

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, June 20th, 2021
Worship Leader: Rev. Beryl Orok

Announcement

Dear Members, Adherents and Friends of St. Andrew's, Perth:

On Sunday April 6th, after Mr. Gerald Gallant had preached for a Call to St. Andrew's, we held our Congregational Meeting where we voted to extend a call to Mr. Gallant. After the meeting I prepared the Call documents. Out of 71 professing members, 56 signed the Call along with 20 adherents. On Tuesday, I forwarded the complete call to the Clerk of the Presbytery of Lanark-Renfrew who in turn passed it onto the Ministry and Personnel Committee to be examined. The Committee found the Call to meet all the necessary requirements and to be in good order. At a meeting of the Presbytery by Zoom on Tuesday of this week the Call was received and heard by the Presbytery. Here is the note that appears in the Presbytery minutes:

On this day, June 15, 2021, in its regular meeting of the Presbytery of Lanark-Renfrew, the following motion was duly moved, seconded and carried: "that the guarantee of stipend be approved and the call for St. Andrew's, PERTH, ON to the Gerald L. Gallant be sustained."

The Call has now been forwarded on to the Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca for consideration at their meeting which will be held the evening of Tuesday, June 22nd. We wait to hear the results of that Presbytery meeting.

In the meantime, the Presbytery of Lanark-Renfrew gave the Moderator of Presbytery and the Interim Moderator power to begin arrangements for an ordination service and an induction service for Mr. Gerry Gallant as the Minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Perth in September once the Call passes through the Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca.

Your Servant in Christ.
Rev. Stephen Dunkin
Interim Moderator

Call to Worship

Come, sing praises to our God this day; rejoice in His presence!

For He is our God; a Father to the fatherless, and a defender of all who need protection.

He is the One in whom the lonely find a home and the prisoner finds release and forgiveness.

Bless the Lord, the God of our salvation.

It is He who sustains and strengthens us day after day!

Let us worship God together in spirit and in truth! **Amen.**

Prayer of Invocation

O God; You who are both Father and Mother to each of us; we ask that by Your Holy Spirit, You would be pleased to be welcomed in our midst this day.

We pray that You would be blessed by our praise and worship in this service.

Thank you for the privilege, which is ours, as Your children; to gather and to call upon Your name.

Heavenly Father; You brought gladness and joy to the world, through the birth of Your Son. Throughout His life on earth, You showed to Him Your Fatherly care. You chose a special father for Him in Joseph, as His adopted father. When Jesus prayed, He called upon You as "Father."

As we celebrate Father's Day today; we give thanks to You, our Heavenly Father, and ask blessings upon fathers everywhere. **Amen.**

Hymn: "He Knows My Name" (Lyrics) – Maranatha Singers

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXsiWoyjw60>

1. I have a Maker
He formed my heart
Before even time began
My life was in His hand

Chorus

He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call

2. I have a Father
 He calls me His own
 He'll never leave me
 No matter where I go

Call to Confession

As we gather for this service; there is always the awareness of how unworthy we are, and of the many failings and sins we have committed; even over this past week. We are grateful to have this opportunity to bare our souls to You Father; to lay before You those things that we have done, which are not pleasing in Your sight. We come in confidence that through Jesus we can be forgiven. So let us bow our hearts and confess our personal sins at this time. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, You are the creator of all the earth and yet You call us Your children!

Even though You are the Holy One ; You do not keep us at arm's length; remote in Your holiness, but rather ; You reach out to us in abiding love; desiring to relate to us in an intimate father- child relationship.

Forgive us our feeble response, and the many times we fail to live as Your children; the times we repeatedly disobey Your will; the times we neglect or refuse to listen to the voice of Your Holy Spirit.

For the many times we ask for Your guidance; but then follow our own inclinations; we ask forgiveness.

We all too often forget to give You thanks and all too often complain; yet always You have loved us Father. Forgive us we pray in Jesus name. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

As high as the heavens are above the earth; so strong is Your love towards us.

And as far as the east is from the west; so far have You removed our sins from us.

