

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, May 16th, 2021
Worship Leader: Rev. Beryl Orok

Call to Worship

(Psalm 47)

Come and worship people of God

Let's celebrate with songs of praise

Our God has ascended with a mighty shout.

The Lord has ascended with trumpets blaring

For, our God, the Most High is seated on His holy Throne

Sovereign over all the earth and Lord of our lives; Let us worship our God together. **Amen.**

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God as we prepare to worship today, we ask that Your Holy Spirit would take the veil from our eyes and the callous from our hearts; so that we might sense through the work of Your Holy Spirit, the majesty and mystery of Your Ascension.

Help us Jesus to perceive how Your presence in heaven can give us confidence in our praying and hope for the future.

Amen.

Hymn# 363:

“All Hail The Power of Jesus Name”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WVSyGBBfi8>

All hail the power of Jesus' name

Let angels prostrate fall

Let angels prostrate fall

Bring forth the royal diadem

And crown----- Him

Crown Him, crown Him, crown Him

And crown Him Lord of all

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race

Ye ransomed of the fall

Ye ransomed of the fall

Hail Him who saves you by His grace

And crown----- Him

Crown Him, crown Him, crown Him

And crown Him Lord of all

Let every kindred, ev'ry tribe

On this terrestrial ball
 On this terrestrial ball
 To him all majesty ascribe
 And crown----- Him
 Crown Him, crown Him, crown Him
 And crown Him Lord of all

O that with yonder sacred throng
 We at his feet may fall
 We at his feet may fall
 We'll join the everlasting song
 And crown----- Him
 Crown Him, crown Him, crown Him
 And crown Him Lord of all

Call to Confession

While we claim to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord; the way we live our lives often proclaims our lack of faith in His power to deal with this world, and to care for us in our trials.

Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice this day. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

O holy and gracious Lord, how often we stand staring up into heaven, not contemplating Your goodness or Your majesty; but simply wondering where You are.

Forgive us, O God, for looking for You in all the wrong places, for not trusting Your promises of hope, and for living so often, as if You had abandoned us. Grant to us again the confidence of Your Spirit and the assurance that nothing separates us from Your love. Forgive us the many times we fail to live as You would have us to.

We ask this in the name of Christ, who is ever with us by Your Spirit. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

(1John 2:1-2)

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father— Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. [2](#) He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours; but also, for the sins of the whole world. Praise be unto our God for His amazing love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in heaven
 Hallow'ed is 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 our debts as we
 forgive our debtors.
 Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from the evil one.
 For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
 Forever and ever. Amen.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 93: 1-5

The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty
 the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength;
 indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.

Your throne was established long ago; You are from all eternity.

The seas have lifted up, LORD,
 the seas have lifted up their voice;
 the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

**Mightier than the thunder of the great waters;
 mightier than the breakers of the sea; the LORD on high is
 mighty.**

Your statutes, LORD, stand firm;
 holiness adorns your house
 for endless days.

Ministry of Music: "At The Name Of Jesus" (King's Weston)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKDO0f-shPQ>

1. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
 every tongue confess him King of glory now;
 'tis our God's good pleasure we should call him Lord,
 who from the beginning t'was the mighty Word.
2. Humbled for a season to receive a name
 from the lips of sinners unto whom he came.
 Faithful, Jesus bore it spotless to the last,
 brought it back victorious when from death he passed.
3. Bore it up triumphant with its human light
 Through all ranks of creatures, to the central height;
 To the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast;
 Filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

4. Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again
 With the Father's glory o'er the earth to reign
 For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow
 And our hearts confess him King of glory now.

Scripture Reading:

Acts 1: 1-11

Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven.

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Illumination

Ever Risen God; Just as You lifted the eyes of the disciples to see the rising of Jesus at His ascension; so lift our eyes to You as we hear Your holy word proclaimed today. May our vision be expanded in the awareness of Your Kingdom here on earth, and the blessing we have in serving You, as our risen King. **Amen.**

“Christ Ascended; Forever Accessible”

Christ Ascended; Yet Forever Accessible.

