

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. Stephen Dunkin**

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

**Introit: “All Creatures of Our God and King”, Prayers of the Saints**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUZD0hgtSgE>

**Announcements**

1. **Anne Savage – two of her children, Doug and Trina**

2. **Preaching Schedule**

August 29<sup>th</sup> Rev. Stephen Dunkin – my last Sunday.

September 5<sup>th</sup> Pastor Jerry Gallant – begins his ministry, as well as our new Music director Morna Douglas begins her ministry.

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM Ordination and Induction Service by the Presbytery of Lanark – Renfrew.

**Call to Worship**

LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;  
 in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

**Do not bring your servant into judgment,  
 for no one living is righteous before you.**

The Enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground;  
 he makes me dwell in the darkness like those long dead.

**So my spirit grows faint within me;  
 my heart within me is dismayed.**

I remember the days of long ago;  
 I meditate on all your works  
 and consider what your hands have done.

**I spread out my hands to you;  
 I thirst for you like a parched land. (Psalm 143:1-6)**

**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:** **“Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven”**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyRIVbdsi4c>

1. Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;  
 To His feet thy tribute bring.  
 Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
 Who like thee His praise sing:  
 Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise him!  
 Praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise Him for His grace and favor  
 To our fathers in distress;  
 Praise Him still the same as ever,  
 Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
 Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise him!  
 Praise the everlasting King.
3. Father like He tends and spares us,  
 Well our feeble frame He knows;  
 In His hands He gently bears us,  
 Rescues us from all our foes.  
 Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise him!  
 Praise the everlasting King.
4. Angels, help us to adore Him,  
 Ye behold Him face to face;  
 Sun and moon, bow down before Him;  
 Dwellers all in time and space,  
 Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise him!  
 Praise the everlasting King.

### **Call to Confession**

Listen to this testimony of the writer of Psalm 32:

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
 whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
 and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
 through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
 my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
 and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”  
 and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you.

### **Responsive Prayer of Confession**

O Lord, our hearts are heavy with the sufferings of the ages,  
with the wars, crusades and the holocausts of a thousand years.  
The blood of the victims is still warm,  
the cries of anguish still fill the night.  
To you we lift our outspread hands.  
*We cry out to you .....*

**Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord, who loves us as a father, who cares for us as a mother,  
who came to share our life as a brother,  
we confess before you our failure to live as your children,  
brothers and sisters bound together in love.  
To you we lift our outspread hands.  
*We cry out to you .....*

**Lord, have mercy.**

We have squandered the gift of life.  
The good life of some is built on the pain of many;  
the pleasure of a few on the agony of millions.  
To you we lift our outspread hands.  
*We cry out to you .....*

**Lord, have mercy.**

We worship death in our quest to possess ever more things;  
we worship death in our hankering after our own security,  
our own survival, our own peace,  
as if life were divisible, as if love were divisible,  
as if Christ had not died for all of us.  
To you we lift our outspread hands.  
*We cry out to you .....*

**Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord, forgive our life-denying pursuit of life,  
and teach us anew what it means to be your children.  
To you we lift our outspread hands.  
*We cry out to you .....*

**Lord, have mercy**

**through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

God, through the prophet Isaiah says:  
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.  
 I have swept away 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 105:1-11**

Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;  
 make known among the nations what he has done.

**Sing to him, sing praise to him;  
 tell of all his wonderful acts.**

Glory in his holy name;  
 let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

**Look to the LORD and his strength;  
 seek his face always.**

Remember the wonders he has done,  
 his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,  
**you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,  
 his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.**

He is the LORD our God;  
 his judgments are in all the earth.

**He remembers his covenant forever,  
 the promise he made, for a thousand generations,**

the covenant he made with Abraham,  
 the oath he swore to Isaac.

**He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,  
 to Israel as an everlasting covenant:**

"To you I will give the land of Canaan  
 as the portion you will inherit."

