generosity saved Joseph's life, when his brother Reuben talked the brothers into sparing him for the moment. Out of that small token of generosity, God brought about great and mighty results. God can yield an abundant harvest of joy and hope for each person touched by the ministry of this church. Let present our offerings to God in gratitude and praise.

### **Offertory Prayer**

O Lord our Saviour, giver of life and source of all good things, we know that all we have received is from your hand. You call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. For his name's sake. **Amen.**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**Closing Hymn:****“Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying”**

(Click on the link below to view the video. The words will be on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qp5Ck6BsWJQ>

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Benediction**

And now to God's chosen, whom he has upheld since conception,  
And carried since birth,  
Hear his good promise - I am he; I will sustain you, I will carry you, I will rescue even  
to your old age. **Amen.**