Goodbyes aren't easy! People have different ways of dealing with those times in life when we must say goodbye. Some people simply can't bear to even say the word goodbye and will use various euphemisms to express their good byes such as; see you later, until we meet again, sayonara, so long. Others simply avoid having to express anything; choosing rather to just quietly disengage, move away unannounced, or leave a job; unbeknownst to their coworkers.

It is a fact however; that we have to say goodbye many times over our lifetime, and not just in regards to relationships. We say good bye to jobs, possessions, old homes, pets, ways of life, and habits.

The word goodbye implies change is happening, or is about to happen, and most of us find change unsettling and challenging. We may feel that by saying goodbye, we are leaving a part of ourselves behind, or our identity is evolving into, we are not sure what, at the point of good bye. Good bye differs in meaning regarding the circumstances and the individual involved; but each one has an emotional component. Lonely people often have a hard time saying goodbye when on the phone with someone, because it means a disconnect, and return to loneliness. Rob's mom, during phone calls in the evenings, used to say "It's so nice to chat with you. It puts in the time." The word good bye itself has a measure of finality implied, so it's understandable that some are uncomfortable saying or hearing it's expression.

I love this saying of Winnie the Pooh— “How lucky I am to have something that makes saying good bye so hard!” (AA Milne.) Now that sheds a whole different perspective on the experience of “goodbye.”

Throughout the earthly ministry of Jesus, His disciples had already experienced a traumatic good bye. At the time of His death, they thought the goodbye was final; but then He arose from the dead, and was with them again for 40 days on earth; being present in His resurrected body with the scars of the crucifixion evident in his hands, feet and side; for all to see.

Before His crucifixion and resurrection these men had been almost constant companions with Jesus for 3 years. They had left their jobs, families and friends to follow and be with Him.

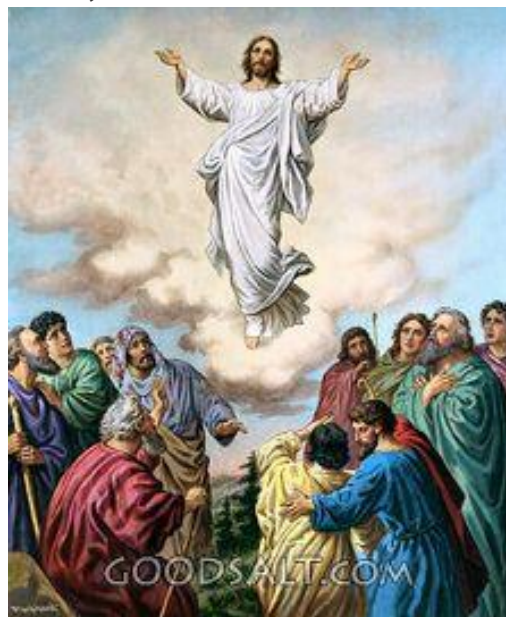
Our time together today will focus on the account of Jesus’ Ascension into heaven; leaving His beloved disciples, yet again!

Ascension Day was officially Thursday May 13 this year; so this is the first Sunday after Ascension. The Ascension of Jesus is an event that doesn’t get enough attention! Far more attention is given to Christmas and Easter; but; without the Ascension, the work of Jesus would not have been complete. When we focus on the Ascension, we soon understand that this event is the culmination of His work on earth! It could be said that the Ascension is the only occurrence in Christianity that can rival the resurrection experience. Therefore; there are valuable lessons to be learned concerning the reason for, and the implications of, the Ascension of Jesus. Interestingly enough; not all of the Gospels record the Ascension. Mark gives merely a brief account. **Mark 16: 19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.**

It is Luke, the careful historian, who gives us details in **Luke 24: 50-53**
50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.

Luke gives even more detailed in his written account in Acts 1:6-12

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7** He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” **9** After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. **10** They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. **11** “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” **12** Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city.



The traditional site of the Ascension is the Mount Olivet or the Mount of Olives, on which the village of Bethany sits. There on the Mount of Olives was the garden where His sufferings began; there He was in His agony. Bethany itself signifies “the house of sorrow.” A writer I once read said: If olive trees could weep, they most certainly would have wept bitterly, at the site of Jesus being arrested in that garden.

Before the conversion of Constantine in 312 A.D., early Christians honored the Ascension of Christ in a cave on the Mount and by 384 A.D. the Ascension was venerated on the present site, uphill from the cave. Yet; oddly enough, the modern day church doesn’t give much attention to the Ascension. Yet, it was such a vital part of God’s plan!