So be at peace; God's beloved, your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. **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

(Isaiah 41: 8-10)

“But you, Israel, my servant; Jacob, whom I have chosen;
 you descendants of Abraham my friend,
 I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you.
**I said, ‘You are my servant’;
 I have chosen you and have not rejected you.
 So do not fear, for I am with you;
 do not be dismayed, for I am your God.**
 I will strengthen you and help you;
 I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. **Amen.**

Ministry of Music: **“Speak, O Lord” - Keith & Kristyn Getty**
 (Click on the link below to play the hymn. The lyrics are on the screen)

<https://youtu.be/ubRIJj8xkds>

Speak O Lord as we come to You
 To receive the food of Your holy word
 Take Your truth plant it deep in us
 Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
 That the light of Christ might be seen today
 In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
 Speak O Lord and fulfill in us
 All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us Lord full obedience
 Holy reverence true humility
 Test our thoughts and our attitudes
 In the radiance of Your purity
 Cause our faith to rise
 Cause our eyes to see
 Your majestic love and authority
 Words of power that can never fail
 Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak O Lord and renew our minds
 Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us

Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
 That will echo down through eternity
 And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
 And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
 Speak O Lord till Your church is built
 And the earth is filled with Your glory

Scripture Reading:

Luke 8:49-56

49 While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” he said. “Don’t bother the teacher anymore.” **50** Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.”

51 When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child’s father and mother. **52** Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. “Stop wailing,” Jesus said. “She is not dead but asleep.”

53 They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. **54** But he took her by the hand and said, “My child, get up!” **55** Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. **56** Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Prayer of Illumination

Gracious Lord, open our ears that we might hear Your Word to us this day, and follow where it leads. Open our eyes, that we might see as You see those around us, and the worlds before us; that we might be prepared to proclaim Your love and presence with joy. **Amen.**

The Committed Father

Happy Father’s Day to all the fathers today. This is a special day to honor you and I hope you will be blessed by the love of those around you.



How it all began: in 1911 Jan Addams, who was the first woman to receive the Peace Prize and the founder of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, said, "Poor Father has been left out in the cold. He doesn't get much recognition. It would be a good thing if he had a day that would mean recognition of him." 61 years later President Richard Nixon signed a

decree, making Father's Day a day of recognition for all fathers.

If I were to ask you today; "what does it mean to be a father?" I think perhaps the responses might be quite varied. Here's what a group of fathers themselves had to say when asked this question:

Being a father is; getting to go anywhere you want and getting to drive there yourself, and even getting to pay for the gas, and pay the bill when you get to the destination.

It is getting up in the middle of the night to see what the noise is outside. It is having the opportunity to buy all the toys you wanted as a child, and never got.

It is getting to watch cartoons, any time you want.

It is biting your tongue, and remembering to set a good example, when someone cuts you off in traffic.

It's dressing up like Santa to deliver gifts on Christmas Eve; then paying the bill at 22% interest for 36 consecutive months.

It is assembling toys that say it requires only one screwdriver, but in actual fact; requires a degree in nuclear physics.

It is praying for, hoping for, looking forward to, having your kids living out on their own ; and then secretly trying to postpone the day, as long as possible.

It is carrying a sleeping child into the house from the car, and up the stairs to bed; when you are so tired you can barely get yourself there.

It is many thankless jobs sometimes; fixing, wiping up spills, paying dental bills, sitting in emergency while someone sets your child's broken arm; after they climbed and fell from a tree, you specifically told them not to climb. It is holding the sobbing, brokenhearted child; while your own heart feels like it is going to break in a million pieces.

It is the best job in the entire world, and I would not trade it for anything, or any amount of money.

Dads can relate to a lot of these comments I'm sure.

Father's Day and Mother's Day can be tough days for those parents, who may feel they have failed; especially if a child chooses a path in life or a lifestyle that is hard to accept, or their child leaves the church, or gets involved with the wrong crowd, or becomes an addict, etc. Father's Day can also bring up uncomfortable; even painful memories, of our own fathers. Personally, I confess; I find it an ominous task to preach a sermon on either Mother's or Father's Day. I have attended some services on Mother's Day, after which, I wished I had stayed at home, because I ended up coming away feeling I was failing and couldn't measure up. So today; I have asked God to bring forth His heart towards Fathers! His heart is Love!! Fathers; you are loved and appreciated, and God Himself has called you to be a father. He knows your strengths and your frailties, and will be with you in the journey.