**Praise the LORD.**

**Ministry of Music:**

**"Turn Your Eyes"** (Sovereign Grace Music)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2tKVqZZiI4&feature=youtu.be>

1. Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace
2. Turn your eyes to the hillside  
Where justice and mercy embrace  
There the Son of God gave His life for us  
And our measureless debt was erased

**Chorus**

Jesus to You we lift our eyes  
Jesus our glory and our prize  
We adore You behold You our Savior ever true  
Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

3. Turn your eyes to the morning  
And see Christ the lion awake  
What a glorious dawn fear of death is gone  
For we carry His life in our veins
4. Turn your eyes to the heavens  
Our King will return for His own  
Every knee will bow every tongue will shout  
All glory to Jesus alone

**Scripture Reading:**

**1 Peter 2:4-10**

**4** As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”

**7** Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

**8** and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. **9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but

now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Hymn Before Sermon: “Speak, O Lord”, Keith & Kristyn Getty**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubRIJj8xkds>

1. Speak O Lord as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy word  
Take Your truth plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory
2. Teach us Lord full obedience  
Holy reverence true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity  
Cause our faith to rise  
Cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of power that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief
3. Speak O Lord and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us  
Speak O Lord till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory

**Prayer of Illumination**

Prepare our hearts, O God,  
to hear your Word  
and obey your will.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**“Living Stones”**

**1 Peter 2:4-10**

There have been many famous walls recorded down through history. In the Bible we have the walls that surrounded the cities of Jericho and Jerusalem. In Roman times there was Hadrian's Wall, also known as the Pict's Wall, which separated England from what we know as Scotland. It ran from the Atlantic coast to the North Sea and much of it can still be seen today. And then there is the most famous wall of modern times which was the Berlin Wall. It separated East and West Berlin and came down starting in 1989.



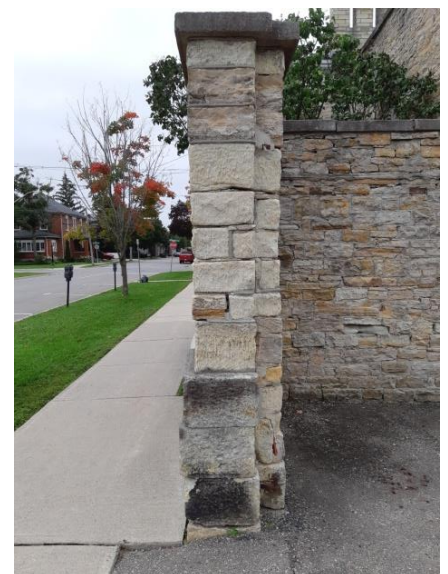
When Susan and I lived in Georgetown, one of our favourite places to visit was up in the Caledon Hills, less than a half-hour drive from our condo. It was called Belfountain and our favourite place to go for a special meal was the Belfountain Inn.

(Unfortunately, it seems to have fallen prey to the pandemic and is now closed permanently.) I date Susan's real interest in stone walls to a day when we were driving home from Belfountain and came across this long dry stacked stone wall. It was an incredible sight and ran for hundreds of yards beside the road. It was so impressive I just had to stop and take some pictures. That was in the fall of 2012. Ever



since that time, Susan has been attracted by stone walls wherever we have gone, particularly Scotland. She read all about dry stack stone wall construction and even had us signed up to take a course on building these walls that use no mortar .

Fast forward to the fall of 2020. Most of you are familiar with the stone wall out by St. Andrew's parking lot on Foster Street. The Board of Managers decided it was unsafe and also a driving hazard, because as you exited the parking lot, you could not see if anyone was coming from the right.



Once they finished having the wall reworked, it looked like this. It was reduced from just over 9 feet in height to just over 3 feet. Of course, when that was done they were left with a pile of stone – somewhere between six and eight tons, which, by the way, nobody seemed to want. So I said, “Susan would really like to have that stone!”



Once permission was granted, the next problem was getting all that stone out of the parking lot to 599 Big Rideau North Shore Road. I could say that Richard and Jay Hendry helped us move that stone, but it would be more accurate to say that we helped them. Over two days and numerous trips, we moved the stone and safely stowed it near to where Susan dreamed of having her wall.