Ephesians 1:18-21 speaks to us of the power of Almighty God as He participated in the Ascension of His Son. **18** I pray that the eyes of

your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, [19](#) and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength [20](#) he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, [21](#) far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. The cloud that hid Jesus from their sight that day was indicative of the presence of God the Father; arriving to escort His beloved Son to heaven. It is a beautiful image of intimacy and love, between Father and Son, as Jesus is restored to his heavenly realm, after completing His earthly ministry.

We must remember, unlike Christians today; the disciples had lived with, walked with, talked to and touched Jesus while He was on earth, in bodily form. Whenever He talked of departing, dying or leaving them, they became deeply distressed. There are a number of references to the times He tried to inform them of what was to come.

Matthew 20: 17-19 is the third time He did this.

[17](#) Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the twelve aside and said to them, [18](#) “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death [19](#) and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

Matthew 26: 1-2: When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, [2](#) “As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

In the Gospel of John Chapter 1: [7](#) when Judas Iscariot chastised Mary for pouring expensive perfume on Jesus’s feet; rather than selling it and giving the money to the poor; Jesus told him, “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. [8](#) You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

Jesus acknowledged the grief and loss issues of His disciples. His words in John indicate His awareness and attempt to comfort them.

John 16:6 Rather; you are filled with grief because I have said these things.

John 16:22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

He offered them His encouragement and consolation. I am always touched deeply by the accounts in the Bible where Jesus exhibits His love, compassion towards, and understanding of, our needs and frailties as human beings.

Despite His attempts to inform and console; the disciples did not want anything to happen that would take Him away from them. They didn't even want to think about it!

Those of us who have had loved ones die can well understand the feelings of the disciples. Even though we know that those who have died in Christ are with the Lord and we will meet again; the death of a loved one; even if it is an obvious release for them from their suffering or debilitating old age, is painful to us. That final parting is so hard. We grieve the loss of their earthly presence in our lives, the sound of their voice and the anticipation of getting together with them.

The days following the resurrection of Jesus had been event filled ones for the disciples. During that time Jesus appeared to them, and to others a number of times. The first appearance was to Mary Magdalene at the tomb. Other women saw Christ at the tomb as well. The third appearance was to Peter, later in the afternoon of that same day. Then He appeared to the men on the road to Emmaus. The fifth appearance was to the ten disciples where they were hiding in fear of the Jews and then later to the eleven disciples, when Thomas was present. Seven of the disciples witnessed Him come walking to them on the water, by the Sea of Galilee. The Bible just says simply, He appeared to 500 other people as well. Then He specifically appeared to James, His brother, who then became a believer. His tenth appearance was to the eleven disciples on the mountain in Galilee. The eleventh time was at the time of the Ascension.

Jesus had definite reasons for His appearances in His resurrected body. These appearances were a loving gesture towards those He would soon leave to carry on His work, and deliver His message of salvation to the world around them. This was also to prove to many that He had indeed been resurrected, and so that a record of His appearances would remain, to be passed on to believers, for all time.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of Good Friday or the Easter Sunday resurrection of Jesus; but we must recognize that His earthly ministry did not stop upon the completion of these two events. The Ascension is not merely a lesser event; but rather; a crucial component of the earthly ministry of Jesus.

Why? Because first of all; His Ascension ensured that the Holy Spirit would descend in fulfillment of the prophecy of **Joel 2:28: concerning God's Spirit being poured out. 28** **"And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.**

In the New Testament, Luke 24:49, just prior to the Ascension; tells us of Jesus's direction to the disciples regarding this event. 49 **"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."**

Jesus knew his followers would need the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives to carry on His work.

Proof of the change the Holy Spirit's indwelling made in one disciple's life was witnessed in Peter, the rough, uneducated fisherman. He preached on the day of Pentecost and 3000 souls were added to the Kingdom. What first appeared to be abandonment was really an opportunity for these men to become all God had created them to be in service to Him.

