

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, July 25th, 2021
Worship Leader: Rev. Stephen Dunkin
Guest Organist: Morna Douglas
Guest Guitarist: John McEwen

“In person” worship has resumed!
Please join us for worship Sunday morning at 10:30 AM!!”

Introit

“He Hideth My Soul”

Announcements

1. 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>

2. Welcome to Morna and John Douglas. Morna and is our guest organist today and her husband John is going to be joining her on bass guitar on our two contemporary hymns today. It has been wonderful to have the two of you joining us for worship in recent weeks and it is wonderful to have you leading us musically in worship today.

3. Preaching Schedule for August

August 1 st	Rev. John McIntyre
August 8 th	Rev. Stephen Dunkin
August 15 th	Rev. Beryl Orok
August 22 nd	Rev. Stephen Dunkin
August 29 th	Rev. Stephen Dunkin

Call to Worship (Psalm 24:1-6)

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,

**for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.**

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.**

He will receive blessing from the LORD

and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Prayer of Invocation

Our Father, you are in heaven, high and lifted up,
higher than our highest thoughts.

Holy is your name; beside you there is no other!

You are God, and you alone!

Receive us into your kingdom — the coming kingdom —

the kingdom of your anointed Son, Jesus Christ, whose name we bear.

Receive us, for we come to you in his name — we pray in him and with him.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn #13:

Psalm 24, “Ye Gates, Lift Up Your Heads”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLDyAo2Tcpcw>

1. Ye gates, lift up your heads on high;
ye doors that last for aye,
be lifted up, that so the King of glory enter may.
But who of glory is the King? The mighty Lord is this:
even that same Lord that great in might and strong in battle is.
Even that same Lord that great in might and strong in battle is.
2. Ye gates, lift up your heads; ye doors,
doors that do last for aye,
be lifted up, that so the King of glory enter may.
But who is he that is the King of glory? Who is this?
The Lord of hosts, and none but he the King of glory is.
The Lord of hosts, and none but he the King of glory is.

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, amen, amen, amen.

Call to Confession (Based on Psalm 139:23-24)

The psalmist models a transparent faith with these words:

**Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

We express our longing for God's leading
by our own transparent confession.

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,
and our offenses against you.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.
Have mercy on us, O Lord,
for we are ashamed and sorry
for all we have done to displease you.
Forgive our sins,
and help us to live in your light
and walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (Isaiah 44:21-22)

God, through the prophet Isaiah says:

**21 Remember these things, O Jacob,
and Israel, for you are my servant;
I formed you; you are my servant;
O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.**

**22 I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud
and your sins like mist;
return to me, for I have redeemed you.**

To you I declare, "Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace."

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 14

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."
They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is none who does good.

**The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man,
to see if there are any who understand,
who seek after God.**

They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;
there is none who does good,
not even one.

**Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers
who eat up my people as they eat bread
and do not call upon the LORD?**

There they are in great terror,
for God is with the generation of the righteous.

**You would shame the plans of the poor,
but the LORD is his refuge.**

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

**When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,
let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.**

Ministry of Music:

"Rising Sun", All Sons and Daughters

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofm_KNAXko8

1. Praise Him all you sinners
Sing oh sing you weary
Oh praise Him all you children of God

2. We lift high His glory
Shown throughout our stories
We praise Him as the children of God

Chorus

Our great Redeemer glorious Savior
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Light of the morning You shine forever
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Your Name is higher than the rising sun

3. Praise His Name forever
Speak it loud and clear now
Oh praise Him all you children of God

Chorus

Our great Redeemer glorious Savior
 Your Name is higher than the rising sun
 Light of the morning You shine forever
 Your Name is higher than the rising sun
 Your Name is higher than the rising sun

Bridge

Oh oh oh oh
 Oh oh oh oh
 Oh oh oh oh
 Oh oh oh oh
 Hallelujah name above all
 Simply to speak Your Name is praise
 Hallelujah now and always
 Forever we lift Your Name in praise
 Hallelujah our God You reign
 Simply to speak Your Name is praise oh

Chorus

Our great Redeemer glorious Savior
 Your Name is higher than the rising sun
 Light of the morning You shine forever
 Your Name is higher than the rising sun
 Your Name is higher than the rising sun

