

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. John McIntyre**

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

**Prelude:** **“I surrender All”**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WZbHo7UVcw>

## Welcome & Announcements

### 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. **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WDP) – Summer Service 2021**

Because we could not have our usual service in March, our committee has organized an outdoor service in Stewart Park on Aug. 22 at 2:00 pm. The program this year was written by the women of Vanuatu. The title: "Build on a Strong Foundation."

**Call to Worship** (Pa 96:1-10)

Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

**Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared  
 above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

**Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

**Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."**

## **Prayer of Invocation**

**Hymn #323: "Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him",  
Grace Community Church**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNvoTbO8JFg>

Praise the Lord! ye heavens adore him;  
Praise him angels, in the height;  
Sun and moon, rejoice before him;  
Praise him, all ye stars of light.  
Praise the Lord! for he has spoken;  
Worlds his mighty voice obeyed;  
Laws which never shall be broken  
For their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious;  
Never shall his promise fail;  
God has made his saints victorious;  
Sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation!  
Hosts on high his power proclaim;  
Heav'n, and earth, and all creation,  
Laud and magnify his name.

Worship, honor, glory, blessing,  
Lord, we offer unto thee;  
Young and old, thy praise expressing,  
In glad homage bend the knee.  
All the saints in heaven adore thee,  
We would bow before thy throne;  
As thine angels serve before thee,  
So on earth thy will be done.

## **Call to Confession**

## **Prayer of Confession**

## Assurance of Pardon

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
 Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.  
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,  
 Forever and ever. Amen.

### Responsive Reading

### Psa 125

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

**One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.**

On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.**

They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

**The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

**All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!**

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,

**to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. « The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works. »

**The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.**

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

**You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.**

The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

**The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.**

He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.

**The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.** My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

**Hymn #324: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”, Grace Community Church**  
(Click on the link below to play the video. Lyrics are on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMf69QgS5r0>

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

**Scripture Reading:**

**II Cor 4:1-18**

***1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.***

***8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;***

**10** *always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. **11** For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. **12** So death is at work in us, but life in you. **13** Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, **14** knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. **15** For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. **16** So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. **17** For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, **18** as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

### Prayer for Illumination

Father, what we know not, teach us. What we have not, give us. What we are not, kindly make us. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## The Message & Mission of the Church

II Cor 4:5

I want to draw your attention to *Our Message & Mission*, as a Church. It emerges from the text read earlier in (II Cor 4: **1-18**), a passage of Scripture in which we find St. Paul defending his ministry, removing suspicion and affirming his message.

This is a timely passage for us in these days. I say timely because today, the church and its message are subject to great suspicion. Several years ago the *Ottawa Citizen* ran results of a survey that ranked the **most** and **least** trusted professions. Pharmacists received 1<sup>st</sup> place as the "Most Trustworthy." National politicians came in last at 26<sup>th</sup> and thus the "Least Trustworthy." And Religious institutions came in at 14<sup>th</sup> ... Just behind plumbers. Half way down the list is a poor showing for the *church of the living God* which, (1Tim 3: **15**) tells us is "... a pillar and buttress **of the truth**"

And in addition, the current outrage over the unmarked graves of indigenous children who in bygone days, died while attending residential schools financed by our government and operated by various Christian denominations throughout our nation has served to increased suspicions in the minds of church critics & many

church members alike. Whether the aforementioned mistrust is truly warranted or not, we the church, have a major credibility problem to resolve.

The Apostle Paul was dealing with his particular issue as well – **Credibility**. How did he go about resolving it? He drew his detractors' attention to the **message of the church** and the **mission of the church**.

**The exclusive & foundational message of the church is “Jesus Christ is Lord!”** (V. 5), *“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,”* In dealing with the mistrust and skepticism of His day Paul drew attention – Not to himself, but to his Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul emphasized one thing: The Lordship of Jesus Christ.

It was the exclusive declaration of the Apostles and is the exclusive claim of the church: **“Jesus Christ is Lord”**. Peter declared (Matt. 16: 16) *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* Again, he preached in (Acts 4: 12), *“There is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”* And he the exclusive Lord and head of the church because (II Cor 5:19), *“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.”* And of course, this apostolic declaration is based on the exclusive claim of Christ himself (Jn 14: 6), *“I am the Way the Truth & the Life. No one comes to the Father but by me.”* In our text we find that Paul is telling us “The Churches one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.”