At the tomb; when Mary encountered Jesus, John 20: **17** tells us; **Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"**



Mary wanted to cling to Him when she saw He had risen from the dead. But it was not to be; Jesus knew He had to return to His Father in heaven. He also wanted Mary to carry on, to complete her life work; serving Him, not clinging to Him. He wanted her to realize that He had not risen to resume His earthly ministry again. Their relationship would be different now.

Romans 8: 9-11 speaks to this transforming, empowering presence. **9** **But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)** **10** **And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God.** **11** **The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.**

Secondly; the Ascension enabled the enthronement of Jesus as King; where he took His place seated at the right hand of God the Father. In Acts 7: **56**; Stephen declared seeing Him on the throne as he was being stoned to death. **“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”**

I make the assumption that Jesus might have been standing; rather than seated, as He was awaiting Stephen’s soon entrance into heaven; a posture of anticipation and welcoming. I believe we will be greeted by our Lord when it is our time to enter heaven. Paul wrote, “...to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Revelations 3: **21** tells us that Jesus conquered and then sat down; the sitting posture indication of the completion of his work in this earthly body and return to his rightful place; reigning from His heavenly throne.

This was also the fulfillment of the prophecy found in Daniel 7: 13-14, [13](#) "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. [14](#) He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Seated on His heavenly throne; Jesus also acts as our High Priest. The former temple priests had done their duties imperfectly because they would die and the temple sacrifices would be required over and over again. Only Jesus was sinless and could conquer death with the final sacrifice; once for all. Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:[25](#). This because He is the only mediator between God and mankind.

First Timothy 2: [5](#) For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, [6](#) who gave himself as a ransom for all people.



While on earth Jesus was geographically limited; but after the Ascension He could be omnipresent. Proverbs 15: [3](#) the eyes of the Lord are in every place; keeping watch on the evil and the good.

If Jesus had not ascended, He could not return to set up His kingdom here on earth; so His Ascension ensures His Second Coming. Here's the promise made to the men who were left astounded, and no doubt wondering; what now??

Acts 1: [11](#) "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into

heaven. This will be a literal event; just as the Ascension was known to be.

The Ascension of Jesus confirmed His transition from earthly ministry to heavenly ministry and the promise of the Holy Spirit's descent ushered in the beginning of the church and His headship over the Church; which embodies His person. This was all launched at the Ascension.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit today provides hope, peace, power, conviction, counsel and comfort. God's presence can be experienced any time, any place and He promises to be with us always.

The apostles that day, as well as we ourselves, can attest to the words of Augustine who said, " **You ascend before our eyes, and we turned back grieving, only to find You in our hearts.**"

Therefore: Easter is not finished; Pentecost is impeded and the Second Coming is impossible without the Ascension.

We know that Jesus is reigning from heaven; engaged by the presence of His Holy Spirit in our lives and in the world. This brings us comfort when, events going on around us make no sense, or life is painful and we are struggling or grieving. We serve the risen King of heaven; who because of His sufferings has understanding for our pain and suffering as a human being. He intercedes for us.

One last observation: Before Jesus ascended that day, He blessed the disciples; demonstrating that having loved His own, which were in the world, He loved them unto the end. While He was blessing them He parted from their midst, which indicated that the blessings did not expire after His departure. He had blessed them while He was on earth and that blessing would continue from His heavenly throne.

As we await, with blessed hope, the event of **Matthew 24: 30** "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory; we remember our

blessings and we praise our God for His unchanging love and forgiveness.

Let us pray: May we fulfil the commission given to each of us; to love our neighbor as ourselves, to speak truth to power, to seek long term solutions for injustice, to meet the needs of others as best we can and to love and serve our God at all times, in all places. The Ascended Christ bids us to do so! **Amen.**

Hymn: “Before The Throne of God Above” – Grace Community
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAJyGZlbeTg>

Before the throne of God above
 I have a strong and perfect plea
 A great High Priest whose name is love
 Who ever lives and pleads for me
 My name is graven on His hands
 My name is written on His heart
 I know that while in heav'n He stands
 No tongue can bid me thence depart
 No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
 And tells me of the guilt within
 Upward I look and see Him there
 Who made an end of all my sin
 Because the sinless Savior died
 My sinful soul is counted free
 For God the Just is satisfied
 To look on Him and pardon me
 To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb
 My perfect, spotless Righteousness
 The great unchangeable I AM
 The King of glory and of grace
 One with Himself, I cannot die
 My soul is purchased by his blood
 My life is hid with Christ on high
 With Christ my Savior and my God

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.