Ending

Hallelujah name above all
 Hallelujah name above all
 Hallelujah
 Hallelujah

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 4:8-9

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Hymn:

“Holy Spirit, Living Breathe of God”, Keith & Kristyn Getty

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nbMfLQd2P4>

1. Holy Spirit living Breath of God
 Breathe new life into my willing soul
 Let the presence of the risen Lord
 Come renew my heart and make me whole
 Cause Your word to come alive in me
 Give me faith for what I cannot see

Give me passion for Your purity
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me

2. Holy Spirit come abide within
May Your joy be seen in all I do
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
In each thought and deed and attitude
Kindness to the greatest and the least
Gentleness that sows the path of peace
Turn my strivings into works of grace
Breath of God show Christ in all I do

3. Holy Spirit from creation's birth
Giving life to all that God has made
Show Your power once again on earth
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways
Let the fragrance of our pray'rs arise
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see

Prayer of Illumination

Lord God,
help us turn our hearts to you
and hear what you will speak,
for you speak peace to your people
through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

“Think On These Things”

Philippians 4:8-9

How many sermons do we remember a day, a week, or a year after we hear them? Probably not very many. How many sermons do we remember from our teenage years? My guess is that would most likely be zero. It is the very rare sermon that sticks in our minds over a long period of time. Twenty one years ago I was in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania to take part in a family funeral. My Dad's eldest sister had passed away and I was asked to read Scripture and to share some reflections on my Aunt Elmina. As I made my remarks, I made some references to my Uncle Russell who passed away 45 years ago. After the service, one of my cousins came up to me and made a couple of remarks about his father who had been a



Baptist minister. He said that while he was not a great preacher, he had been a good pastor and excelled at getting some of his parishioners out of some very tight situations. In reply I said to him, “Well, Gilbert, your Dad was in fact a better preacher than you give him credit for. About the only sermon that I remember from my teenage years was one that he preached.”

Now, I have wondered why that sermon sticks out in my mind. Was it the sermon itself or was it the day? Because that turned out to be a very memorable day. I have spoken before about my Muskoka summers. Every summer, my Uncle Russell would preach at the Lake Joseph Community Church, which could be reached by car or boat. The rest of the Dunkin clan elected to travel by car. Always one for doing things differently, I



decided to go by boat and my older sister Celie elected to go with me. Now when I say we went by boat, you may think I'm referring to a runabout with 60 hp motor on the back. This was no runabout. It was an 8 ft sea flea that would carry 3 people at a squeeze. If there was more than just me in it, I had to ride on the gas tank! It was a home built boat but I cruised all over Lake Joseph in it and that is a pretty big lake .

Off we went to church in the sea flea. When we arrived at the church, we discovered that my sister's Bible had slipped out of her arms and over the side. So, we turned around and began to retrace our steps, hoping to see it bobbing on the waves. I now realize that it most probably floated like a rock and went straight to the bottom of the lake. As I went through a narrow channel between two islands, the motor stalled. When I went to restart the engine, the starter cord jammed and so there we sat. We paddled to one of the islands and a very kind cottager gave us a tow back to the church. There was my Dad, sitting on a bench on the dock, wondering what in tarnation (in exasperation) had taken us so long.

After church he sent me up to the car to get his tool box. The car was parked a quarter mile away at the end of a path through the woods. While everyone else piled into other cars and headed for home, we stayed and worked on the motor and finally got it running. Dad then walked out to the car and I headed home in the sea flea. That should be the end of the story, but it isn't. When I got back to the cottage, I went to change out of my good Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes and I put my hand in my pocket and pulled out the car keys. So I raced back down to the sea flea and across the lake with the throttle wide open. When I got to the church dock, Dad was sitting on the same bench twiddling his thumbs. My Dad use to call me “accident prone”. Whenever I was involved, things just naturally seemed to go wrong!

That day is a pleasant memory now, but there is one thing that is so much more than just a pleasant memory. It is the text of Uncle Rus's sermon. I can still see – and hear him – standing in the pulpit of that little lake side church. From the King James Version he read these words.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if *there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

In the Bible that my Mom and Dad gave me just a few years later – Christmas 1965 – that verse is not just underlined. It is coloured in bold red.

