

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, July 18th, 2021
Worship Leader: Rev. Beryl Orok

Welcome & Announcements

ANNFEST: Celebrating the life of Ann Savage.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on Saturday, August 21st at The Cove in Westport to celebrate the life of Ann Savage in a way that truly honours her wishes: with live music, fond remembrances, food & drink, and lots of laughter.

The stage will be set up on the lawn of the Cove, and the band, led by Tom Savage (and including musicians Bonz Bowering, Mike Corrigan, Richard Piche, Benji Savage, Tony Silvestri, Kevin Bowers, and Kevin Davidson. Geoff Chown providing the sound.) will get the tunes rolling at 2 PM. We look forward to having some Westport musicians drop by to play songs throughout the afternoon, as well as a few folks getting up to share stories about Ann.

[Please send us a message if you want to play a song or say a few words, and we will work to include you in the day's events].

Please feel free to bring lawn chairs, blankets to sit on (there will be some picnic tables as well). We want a festival-type party atmosphere.

We will be offering complimentary pulled pork (and veggie alternative) plus salads, so bring your appetite

Please share and spread the word to those who loved Ann. It will be great to see you all there!

For more details go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/984582478983511>

Call to Worship

We come to worship this day because for us to live is Christ.

We live for Christ; we live by Christ, we live with Christ, we live through Christ.

God is grace. Let Christ be praised in all we say and do; in all we think and speak; in this time of worship, and in every moment of our lives.

We meet You here Lord; in love and faithfulness we come,

Here prayer and praise join hands; scripture is embraced and our voices unite in hymns to You.

Speak tenderly, but clearly, to our hearts in this time we share together. God of Creation show us the path to peace. **Amen.**

Prayer of Invocation

This is the day that You have made Lord, and as Your people we come to offer our sacrifice of worship.

It is true that we each come from many different walks of life; some have walked with You for many years; while others are just beginning their journey as followers and servants of Jesus. Some are full of joy today, and some are burdened with care. Some are young in years; others have seen many seasons come and go.

In all our difference there is one unifying factor; our love for You God, and our commitment to serve Christ as our Lord and Savior.

We are all brothers and sisters of our heavenly Father, and we thank you for loving each of us in equal measure.

With confidence we come today to ask Your Holy Spirit to be in our midst; in our hearts and on our minds.

May the worship of Your Church bring glory to Your Holy name. **Amen.**

Hymn: Be still for the presence of the Lord (Lyrics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

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

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

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

Call to Confession (1 John 1:9)

If we confess our sins; He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This scripture urges us to acknowledge our sins; to confess them, to repent.

So let us call to mind our personal sins at this time.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God; we are so thankful that we can be forgiven through Your boundless mercy and goodness.

So, we come now to confess to You the wrongs we have done and the hurts we have caused.

There are chasms in our lives; deep valleys that separate us from one another and from You. These are of our own doing, and we take responsibility for them now; trusting that You will welcome us back.

As we make this confession; we humbly ask Your forgiveness; realizing in our own there is nothing to merit being forgiven; but through Christ, we can be once again be restored. Help us to be obedient; which is our reasonable service.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News! The Love of God is beyond measure and we are included in that love.

For He sent His only Son, Jesus; who lived, died and rose again that we would be freed from the curse of sin and death; unto eternal life In Him.

Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve as a member of His Church. **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 116 12-19

What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.**

Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful servants.

Truly I am your servant, Lord;

I serve you just as my mother did;

you have freed me from my chains.

**I will sacrifice a thank offering to you
and call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord— in your midst, O
Jerusalem.**

Ministry of Music: **Ancient Words – Written by Lynn Deshazo**

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

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

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

Chorus

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

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

Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world

They resound with God's own heart
O let the ancient words impart

Chorus x 4

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

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

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 2: 13-22

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **15** by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, **16** and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. **19** Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the LORD. **22** And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Prayer of Illumination

Guide us, O God by Your Word and Spirit; that in Your light we may see light, in Your truth find wisdom, and in Your will discover Your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

What Kind of Church are we?

What kind of church are we?

That is a good question! Not only is it a good question; but, it is a very important question.