This must be an inclusive day to all fathers; so it would be remiss to not acknowledge that; for as many who experienced a childhood with a loving, kind, involved father; who disciplined fairly and forgave freely; there are just as many who don't share that experience. There are those whose father abandoned them; leaving them to grow up in a fatherless childhood, or the father who was absent emotionally or physically; perhaps because of being a workaholic. Others have experienced an abusive father; harsh and critical. There are those who have survived what was an often bizarre and fearful life, with a father who was an addict. In this case, there were good memories maybe; but always surrounded by the niggling fear of how and when it would all come crashing down again.

We must not forget those men who have been unable to father a child and you are left with a hole in your heart. I still have vivid memories of a Mother's Day service, where all the mothers were given a carnation; which was lovely. But across the aisle from me sat a woman, who had just recently suffered her second miscarriage, and I could see the tears were rolling down her cheeks and dripping onto her lap. It broke my heart. I went over to her, and gave her my carnation; telling her that I knew she was a mother too; even though her children were in heaven. Her husband came to me later, and thanked me for recognizing her pain. You see these special days can be joyous for some, and painful for others.

There are the men who, through separation or divorce, have limited access and time with their children.

Then there are the men who are fathering their own children; having not had any role model of father in their life growing up; so always questioning themselves ---am I doing this right?

There are fathers left alone to parent their children, and are doing the best they can to fulfill both father and mother role.

There are often those fathers who feel they are inadequate, to support financially and emotionally, and have no one to turn to for advice, support or encouragement. It would be remiss not to be aware, that many men are not living the typical father role, but are no less important in the life of their children.

God's word can teach so much about our roles in life and fathering is no exception.

I would like to start by briefly looking at some biblical fathers, who were not the best fathers; but there are things to be learned from their lives. So this is not the typical father's day sermon; exalting all the virtues of the perfect father! Do you know any of those? I don't; but I know many that I love, respect and admire, because they try, and their heart is turned towards their children, as scripture says in Malachi; recognizing them as precious gifts from God .

Eli, a priest at Shiloh; was a poor excuse for a father. His 2 sons Hophni and Phineas were allowed to desecrate the holy temple, steal meat the people had brought for sacrifices, and use the temple as a brothel. All this;

with knowledge of their permissive father. Eli made plaintiff pleas to them about their behavior; but failed dismally to punish them. He was what we might call, an overly permissive and indulgent father.

Samuel grew up in the Temple under the care of Eli; as a result of his mother's promise to God to dedicate her son to serve God; if He would answer her prayer for a child. Growing up in the temple, and serving Eli; Samuel witnessed firsthand, the behavior of Hophni and Phineas. So as a result; Samuel had no positive fathering role model, for parenting his own sons. **1 Samuel 8 tells us; "When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders. 2 The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. 3 But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.**

Samuel was a good man; but, he ignored his son's follies and appointed them leaders in Israel; despite their sin. This led the way for the Israelite nation to request a King to govern them; changing their governance from a theocracy to a monarchy.

Lot was Abraham's nephew. He offered his 2 virgin daughters up to a raging crowd; instead of the visitors the crowds, outside his home, sought after. This was an abomination. He allowed these same daughters to ply him with alcohol; until he was drunk, and then had sexual relations with them. He had no sense of valuing his daughters, or protecting them, and they had no respect for him as their father.

King David was an absentee and passive father. He was a great warrior; but not a family man. His one son Ammon raped his half-sister Tamar, and was then killed by his brother Absalom; who then proceeded to try and usurp the throne from his father. David had no backbone, when it came to his unruly sons and there were consequences; not only for him; but the entire Israelite nation.

Jacob showed favoritism towards his youngest son Joseph. Remember how the other sons hated Joseph; because of this favoritism, and sold him into slavery to get rid of him.