Invitation to Offering

To be able to give of the gifts You have bestowed upon us is a joy and a privilege! It is also our deep desire, as Your disciples, to contribute to Your work in a tangible way. So we are thankful for this opportunity. **Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

Send us out, O God, to be Your witnesses in all corners of the world and in every corner of our lives. You have given us a story to tell and hope to spread; You have given us work to do and the power of Your spirit,

Now as we bring our gifts and offerings before You: bless them and use them we pray for Your glory and the furtherance of Your kingdom. **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

“Go back to Jerusalem and wait,” Jesus said to His disciples. Lord we are not good at waiting for anything. We want to know what to do right here, right now. We want answers to our prayers, and find it so hard to live without control of situations.

And yet, we find ourselves in this pandemic which seems to have no end and we don't know what the future is to be like.

In spite of this; we come to pray to You God; knowing that Jesus intercedes for us as He is seated at Your right hand.

Loving God: We have assurance of Your caring for us and the burdens we carry.

We give thanks for the hope found in the vaccination program; but as the variant strains of Covid are presenting across our nation, we ask for Your intervention in this situation. Please protect all those in front line work who have and continue to give, sometimes to the point of

exhaustion, in caring for the needs around them. May we all purpose to do our part in staying safe, and protecting others. Many are struggling physically, emotionally, mentally, financially and in relationships during these uncertain times. God, may they know, with certainty, that You are their hope and salvation and may God's people offer what they can to help them in their situation

In the midst of grief and loss Lord, we ask that you would be comfort and strength through Your Holy Spirit. We pray especially for the family and friends of Ann Savage, your faithful servant. God bless them and comfort them as only You can.

We pray for the leaders of our Government at all levels; federal, provincial, and municipal; that You would give them wisdom as they govern and will have the best interest of the people in their hearts in decision making.

We continue to pray for all those involved in our education system that they would be safe; teachers, students, custodial persons, bus drivers, volunteers and parents alike. We pray for our university, college and high school students; that they might find jobs this summer or meaningful volunteer positions. We pray for those young people who are struggling with depression and other issues related to the isolation and disruption of their young lives through this pandemic. May they know that You have a plan and a purpose for their lives.

We are mindful of those with connection to our congregation specifically; but all residing in long term care and senior's residences. Some continue to be isolated from their loved ones, as loneliness and isolation take a great toll on their wellbeing. Let us remember them in our prayers, and take part in sending cards or giving a phone call to remind them of our care and concern for them. May those who care for them be Your hands extended to them during this difficult time.

We pray today for all those listed in our Prayers for the People. There are numerous physical problems and we don't understand why these things come into our lives; testing our strength, and even our faith at times, making us feel we have been stretched to our limit. God give

them comfort and peace in the knowledge of Your abiding love. We thank you for the testimony of answered prayers from many.

For the leadership of St. Andrew's, we pray for discernment and direction. Thank you for those who labor faithfully in various capacities to ensure the needs of the congregation are met. Lead and guide in the search for a Pastor for this assembly. May You send to us a person who is steeped in and committed to, sharing the truth of Your Word; one who would have Your heart for the people and Your vision for the future of the congregation.

Sovereign God: Attend to the cries of Your people, and answer our prayers we pray through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: "Faithful to the End" - The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AH-9Dllyjvc>

1. When I'm feeling afraid, Full of uncertainty
When the plans that I've made all fall apart
When the futures unclear, and all that I can do is wait
There is a promise echoing in my heart.

Chorus

That he will be faithful to the end
He will provide time and time again
He will be faithful, so faithful to the end
And he will be there when all else fades
His love is stronger than my pain
He will be faithful, Faithful to the end.

2. There is Grace I can't measure
Mercy I don't deserve
There is forgiveness that's endless for me
O what a blessed assurance
To know how deeply I'm loved
And I'm always reminded, that he will be all I need
All I need

Benediction

Friends, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand---this same power is at work in each one of us who believe.

So go forth in confidence and commitment to serve the Lord on high;
knowing that God's presence and power go with you.
Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord and each other.