Before we investigate the possible answers to that question we need to define what we mean by “Church”.

The term “the church,” as referred to in the New Testament, was derived from a Greek term “ecclesia”. This in itself, was derived from two other words; meaning an assembly, and to call out, or the called out ones.

As such; it defined a body of believers called out from the world by God, to live as His people, under the authority of Jesus Christ.

Scripture confirms in **Ephesians 1: [22-23](#) And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, [23](#) which is his body ,the fullness of him who fills everything in every way**. Since the church began with Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost, it has defined and redefined its identity in the world; but always. I would propose that, as a body of believers, we need to take stock, and purpose to be, the type of church where Christ is definitely the cornerstone. under the authority of this scripture.

A so called “church”, not under the authority of Jesus Christ as its head, is merely a group of religious people, serving as a social group or a service club. Therefore; the church’s identity is, and always will be crucial; as a beacon of stability, safety, support, just preaching, and living out the great commission, based on the truth of the Bible.

If this is not the case; if the church ever stops preaching the truth of the gospel and salvation through Jesus Christ and teaching members to be disciples and good stewards of the faith; it is then that it becomes no more than a social group; another group of people doing good deeds, but the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit will be absent.

Theologian A.W. Tozer said, “What has the church gained if it is popular but there is no conviction, no repentance, and no power?” We have witnessed this very thing happening in churches unfortunately.

Christ is proclaimed, under the authority of Scripture, as “the cornerstone,” and we know that if the cornerstone is not placed correctly in the construction of a building, then the building is not safe and secure. I would

propose that, as a body of believers, we need to take stock, and purpose to be, the type of church where Christ is definitely the cornerstone.

The man who built the Eiffel tower knew it would be famous one day. He built it with this specifically in mind. The church of Christ is not built for fame and popularity; but rather, it is built for the glory of God.

A mother overheard her little boy praying as he knelt beside his bed. "I went to church today God. It was ok and the music was nice; but I wish You had been there". What a sad; but honest prayer! Even a child can sense the presence of God! And how sad to not find His Presence welcomed, worshipped and praised in His church.

I remember a colleague at a Ministerial meeting one day saying, that so many people pass by the church building every day; but have no knowledge of what goes on inside the building, or that there might be something of value for their lives at services held within.

So if the church is regarded as having little consequence in the lives of some members of society; my next question is; how do they see us personally as members of the church? Important questions I think.

With this in mind; I would like to present to you 4 different types of churches for your consideration today.

A young boy was looking through a National Geographic magazine one day and saw a word he was not familiar with, so he asked his much older and wiser brother to define for him this question, "What is a Mausoleum?" The older brother, wanting to display his superior knowledge said, "It's a

place where dead people live!"

That was an interesting definition.

In the Book of Revelations, John has recorded a message to the church at Sardis.

Chapter 3: [1-6](#) "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These things say He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I

know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. [2](#) Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. [3](#)



Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore, if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. **4** You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. **5** He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. **6** He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

This translation says, “I know you have a name---in other words, a reputation, that you are alive; but you are dead. Pretty frank and to the point.

It’s not what we have a reputation for that matters; if the body of believers i.e. “the church” is spirituality dead. So when does a church become a mausoleum?

Paul gives us the answer in **Ephesians 4: 17-24** **This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, **18** being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; **19** and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. **20** But you did not learn Christ in this way, **21** if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, **22** that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, **23** and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.**

Briefly speaking; a church becomes a mausoleum when it does not put off the old manner of living, and does not recognize the need to repent and change as **2 Corinthians 7: 1** says, “**Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.**”

This is an admonition to be taken seriously. To not do so leaves us bankrupt spiritually; essentially dead!

Now I'm sure we have all visited a museum of one sort or another. As a child, and even yet, I love to visit what is now known as: The Canadian Museum of Nature.



I could spend hours looking at the displays. The purpose of a museum is to keep alive in the memory, what used to be; by bringing the past into our remembrance. Wheeler's pancake house has, amongst other things, a chainsaw museum; which I understand some might find fascinating. Our new neighbor, who has never lived in the country before, and who has recently taken up operating a chainsaw, is very interested to hear about this display. Museum visits are a favorite of all ages, and very educational.