The role of "fathering" seems, at times, to be afforded endless opportunities to fail; but God did not get it wrong when he appointed fathers

to be men of God. There are many passages in the bible concerning raising children.

Ephesians 6: [4](#) Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” This scripture speaks of balance between discipline and permission; grace and forgiveness.

Psalms 103: [13](#) “as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;” speaks to the fact that fathers are to emulate the heart of God in dealing with their children.

Hebrews 12: [8](#) For what children are not disciplined by their father? [8](#) If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. [9](#) Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. [10](#) They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. [11](#) No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

This scripture describes the necessary role of a father, to discipline their children, in fair and just ways; just as God does in our lives.

This next New Testament story is one depicting the heart of God, in a father’s love for his child:

Matthew 9: [18-19:23-26](#) [18](#) while He (Jesus) spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hands on her and she will live.” [19](#) So Jesus arose and followed him, and so *did* His disciples. [23](#) When Jesus came into the ruler’s house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, [24](#) He said to them, “Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him. [25](#) But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand and the girl arose. [26](#) And the report of this went out into all that land.

In this story we find a father who was deeply concerned for his sick little girl. Jairus was a prominent figure in the synagogue. As such; he oversaw the daily activities of the synagogue. He was well known and respected in his role there in the community. He had possibly heard Jesus speak in the synagogue in Capernaum. But Jairus was not just a respected, influential man in his community; he was also a father. His daughter had been very ill and then, he received news that she had died. He was deeply grieved. He did all he could do next. He turned to Jesus and sought His help.

Jairus was not ashamed to seek help from Jesus; to ask Him to heal his daughter; seeking Jesus out publically with his request. He didn't send his wife, or a servant to seek Jesus; he came to Him himself. He was unashamed to cry out to Jesus. He was unashamed to ask Jesus to come to his house, where his daughter had been sick, and was now reportedly dead. This father's heart was breaking and desperate. When Jairus received the news that his daughter had died, he didn't become overwhelmed in his grief or let others deter him, or lead him to dismiss the Lord. Rather; he gave her into His care. In so doing; he exhibited a heart of faith! What is to be learned from Jairus?

Romans 1: [16](#) says; For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. Jairus was not ashamed to worship God, to turn to Jesus for help; to express his faith publically; to trust in Jesus to care for his child; thus he had dedicated his child's life to God. We all need to make that dedication; whether in a service to publically acknowledge that decision, or in our hearts, if that is not possible.



Jairus invited Jesus into his home. Our homes need to reflect the love of God and Jesus needs to be a welcome guest at our table and in every room of our home.

Jairus' first turn, when his daughter became ill, was to seek out Jesus. It needs to be the same for us; yes, seek medical intervention and treatment; but all during that time, pray and commit the child to God; trusting, as Jairus did, that God does all things well.

Like Jairus; it is important to bow before the authority of God; having faith in His plan and purpose for our life, and that of your children.

Therefore; I am of the mind of Pres. Coolidge in 1923, who indicated that; the goal of Father's Day is to encourage men to be effective fathers.

Michael Levine, the musician, who once said," having children makes you no more a parent than having a piano makes you a musician." To that I would say; biologically fathering a child, does not make you a father. So what makes a father; in the true sense of the word? It is a lifelong commitment that evolves, as the life of your child's does. It takes an investment of focused and intentional time, commitment, selflessness and involvement; being available and willing to discipline, and forgive freely; to love your child with the love God bestows upon you. So, let's talk about some of the practices that will assist fathers to be the best they can be in their God given role.

1. Someone has said; the greatest gift a father can give to his child is to love their mother. Love and respect towards your spouse sets an example to a child, which will inform their own relationships in life. It creates a climate of safety and security, in the home, that is a wholesome atmosphere for a child to grow up in. Even in the situation of divorce; where parenting is shared; it can be done respectfully, putting the needs of the children first and foremost.

2. Pray for your children and with your children. Maybe no one ever taught you to pray as a child; but the Holy Spirit will guide you into the practice. What matters is you pray for them, and that they hear you praying for them. James Dobson says that when you mention family devotions, sometimes men feel



uneasy; but take courage, and forge into it. Simple morning and bedtime prayers and prayer over your children as they begin their day, models so effectively, the fact that God is with them every day, everywhere and at all times. It is an example of practicing faith; committing them to God's care. Praying for your child is a lifelong practice; no matter their age.