Now, we realized that this was not going to be a dry stack stone wall but one where the stone was mortared in place. That meant that we could help building the wall, but that we needed to have a skilled mason do the actual work. What better person to build the wall than the man who took the old wall down and over the years has done so much work on St. Andrew's repointing and repairing the stone work. That man was Jerry Kean of Lanark, who has worked at his trade for 40 years. But first we needed a foundation. Jerry and Susan decided that the wall should be built with a slight curve to it. Since I was building the forms, that made my job a little more difficult. It took me awhile to figure that one out. But a lot of lumber and manhours later, the trench was dug and the forms were built and in place.







Then the concrete needed to be poured and that was more than Susan and I could do on our own, so again Richard and Jay came to our rescue. On Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, Jerry showed up to start work and laid the first stone. And

so began our education in truly building a stone wall. There is a lot more too it than you would think. We spent



more time picking over rocks and measuring them, looking for the perfect thickness and length to fit in each spot. Let me tell you, it is so much easier when you are working with

someone who knows their trade. Jerry is a hard worker and with our help the wall went up fairly quickly. The three of us worked at it the first week, but then I got sick. So that left Jerry and Susan to finish the wall, which they did very capably.



So what we ended up with is Susan's Wall! It is 30 feet long, just a little under two feet wide and three feet in height, built on a slight arc. It is made of Perth sandstone, quarried in the 1860's at Hughes Quarry just off Elmgrove Road, to build the stables at the old bank building that stands at the corner of

Drummond and Foster Street. We hope that it will stand for many years to come – maybe even generations – a little offsite piece of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Perth.



On this, my last Sunday preaching from this pulpit, I want to talk to you about stones. This is a very important subject because the stone or rock theme is introduced very early in the Bible. In the Old Testament they are used as examples and metaphors for God’s presence with his people. For instance, Genesis 49 speaks of [24](#) ... **the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel**. In Exodus 17 what did the children of Israel drink from? God

said, [6](#) **“I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.”** In the Book of Deuteronomy, God is repeatedly referred to as **“the Rock”**. In the New Testament, Jesus refers to stones in his teaching and his parables. Paul refers to stone in Romans 9, [32](#) ... **They stumbled over the stumbling stone. [33](#) As it is written: “See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame.”** However, it is Peter who gives us the greatest exposition on stones and their relationship to Jesus Christ and his Church.

It is interesting to look at what Jesus had to say when he first met the man who wrote this book. In John 1 we read, [41](#) **The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). [42](#) And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).** Now “Cephas” is an Aramaic name. Aramaic was the language of Palestine. “Peter” is a Greek name. Greek was the *lingua franca* – the common language spoken throughout the Roman Empire. It was the language of business and commerce. But both of these names mean the same thing – **ROCK!** So here we have Peter, to whom Jesus gave the name Rock, providing us with the greatest exposition in Scripture on the subject of stones.

When we think of stone or rock, we realize that it has many properties. We think of texture, structure, density, appearance, hardness and strength. Stone has permanence. It is with good reason that the oldest structures in almost every country are made out of stone. Stone buildings last a long time. But we never think of stone as something living. It is inert. It can’t move and it can’t do anything. So it is surprising

how Peter begins this passage. **4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him...** It is obvious that this is a reference to a Person. **As you come to him**, Peter writes. It is obvious from what comes before who this person is. It is Jesus, to whom we need to come for salvation. We need to come that initial time, but we need to keep coming back to him all the time. But what I want you to notice is how Peter refers to Jesus.

1. **The living Stone,**
2. **The rejected Stone,**
3. **The chosen Stone and**
4. **The precious Stone.**

In the same way that God is referred to in the Old Testament as the Rock, this text points to the fact that our God is something solid to which we can cling in times of trouble. He is the solid rock on which we can stand when all around us the earth is shifting like sand beneath our feet. Deuteronomy 32 is the chapter where God is referred to as the Rock over and over again.

**3 ...Oh, praise the greatness of our God!**

**4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just.**

Just as Yahweh was the great God and Rock of the people of Israel, so Jesus is our living **Stone**, who has demonstrated that he is solid and dependable by his resurrection from the dead. He is the one in who we can trust.