What makes this verse special? Is it just because I remember it after all these years? Is it because it reminds me of a very memorable day? No, this verse is special because it tells me how to think! It reminds me of the kinds of things that I am to focus my mind on. Let's read it again, only this time in the New International Version.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

These are the things that we are to focus on. These are the thoughts that are to mold our minds.

1. **Whatever is True.**

The first thing we are to focus on is truth. This may seem like stating the obvious, but it is not obvious at all. Much of the thinking in our society is based on half-truths or outright lies. For instance, our society does not believe in absolute truth. It does not believe that there is any right or wrong. Everything is relative. I have made this statement before in this series. What may be right for me may not be right for you and what may be wrong for me is not necessarily wrong for you. Our culture would have us believe that there is no objective standard by which we are to conduct our lives. It's because everything in our culture is considered relative. As a result, you cannot have something like the 10 Commandments. The 10 Commandments is a no-no because it declares certain things are wrong. By definition, if certain things are morally wrong then the opposite must be true and therefore right.





For instance, the 10 Commandments state that “you shall not steal”. There was a time when there was a consensus in our society that it was wrong to steal. That did not mean that no one stole anything. It was just generally accepted that it was morally wrong. But today, we make generalizations. We say it is not wrong if it doesn’t hurt anybody. So to steal from the government, to cheat on your income taxes, to get paid for a job

under the table or borrow office supplies from a large corporation – none of these things are considered wrong. Slipping things across the border, while not declaring them, doesn’t seem wrong either. Most people, even Christians, know that the Bible teaches it is wrong to steal. However, most believe that even if they do steal there will be no consequences, as long as you don’t get caught. Christians can be just as deceitful as the rest of the population. No, truth is the bedrock on which the rest of life is built. Jesus said as he prayed to His Father, Your word is truth! (John 17:17) If God’s Word is truth then the 10 Commandments is truth. If they true, then they are to be obeyed and there are consequences for disobeying them.

2. **Whatever is Noble.**

The Greek word used here means honourable or worthy of respect. Are our thoughts noble, honourable or worthy of respect? If someone cuts us off while we are driving; if an oncoming car fails to dim its high beams; if someone butts in front of us while we are in line at the store – are our thoughts honourable or noble? When someone hurts us or does something that offends us, are our thoughts worthy of respect? No, usually in these types of situations, we defend ourselves. When asked about our attitude, we respond, “I have a right to feel this way after what he did!” when someone does us dirt, we are most likely to think of ways that we can get back at them – or we may try to think of something that we can say back that will hurt them as much as they have hurt us.

3. **Whatever is Right.**

One question that we need to ask ourselves is, “Do we choose to do what is right or do we choose to do what is expedient?” Frequently we choose to do the latter. Here is a good example. In the days that we spent summers at my parent’s cottage, it was always a problem getting rid of garbage after they closed our local dump. The main transfer station near Port Carling was a long drive away and they charged for everything that you took to dump. So some of the family got in

the practice of taking garbage, etc. to a much closer drop-off point which happened to be in another township. Trouble was, you could only drop off your garbage if the local maintenance crew wasn't hanging around the site. Oh how I hated going there because I always felt guilty. I knew it was wrong, but it was expedient! Finally, I got to the point where I refused to go to the expedient dumpsite much to the



consternation of some of the other members of the family. I said, “No, I am going to Port Carling even if I have to pay!” I was not very popular for awhile. Fortunately, they closed down the expedient drop-off site so there was no other option but to go to proper site. That solved the issue once for all. The fact of the matter is that we were in the wrong. We should have done what was right in the first place, even if it did cost us money and even if it was inconvenient.

4. Whatever is Pure.

This is definitely a reference to sexual purity but it is more than that. It is a reference to moral purity in all its forms. One of the things that I have noticed is that so much of what is offered as “entertainment” has a darkness about it, even if it does not portray that which is sexually explicit. One example would be novels or movies that carry an element of the occult in them or have characters that are endowed with certain powers. I think that the Harry Potter series of novels and movies is an excellent example. Young people loved those books and Christian young people were not exempt. But they made me very uncomfortable. When you work with anyone whose life has become enmeshed with the occult you realize that there is nothing good about it. There is no such thing as “white magic”. In Deuteronomy 18 we read;



9 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. **10** Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, **11** or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. **12** Anyone who does these things is detestable to

the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. **13** You must be blameless before the LORD your God.