3. Teach by living! When you are outdoors; draw your child's attention to the wonder of God's creation; the change of the seasons, the animals and birds, trees, bodies of water. Simple little object lessons can inspire them to be more keenly aware of the presence of God around them



Deuteronomy 6: 6-7, "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

4. Eat meals together. Now this is not always possible in a busy family; but purpose sharing meals together whenever possible; encouraging children to be part of the preparation and clean up. Start with thanking the Lord for his provision. Children are great at doing this, after an example is set for them. Whatever words they choose to thank God with; encourage them in the practice. You are shaping some lifelong habits of thankfulness and gratitude towards God their provider.

5. Encourage them to be who God has created them to be; understanding their personality traits and encouraging the development of good character.

The apostle Paul was a father figure in the life of a young man Timothy. Timothy's mother is mentioned in scripture; but no mention is made of a father. In playing this role; Paul filled a void in this young man's life. He taught him, mentored him, encouraged him, admonished him and urged him, to be all he could be in Christ. He kept contact with Timothy and he prayed for him. He modeled the life of a follower of God to Timothy, and we see the results in Timothy's life. At a young age; with Paul admonishing him to let no one put him down because of his youth; he became an effective witness for Christ. He wrote two books in the Bible. Timothy's life was enriched by Paul's fatherly presence; shaping his young life for God. For those of you who are fulfilling a similar role in the life of a young person; blessings to you. Continue on. Every child deserves a godly father figure; whether it be in the form of grandfathers, uncles, older brothers, or even, church leaders in children and youth ministry.

A child left fatherless, is a child at risk; in more than one way. Statistics for children of prisoners e.g. is very high, in favor of, them being incarcerated in their lifetime. In fact; intergenerational criminal behavior averages 6 times higher for children of incarcerated parents. More than once I have met father and son in prison together. I once had to accompany a father to the morgue to see his son for the last time; after he had died in a higher security prison. Such tragedy.

6. Discipline. We referred earlier to the fact that God disciplines His children. **Hebrews tells us: 12: 5 “My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?**

It is a responsibility to raise children in a manner so that; they will not to be self-centered, entitled, lazy, disrespectful and spiritually bankrupt individuals, for the rest of society to endure. God clearly tells us that He

disciplines us in love, and love is the bottom line in fatherly discipline too; that not equating with permissiveness, as we noted in the example of Eli and Samuel. There are consequences to disobedience; necessary to the development of a child's character.

7. Recognize that your children are a gift from God; male or female, healthy or disabled, Down's syndrome or genius. No matter; every life is precious to God! Jesus loved the little children and when the disciples tried to shoo them away, He rebuked them saying in **Matthew 19: 14** **But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.**



As a father or father-figure; you have the privilege of being the best you can be in a child's life. Always remember; God has entrusted you with the care and nurture of someone He loves very much. But He hasn't left you alone to face the challenges; He is there with you always.

This is your day, father, and you deserve to be honored. I pray today that every father or male filling the role of father in a child's life; will be respected and encouraged for their loving efforts. Knowing full well; that no one will father perfectly; but that because of your commitment and efforts, you are deeply loved; not just by your family, but by God! God, who is the Father of all!

Let us pray: Father God we give thanks for those men who have been our earthly fathers; forgiving them for their failures and being grateful for their commitment to us.

We pray: For fathers who strive to meet the demands of work, marriage, and parenting; balancing these with an honest awareness, that this is an important task, and they need You to guide and direct them in their role. For fathers who have had no male father figure in their own lives to inform their fathering; yet they desire to be good fathers.

For fathers who have stayed in their children's life, despite separation or divorce from their partner.

For those fathers whose children are adopted; but they have welcomed them, with love, into their family.

For father who, as stepfathers, have freely chosen the obligation of their role, and earned their stepchild's love and respect.

For fathers who have lost a child to death and continue to hold that child in their heart.