Paul preached (and we are called to preach) Jesus Christ as Lord because, He is God the Son manifested in the flesh of humanity. He is the **only** Mediator between God and man. He is the Saviour of all who believe in Him. He is the exalted Lord seated in the heavenly places far above all rule and authority. He has been given as head over all things to the church, which is His body (Eph 1: 23). Thus as Head of the Church he is Lord and Master of the household of faith.

In order to gain credibility and counteract his critics, Paul preached Christ Jesus as Lord. He proclaimed an **exclusive message**, and the exclusive subject of his message was the Lord of the Church – Jesus Christ. And this is the message we his church and ministers must make our priority! The church is not a special interest group. It is not an activist group. It is not a social advocacy group. The church is first and foremost a gospel speaking/living witness to the person of Jesus Christ and of him as Lord & Saviour. And so, **the exclusive & foundational message of the church is, Jesus Christ is Lord!**

Paul not only had this exclusive message to proclaim, he had an exclusive purpose to fulfill, that of being a servant of/for the sake of Christ.

**The foundational mission of the church is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.** In (V. 5), Paul describes himself & his comrades in the Lord as *“...your servants (bondservants) for Jesus' sake.”* What is a servant – Or a bondservant? To be a servant (in Paul's context) is to be a slave. A slave was one who was obliged to serve a master for as long as they lived and never to be released. Romans considered slaves as items to be used, as you would use a tool or instrument.

They had no rights and were at the disposal to meet the whims of others. So when Paul defines himself as a servant, He is speaking to us about the mission of the church being one of **Servant hood**.

Notice he does not say they were servants of Christ, although they were. He says we are **your servants** for Jesus' sake. In other words, he was at Christ's disposal in and for service to others. And because it was for Jesus' sake, it made all the difference. Paul considered his servant hood an exclusive & glorious position/calling. This indicates that if the church of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is going to silence her critics, we too will need to accentuate our role and responsibility as servants to others for Jesus' sake in the same way. This should be in the purpose statement of every church: A **Gospel mission/service to others for the sake of Christ!** This principle of church ministry demands, service to others – Not independence from others. It requires service to others – Not individuality to fulfill my own desires.

An over-realized assertion of independence, individuality & self-rights are killing the church of our day and rendering her ineffective! The early church did not turn the world upside down asserting their rights to self-determination. They asserted Christ's right to their lives, and servants to all for Christ's sake! Paul says in (Php 1: [21](#)) *"For me to live is Christ!"* Again in (I Cor 2: [1](#)) he writes, *"I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."* And how about this testimony from (Col 1: [24](#)), *"... I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake"* and finally in (Rom 5: [3](#)) he writes, *"And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations..."* The world might think him daft to exult in his tribulations, to rejoice in his sufferings for the sake of others. But to Paul it was a glorious calling.

What makes this servant hood mission such an acceptable/glorious calling? We find the answer in (II Cor 4: [6](#)), God activates it within **us**! Listen to Paul as he explains: *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

God includes this glorious servant-hood calling in the salvation that he activates within us. God shines his light into our hearts regenerating our dead, darkened and blinded by sin lives in much the same way that he commanded light to shine out of darkness at creation. He has beamed His illuminating light in the deepest recesses of our souls, and given us the knowledge of his glory, his majesty, and his power *"in the face of Christ,"* who is the image of the invisible God. He supernaturally activates the call to serve as His servants when the Spirit of Christ invades our hearts with his gospel light! As it says in (Col 1: [27](#)) *"God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery . . . which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.* Our status as his servants is glorious! Why? Because God has placed the knowledge & riches of His glory **in us**, which is the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. In (V. [7](#)) we are told that this is a treasure in us given by God! *"We have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves."*

Here we have the purpose of our glorious mission. Our mission is to display God's treasure – His glory – His Son's image, in the jars of clay that are our bodies & our being. As Eugene Peterson says in his translation; *"The unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives."* God in his grace has given us salvation in Christ. And through Jesus Christ, he is pleased to place his treasure in our bodies of all things! They are bodies that are weak & prone to sin, suffering, brokenness & death. They are containers, ill suited & too frail to be trusted with any treasure, and subject to affliction, perplexities, persecutions, and death. Why does God place his treasure in such frail, vulnerable vessels? The answer is found in (II Cor 4: [7](#), [11](#)). He places his treasures in frail ordinary lives: *"To show that the surpassing power belongs to God & not to us... So that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh"*.