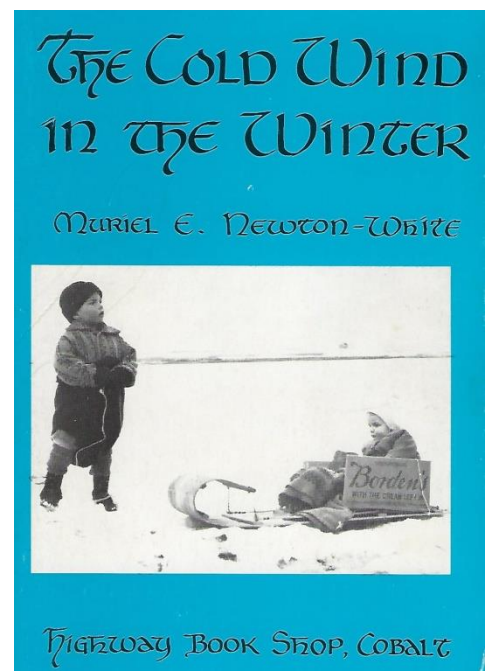
In Revelation 21, John writes,

8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

5. **Whatever is Lovely.**

How rarely do we focus on things that are lovely. This word covers so many possibilities of things that are enjoyable, loveable and lovely. It refers to things that are recognized as such by Christians and non-Christians alike.

This past Christmas my sister Celie sent Susan and I a book called **The Cold Wind in the Winter** by Muriel Newton-White. It describes a year in her life as a child growing up in Northern Ontario during the 1930's. They lived in a Toronto streetcar that was sent north as an emergency shelter when the great fire swept through the area north of New Liskeard during that period. That book certainly fit into the category of being delightful, charming and most of all lovely. It was a book written for children, but we were struck as we read it just what a treat it was to read. I have read many books in my lifetime that would fit into this category of “lovely”, but many more that would not. We need to seek out those things that are lovely and loveable; those things that stimulate our spirits in a positive sense. There is too much in our world that is base and degrading.



6. **Whatever is Admirable.**

If something is admirable, it represents conduct that is worth considering. It is conduct that is well spoken of by people in general. It may be someone famous like Mother Theresa or Terry Fox. It may be someone who no one has ever heard of like Dave Ogier who was my Sunday School teacher at Long Branch Baptist Church in East Toronto. Dave was loved by the many people whose lives he touched at Long Branch and as a contractor in the Lorne Park area of Mississauga.

To sum up these six virtues and close off this verse, Paul writes, **—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.** The things that we are to feed

our minds with, the things that we are to focus our thinking on are those things which are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable. All these qualities can be summed up in two words: **excellent** and **praiseworthy**. How different our church would be if this was our focus. How different our community would be if even just Christians would think about these things. If only our minds and lives were molded by these virtues.

In verse 9 Paul makes an extraordinary statement. **9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.** There are many people, even in Christian circles, who don't like Paul. After reading a verse like this, they conclude that he is too egotistical – too stuck on himself. He seems to be saying, “Hey, look me! I'm worth watching!”

**do what
i say,
not what
i do.**

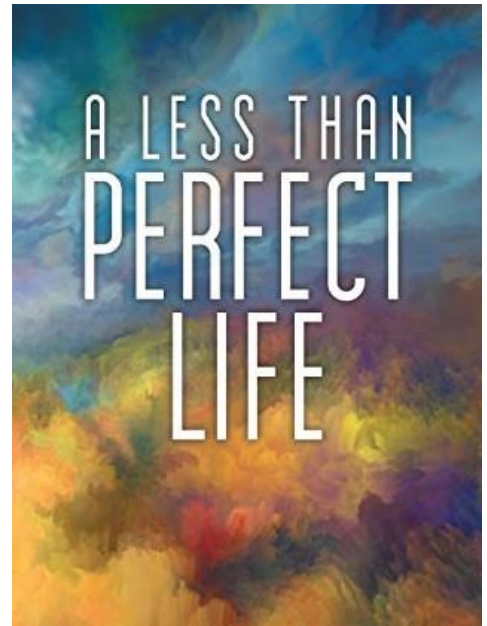
What do we usually say about ourselves? **“Do what I say; not what I do!”** How many times have you heard someone say that? Often we don't say it, but our lives display it. We expect our young people to be honest in all their dealings but we take our garbage to a dump in another township because it is closer and we don't have to pay the tipping fees! We want our children to do the right thing, but we have no problem bringing home paper, pencils and pens from the office or pirating software and movies!! **“Do what I say; not what I do!”** We instruct our children to always tell the truth, but they hear us trying to talk our way out of a speeding ticket or some other tight situation by lying. **“Do what I say; not what I do!”**