For those men who have no children; but cherish the children around them as if they were their own.

For fathers who have been wounded by the actions or choices of their children.

For fathers who realize they were not always there for their children as they were growing up, but who strive to offer their grown children their love and support.

For men who have been father roles, as mentors and guides, in the lives of children

For those men who are about to become, or have recently become, fathers; that they might wholeheartedly delight in their children, and take an active role in their lives. Finally; for our fathers who have died, but live in our memory; we give thanks. **Amen.**

Hymn: "Here is love, vast as the ocean" - Robin Mark

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8YOPj5TnUM&feature=youtu.be>

Here is love vast as the ocean,
 Loving kindness as a flood
 When the prince of life our ransom,
 Shed for us His precious blood
 Who his love will not remember,
 Who can cease to sing His praise?
 He will never be forgotten,
 Throughout heav'n's eternal days
 On the mount of crucifixion,
 Fountains opened deep and wide
 Through the floodgates of God's mercy,
 Flowed a vast and gracious tide
 Grace and love like mighty rivers,
 Flowed incessant from above
 Heavens peace and perfect justice,
 Kissed a guilty world in love
 Here is love vast as the ocean,
 Loving kindness as a flood
 When the prince of life our ransom,
 Shed for us His precious blood

Who his love will not remember,
 Who can cease to sing His praise?
 He can never be forgotten,
 Throughout heav'n's eternal days

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

It is with glad and grateful hearts; we recognize the privilege we have to contribute to Your work God. You have blessed us and provided for our needs. Genesis 4: [4](#) tells us; And Abel brought the best; the choicest part of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering. We choose to give from the bounty of Your provisions for us Lord and we do so with a grateful heart. **Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

God, You are the giver of bounteous gifts; providing for us, and caring for us. From the provision of abundance, we offer these gifts for the work of your Church and the furtherance of your kingdom.

Extend and multiply it's reach and influence,
 May our gift bring blessing to many. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Our gracious and loving Heavenly Father, we come to You today in Jesus' name; that name, that is above every name in heaven and on earth.

It is such a comfort to know that You are in control of this world; even though things happen that are troubling and perplexing to us.

This pandemic has brought very troubling times; there have been many losses encountered by so many people. But You are a faithful God, and

You care deeply about our cares and concerns. So, help us, to continue to trust You; even when we can't see the outcome clearly. We rejoice in the hope found in the vaccination program and that the case numbers are declining.

For those who have lost loved ones during this time and most recently; we pray that they would be comforted by the presence of Your Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and may they find in You, a source of strength and courage to go on.

We pray for all who are sick that You would touch them with Your healing hand and they would find wellness again.

We pray for our young people, who have been significantly affected by the isolation from their friends; some now suffering anxiety and depression; that You would be very near to them. May they find hope for their future, and strength to look ahead, to all You have planned for their lives.

We pray for our seniors and those living in long term care and retirement residences; that they would have the hope of visits from their loved ones and friends again.

We pray for our government, at all levels, that they would make wise decisions, concerning the future of our country, and our communities. May they have the best interests of the people at heart.

We pray today for all those listed in our Prayers for the People, Lord may their needs be met we humbly ask.

We pray for the leadership of St. Andrew's, and thank You for their steadfast commitment, to the church, and to finding the shepherd for this people that You have chosen. We ask a special blessing upon Gerry Gallant and his family as they consider the move to Perth and the Call that God has put upon their lives in regards to St. Andrews.

We thank You, our loving and merciful Father, for forgiveness and new life in Christ, our Lord; in whose holy name we pray today. **Amen.**

**Hymn: "This is My Father's World" - Fountainview Academy
(No onscreen lyrics)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3ZVL0LMMw>

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their maker's praise.

This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.
This is my Father's world.
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong
Seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my father's world.
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let the heavens ring
God reigns, let the earth be glad.

Benediction

Go forth as God's beloved children for His love surrounds us.
Go in the knowledge of God's comfort, strength, protection and
empowerment.
Go in God's grace to share the love of God with everyone you meet.
Go in peace now, to love and serve the Lord and each other.