In the New Testament; the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus is recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

In a synopsis; it is an event where Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a mountain. There it was that Moses and Elijah appeared, and Jesus was transfigured; so that his face and clothes became dazzling bright.

This was a profound event for the 3 disciples to witness.

Peter immediately wanted to erect a temple to commemorate what took place there; a museum of sorts. **Mark 9: 5-10 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." 6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) 7 Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" 8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man¹ had risen from the dead. 10 They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.**

Now it appears Jesus paid no heed to Peter's idea, and carried on instructing them concerning the event, as they descended the mountain. He did not condone the idea of erecting a museum of sorts.

Can a church become a museum? A church can become a museum when it is alive; but bound to maintaining the past the way it has always been.

God, nor anyone else, is allowed to step outside the box. Any change is met with resistance.

In the Warkworth Institution Chapel sanctuary we had rows of pews. The Chaplains decided that we might try a little change in the seating arrangement; so we shifted the pews slightly on an angle, and brought them closer together. My Sunday service was the first where the men encountered the change.

It was very amusing. As the men started to file in, and we had upwards of 50 men attend service; they just stood around at the back of the sanctuary for a few minutes. I said nothing, and then they converged on the pews. In a matter of minutes they placed them all back in the original position. Satisfied that their order was restored, they sat down and prepared for service. After the service, during the fellowship time, I asked some of them why they had moved the pews. I got a variety of answers, ranging from; “We thought someone cleaned and didn’t have time to put them back **properly**”; “Well it didn’t look right, too simply, I didn’t like it”. Change was met with much suspicion and resistance. It can be the same in a church.

Then there are coliseums: identified as a place where large groups of the living come to be spectators; to observe another small group of the living participate in an event. Historically an example would be the Roman colosseum. In current times it would be a place where we go to watch football, baseball or other events. People are alive in a coliseum, being watchful; perhaps even cheering or shouting at the event; but not participating in the event itself.

When does a church become more of a coliseum? This happens when the paid religious leaders, and a few extra dedicated lay persons, provide all aspects of the church activities. The remainder of the



congregation may be attending services and church functions, paying their offerings and tithes; but perhaps not even realizing that they are only vicariously involved in the life of the church.

Sometimes in an established church it is very hard for newcomers to get involved; whether that is because they don't see a place for them to fit in, and use their gifts; or they see the same people doing everything and they don't want to intrude. So they come and go and really don't become integrated. I can speak to this on a personal level, based on an experience in a church in Kingston. We had moved to the church, and the people were friendly and kind and welcoming. I was trying to find a place to fit in. There were a lot of church events; including church lunches occasionally. One Sunday, I got up and carried plates to the kitchen. It was a hub of activity in there; I asked if I could help. I was very kindly told, "Oh no. Everything is being taken care of. You just go and sit down." Well, going and sitting down was really the last thing I had hoped to be doing. I wanted to be helping, chatting, and washing dishes. So it was quite some time before I ventured to try and involve myself again. Eventually, I did get to wash the dishes at these functions!! I was so happy. Now this might seem like a very insignificant issue but it represents the need for people to feel they have a place and a purpose in the church body where their gifts are welcomed and appreciated. It is often the small things that make a difference to include people.

The scriptures tell us why including each member is so important: **1 Corinthians 12: [12-27](#) For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. [13](#) For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.**

[14](#) For the body does not consist of one member but of many. [15](#) If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. [16](#) And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. [17](#) If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? [18](#) But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. [19](#) If all were a single member, where would the body be? [20](#) As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. [21](#) The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." [22](#) On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, [23](#) and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, [24](#) which

our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, [25](#) that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. [26](#) If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. [27](#) Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

The final model of a church; for lack of a better word, might be called an academy; a place where people grow together into Christian maturity. A definition of academy reads: a place of study where special subjects and skills are taught. Now, I recognize that some churches are attempting to modernize and perhaps get away from a perceived stigma attached to the word "Church"; by choosing names, like campus or academy, in an attempt to perhaps bring in those who might be intimidated by the word church.