A minister says, “Don't look at me! I'm just a fallible human being! I make mistakes and sin all the time. Don't look to me. Look to Christ!” We are to focus on Christ and not on a human being, but what this person is really saying is this: “Follow what I teach you, but don't live the way I do, because I don't practice what I preach.” **“Do what I say; not what I do!”** I came across this quote from a 17th century Englishman named John Selden – one of the great thinkers of his day. “Preachers say, ‘Do as I say, not as I do.’ But if a physician had upon him the same disease as I have, and he should bid me do one thing and himself quite another, could I believe him?”

Paul does not hide behind this kind of double talk. He is not afraid to say to the Philippians: **“Look, imitate me. I am the one from whom you first received the good news of the gospel. And I didn't just teach it to you. I have lived it. So,**

- **Whatever you have learned from me;**
- **Whatever you have received from me;**
- **Whatever you have heard from me;**
- **and whatever you have seen in me – put it into practice!!**

People wonder why I open up my less than perfect life and allow others to see inside of it. The answer is simple. As I have ministered here at St. Andrew's, I believe that part of my job is to model the Christian life for you. That means being open and honest, not just about my strengths and successes, but also about my struggles and failures. What you have heard from me is important, but what you see in me is even more important. You need to see gentleness in me, because God's Word says we are to be gentle. You need to see honesty in me in all my dealings. You need to see how I deal with money and particularly how I treat tithing and giving. I am to model for you a lifestyle of repentance. I am never to be so concerned about myself and how I look in a situation that I am not prepared to repent of anything that I do which is wrong. I believe that every Christian should be able to say: **9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.**



This command of Paul carries with it a promise. **And the God of peace will be with you.** There is so much rich material in Philipians 4. We have seen how a life of thanksgiving results in our experiencing the peace of God. **7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** It is a wonderful thing to know the peace of God. It is even better to know that the God of peace is with you. Practice the virtues we have looked at today, and you can count on this promise: **And the God of peace will be with you.** That holds true for wherever and whatever situation you find yourself in.

Hymn #643:

“May the Mind of Christ My Saviour”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_ZBhSxWots

1. May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say
2. May the word of God enrich me
With His truth from hour to hour
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power
3. May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing

4. May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea
Him exalting self abasing
This is victory
5. May I run the race before me
Strong and brave to face the foe
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go
6. May His beauty rest upon me
As I seek the lost to win
And may they forget the channel
Seeing only him

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

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

With gladness, let us present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory:

“No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus”

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.
With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made,
for the sake of him who gave himself for us—
Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

O great God, glorify yourself in all the earth.
Be glorified in creation, be glorified in your church,
be glorified in our worship here this very morning.
Though we are so small and you are so grand,
help us nevertheless to magnify your name.
Help us to make your name and the nature of your grace
larger and easier for people to see.
Help us to live and to worship in such a way
that we become like magnifying glasses
through which our neighbors and coworkers and children and friends
can see you come into focus in ways they may not have seen before.
When people ask for an explanation of the hope we have,
give us the words to answer thoughtfully and well.
When people wonder out loud who Jesus is and why he matters,
help us to reply in words that will echo the sweetness of your gospel.
Help us to magnify your name, O Lord,
so that you may be glorified in all the earth.
Father, ours is a world that could use more glimpses of glory
and fewer glimpses of the hell to which our sin so easily leads.
Ours is a world that needs more of the gentle words of your Son, Jesus,
and fewer angry words shouted by ruthless dictators on platforms
or by husbands who raise both voice and fist against women
they vowed once to cherish.
We need your glory, Lord God, so that we can aspire to be more like you
and less like the selfish, self-indulgent creatures we have become in our sin.
We need the glory of your grace in a world bent on revenge,
the glory of your truth in a world in love with lies,
the glory of your holiness in a world filled with tawdriness,
the glory of your resurrection life in a world mired in death.
Make us transparent to you so that,
because of your Spirit at work in us,
this world can become a better place,
a more kingdom-like place, a shalom place.
Bless our congregation.
Heal those who are ill;
comfort those who are grieving;
reassure those who feel troubled
and frightened by what the future may hold.
Bless the leadership of our congregation.
Anoint them by your Spirit, and may they really feel that anointing.
As they do sometimes difficult, sometimes joyful, but always holy work,
may they sense your anointing.
Be in the words they speak, the cards they send, the visits they make;