Our mission is to manifest Christ – The treasure God places within believers! We need to understand that the surpassing greatness of the power of God is made operative through weakness! We are not here to promote our agendas & ourselves. That's the way the world operates as people maneuver and manipulate for power and domination. If you and I are Christians, we are not here to demonstrate our own power, independence and rights. We have no entitlements save our union to/with Christ. And in that union with him, we are servants. We are not our own. We've been bought with a price. We are not powerful vessels in and of ourselves. However, we are the most privileged people on the face of the earth for it has pleased God to place His treasure in us, frail and earthy as we are, and to present us as exhibitions of His surpassing power!

He demonstrates His surpassing power best, through our frailty & weakness. Paul writes (II Cor. 12: [10](#)) that he is, *"...Well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."* And if we were to ask Paul why this is the case with him, his answer would no doubt be: *"Because we carry God's treasure in earthen vessels."* *"Because God's power is perfected through the weakness of these vessels."* *"Because it manifests the power of the once dead but now resurrected, ascended Christ."* He would say, as he says in this chapter, that while it may be affliction, adversity and death to us – His servants, it will be life to others, as the surpassing power of Christ is seen radiating from us.

This is all in keeping with the mission of the treasure we bear, for Christ Jesus, came into the world (Mk 10: [45](#)), *"Not to be served but to serve, and give His life a ransom for many."* Our mission is to display this treasure within us – Even Jesus Christ, by radiating his life in us, even as our bodies wear out, by maintaining his life within us by way of faith, by not losing heart in our mission and by trusting that the treasure within us has all power to save us, keep us, and to raise our mortal bodies... and also, to save others through us and our mission.

Our mission is to convey the message of Christ. Christ is the answer to this world's sin, fears and despair. He is the resurrection and the life. He is the life of all whose faith rests in Him. It is His life giving power that the world needs to see



demonstrated through the church. It is His power at work in us that we are called to serve up to the world and that people might have a true hope and not lose heart.

We have this treasure in earthen vessels and it is well worth the trials it brings. Though demonstrating the surpassing power of God may relegate us to the status of bondservants, cause embarrassment, affliction and even death, Paul assures us that in light of eternity - It will all seem as momentary. Why? Because the things we experience here are transient. And so we live in Christ with a view to the eternal. We are earthen vessels carrying God's treasure, a treasure that is an eternal treasure.

The world needs to see that Christ is of eternal value to us, that He is God's treasure in us and to us, that He is God's treasure radiating from us and that He is God's treasure to be shared with others. And when the world truly sees God's treasure, Christ in us, and radiating from us, the surpassing power of God will be so demonstrated that our credibility will no longer be a problem and our message & mission will be effective for Him. (II Cor 4: 5) *For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.* May our Message be Christ and may our Mission be his.

**Hymn #479: "The Church's One Foundation", Grace Community Church**  
(Click on the link below to play the video. Lyrics are on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1YBYrJ8Hzg>

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 every 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 for evermore;  
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,  
In love 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. [standrewspert offering@gmail.com](mailto: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**

The Lord loves a cheerful giver. Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

### **Offertory Prayer**

Lord God, our Creator, our Saviour and our Keeper, we joyfully present our offerings to you. We know that the earth is yours in all its fullness and that you are in need of nothing. Nevertheless, we pray that you would receive this offering with great delight and as a sign of your Spirit's work in our hearts and lives. It is our desire to honor you out of our increase and to show that you reign in our hearts through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Closing Hymn:**

**"O Church Arise", Keith & Kristyn Getty**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x63cVewXAeg>

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

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

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

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

### **Benediction**

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **Postlude:**

**Handel's "The Hallelujah Chorus", The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LajyjD0nzF4>