However, church is the biblical word for "assembly"; defined as the body of Christ---- His heart, His mouth, His hands and feet; reaching out to the world with the message of salvation. There is nothing else to compare to this. A church is a place where we become equipped for the work God calls us to; reflecting a body, individually and collectively, indwelt by Jesus Christ; where every person from young to elderly can grow in the knowledge of Christ and experience opportunity to fulfill the obligations laid out in Scripture for God's children. A church with a missional outlook towards the community and the world, is a church operating on the foundation of Christ as our model.

Someone once said: "The Church is not one of the wonders of the world; it is THE wonder of the world." And so it should be!

The healthy, church is a church that has a sense of divine mission. Its members are growing in knowledge of the Bible and in service to others. It is constantly being renewed by prayer, and corporately and individually, the church lives to demonstrate the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for all to see. Within a healthy, growing congregation, there is openness and honesty, tempered with tolerance and respect amongst the fellowship. That spells love that is divinely sanctioned.

I read once that the future generations will tell a lot about what kind of people we were by looking at our cheque books and our garbage! It's an

interesting thought isn't it! Any who review our expenditures will certainly get an idea of our true priorities. Since we will be unable to voice our rationalizations, regarding our financial profiles; people will come to conclusions about the values that most governed our lives. Will our cheque books reflect that we were cheerful givers to the work of the Lord?

Also; what we threw away, as a society, will be very telling. What will future generations see us discarding and disregarding; unborn babies, the elderly, the mentally ill, the poor and homeless, and those who are different from us? Will they discover that we often overindulged; that we had little tolerance for tarnished goods, and were more prone to excesses than moderation? As the Church of Jesus Christ we have an obligation to stand firm in conviction that Jesus loves us and we are called to love our neighbor; and all of the above mentioned persons qualify as our neighbor; so we cannot turn a blind eye as His church. What kind of a church will we pass along to future generations?

A church needs to be a place where the hopeless can hear about and experience hope; the hope in Christ as their Savior and the expectation of eternal life, and the joy and challenge, of serving a personal, loving God.

The worship of a healthy church has peculiarities. Within the worship service there is reverence, awe, joy and jubilation, as the power of the Holy Spirit is experienced in our midst. Sharing together in the holy sacraments of the church brings to us a depth of sacred experience like none other.

St Andrew's church is about to embark on a brand new chapter in its history. What that chapter will read like to those who follow in future generations is important, and is in essence up to those who are currently a part of this body of Christ.

Are we; a bride, ready to meet her bridegroom; prepared and looking forward to His soon return, and a flock following the Good Shepherd and His ways; a church built on Christ as the cornerstone ; so that the gates of hell will not prevail against it?

A traveler in a European village discovered a beautiful custom. At night he saw people going to church; each person carrying a little bronze lamp. They placed these lamps in the socket by their pews. If a member was absent, there was a very noticeable dark space. Today, we do not carry lamps to church; but we do radiate the light of Christ in our lives. Both when

we are in the assembly of fellow believers, and when we are about our everyday activities.

What a joy and a privilege to be a part of the body of Christ by spiritual birth, and to be a part of His church here on earth for fellowship, growth and service to our King



So may this be our prayer:
 Psalm 27: [4](#) One thing I ask
 from the Lord,
 this only do I seek: that I may
 dwell in the house of the Lord
 all the days of my life,
 to gaze on the beauty of the
 Lord
 and to seek him in his temple.

**Hymn: The Church's One Foundation with lyrics - Christ
 Church Bellingham**

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

The Church's one foundation
 Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
 She is His new creation
 By water and the Word:
 From heav'n He came and sought her
 To be His holy Bride;
 With His own blood He bought her,
 And for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,
 Yet one o'er all the earth,
 Her charter of salvation,
 One Lord, one faith, one birth;
 One holy Name she blesses,
 Partakes one holy food,
 And to one hope she presses,
 With every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
 And tumult of her war,
 She waits the consummation

Of peace forevermore;
 Till, with the vision glorious,
 Her longing eyes are blest,
 And the great Church
 victorious
 Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
 With God the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won:
 O happy ones and holy!
 Lord, give us grace that we,
 Like them, the meek and lowly,
 On high may dwell with Thee.