be in the meetings they attend and the committees they work on.
Make each worker in this place a bearer of Pentecost's flame,
warming hearts, providing hope, lending comfort,
and so in all these ways contributing to your glory in this congregation.
Be with all of us as we continue to worship you now
and as we prepare ourselves for the week ahead.
For those of us who need to travel this week—
be it a long trip or many trips across town—grant safety.
For children who climb aboard buses and study at school,
be with them and keep them safe
even as they day by day deepen their awareness
of the world of wonders you have made, Creator God.
For college students writing papers and taking exams,
give them fresh recall of what they have labored so hard to learn.
And for any here today who face an anxious week,
grant extra measures of your Spirit's presence and balm.
For those who worry and who have much to worry about, lend peace.
For those whose worries have led to ulcers, lend healing and calm.
For little children who have been asked to grow up too quickly
because a parent is sick
or because mommy and daddy can't live together any more,
deal gently with these young ones, heavenly Father.
Scoop them up in your divine arms
so that they will know your embrace on those nights
when they find themselves crying into their pillows.
Be also with all the lonely people.
Be with the widow who has been alone for many years
and who we all think has done so well
but who alone knows how much her heart still aches more days than not.
Be with the one who has so long wanted marriage
but who has not found such companionship,
and for whom the years seem to be slipping away.
Be with divorced people who still cannot believe most days
that their fondest dreams for wedded bliss have been shattered
and who now live with both the regret and the loneliness of it all.
Be with those who so wish they could find someone to talk to but cannot,
those who wait for the phone to ring but it stays silent,
those who work so hard on tasks that no one ever mentions or comments on.
Be with those who are hungry for a word of gratitude that never comes,
those who search crowded rooms for a familiar face
but who can never seem to find a friend.
Be with all the lonely people—
be their friend when this world's friends fail,

be their companion when they feel that they walk life's journey alone,
 be their word of kindness and hope
 when the world seems able only to be gruff and brusque
 as it brushes past lives that don't seem to count.
 As we continue our worship now, fill us with yourself.
 As we sing, lift us ever higher to yourself.
 As we give offerings,
 be with us as we enter the rhythm of generosity and grace.
 As we turn to Word and sacrament, encounter us with your very self.
 Be glorified in all we do.
 We pray it ever and only in Jesus' precious name. **Amen.**

Hymn: "I Surrender All", Fountainview Academy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqQvda1Q0xk>

1. All to Jesus I surrender
 All to Him I freely give
 I will ever love and trust Him
 In His presence daily live

Chorus

I surrender all
 I surrender all
 All to Thee my blessed Savior
 I surrender all

2. All to Jesus I surrender
 Humbly at His feet I bow
 Worldly pleasures all forsaken
 Take me, Jesus, take me now,

Chorus

I surrender all
 I surrender all
 All to Thee my blessed Savior
 I surrender all

3. All to Jesus I surrender
 Make me Savior wholly Thine
 May Thy Holy Spirit fill me
 May I know Thy power divine

Chorus

I surrender all
 I surrender all
 All to Thee my blessed Savior
 I surrender all

4. All to Jesus I surrender
 Lord I give myself to Thee

Fill me with Thy love and power
Let thy blessing fall on me

Chorus

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Benediction

Go now secure in the love of God
from which nothing can separate you.
Delight in seeking the Lord -
look always for the power and the presence of God,
and let love, like yeast in dough, permeate all you do.

And may God work for good in all things for you;
May Christ Jesus conform you in the image of his love;
And may the Holy Spirit help you in your weakness,
interceding for you, and in you, according to the will of God.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Postlude:

“Here I Am Lord”