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3)

We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer.

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewspertthoffering@gmail.com Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (eg Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Invitation to Offering:

“Consider the lilies..... look to the birds of the air.” Jesus says these words to us to distract our thought from our worries about scarcity, and turn our gaze toward the beautiful gifts of God's creation; with signs of abundance and grace surrounding us always. So we bring our gifts this morning, with the assurance of God's care for us in every way. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise. **Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

God of the universe; Your word tells us that we will find joy in offering our time, talents and money to meet the needs of others. Help us to give freely, sacrificially and cheerfully towards the work of Your kingdom. May the seeds that we sow, in Your name, grow and

produce fruit for the furtherance of Your kingdom. In Jesus holy name we pray. **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Loving and eternal God may we never take for granted the privilege of gathering together in Your house, and the freedom we have to worship and praise You. Even though some may still be joining the service from their homes this day; we are all part of the body of Christ and in that unity we worship and praise God, and now bring our prayers to Him.

Loving God we ask Your blessing upon us, Your church, that we would grow and flourish in Your love and grace for the purpose to which You have called us individually and corporately.

May St. Andrew's Church be a strong and vital church in this community; showing thru the ministries, the programs, and our lives that You are real, and that through Christ, and Christ alone, we are saved.

As Your people we are called to pray; so today we ask that You would guide us in this time of many shadows; keep us from despair when we see so much hatred and injustice around us. We pray for our indigenous people; that they might find healing for their souls and spirits. Show us Lord what we can do to ease their pain and trauma as they grieve the loss of their children, and look for answers which may never come. We pray for peace and stability for those countries of the world where war ravages and so often the innocent suffer.

To all living in grief and the loss of loved ones, we pray they will be comforted; knowing that in You the circle will be unbroken.

Send us to do Your bidding; to promote peace wherever we can; to show mercy and forgiveness.

Lord we pray for so many in our world who are suffering from various trials and atrocities; may the hungry be fed, the homeless find shelter, the sorrowing be consoled, the prisoners be remembered and the stranger be welcomed in our midst.

Remind us Lord to use our words for encouragement, and that often a simple greeting and smile can mean so much to the lonely.

Forgive us when we dwell in the coliseums and the museums; may we strive to glorify You as a church body, and as Your people who are called by Your name.

Our governments at all levels need Your Holy Spirit to guide in their decision making. May the egos, pride and power plays, be set aside for the common good of the people they have been elected to serve.

God some here today bear burdens that are too personal to express. You know the intents of their hearts. Please meet their needs.

Our children and youth, the elderly, those struggling in relationships, the financially compromised, and those battling mental illness come to mind today. We put them into Your loving hands this day Lord. May they feel Your Holy Presence caring for them, and our prayers undergirding them. May we be ever mindful of Your Presence and guidance in the week ahead; so that we might glorify You in all we do and say. **Amen.**

Hymn: O Church Arise - Keith & Kristyn Getty (Lyrics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZmS81yLjMg&feature=youtu.be>

1. O church arise and put your armour on
 Hear the call of Christ our Captain
 For now the weak can say that they are strong
 In the strength that God has given
 With shield of faith and belt of truth
 We'll stand against the devil's lies
 An army bold whose battle cry is Love
 Reaching out to those in darkness

2. Our call to war to love the captive soul
 But to rage against the captor
 And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
 We will fight with faith and valour
 When faced with trials on every side
 We know the outcome is secure
 And Christ will have the prize for which He died
 An inheritance of nations

 Arise, shine for your light has come
 Arise, shine for the Risen Son
 Lift your eyes, we are his radiant bride
 Arise, O Church arise

3. Come see the cross where love and mercy meet
 As the Son of God is stricken
 Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet
 For the Conqueror has risen
 And as the stone is rolled away
 And Christ emerges from the grave
 This victory march continues till the day
 Every eye and heart shall see Him

4. So Spirit come put strength in every stride
 Give grace for every hurdle

That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory

Arise, shine for your light has come
Arise, shine for the Risen Son
Lift your eyes, we are his radiant bride
Arise, O Church arise

Benediction
(Romans 15: 5-6)

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.