Jesus is the living Stone, but he is also the rejected Stone. In this picture you can see that when Jerry was building our wall, we had the stones laid out on both sides of the wall so that we could pick through them. All those stones came out of the wall here at the church, but some of those stones were rejects. It was not a matter of “Hopefully we will find a use for that stone later.” No, I remember there was one stone that I liked. It had real character, but Jerry said “No, that stone is a reject.” To us, Jesus may be The Living Stone, but to many he is the stone they reject. Peter says Jesus was **rejected by humans**. Psalm 118: **2**, which Peter quotes, says that he is “**The stone the builders rejected.**” There is a use for rejected stone. It gets broken up and becomes the rubble that fills up the empty cavity in the middle of the wall. That’s all Jesus is to most people. Rubble. Filler. Nothing more.



While to most of humanity, Jesus is the stone which the builder’s rejected; in God’s eyes he is **chosen**. As Peter puts it - “**but chosen by God**”. He is God’s chosen

instrument of our salvation. A God who dies upon a Cross may be foolishness to humankind, but he is the only way to God. Paul put it this way, **18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.** (1 Corinthians 1) However, Jesus is more than chosen. He is precious. **“but chosen by God and precious to him...”** is how Peter puts it. Later he writes, **7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”**



What is the chosen and most precious stone in our wall? It is this one – the very first stone Jerry laid. We figured it weighed over 400 pounds. In the original wall, it was high up on the end and the top hinge for the gate was cut right into the top of the stone. It is as close as our wall comes to having a cornerstone.

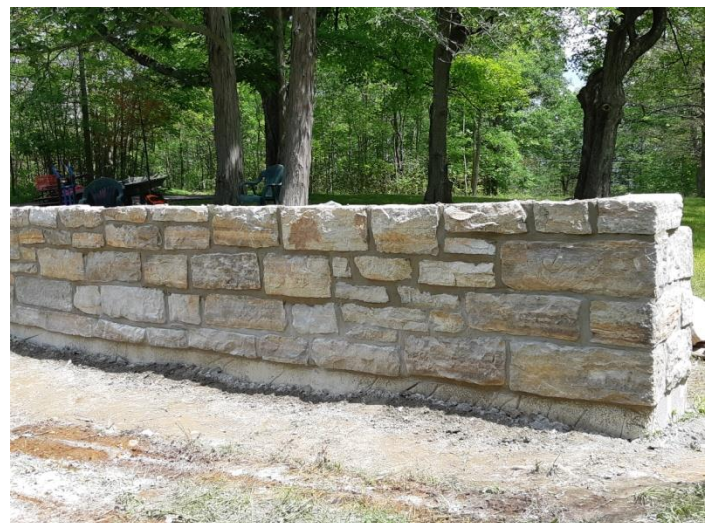
Jesus is the living Stone, the stone chosen by God and precious to him

and to us. Make Jesus Christ the cornerstone of your life and of this church and I guarantee that you will never lose your way, be put to shame or come to grief. No matter what the future holds or how things turn out for St. Andrew’s, Jesus is the only solid rock. Everything else is shifting sand.

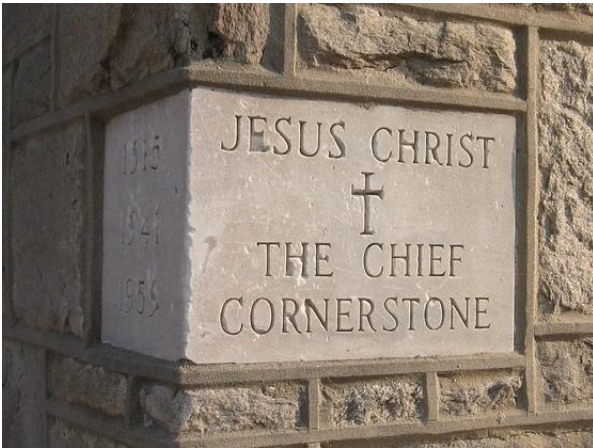
There is more here about stones. Let’s look at our text again. **4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** So Jesus Christ is **“the living Stone”**, but we are **“like living stones”**.

When people come to Jesus a new building or structure is erected. It is a spiritual house. Jesus Christ is the Cornerstone – the Chief Cornerstone – but you are living stones that are being built into this structure.

What I want you to notice now is that the stones in our wall were not just put in any old way. In this picture you will notice that

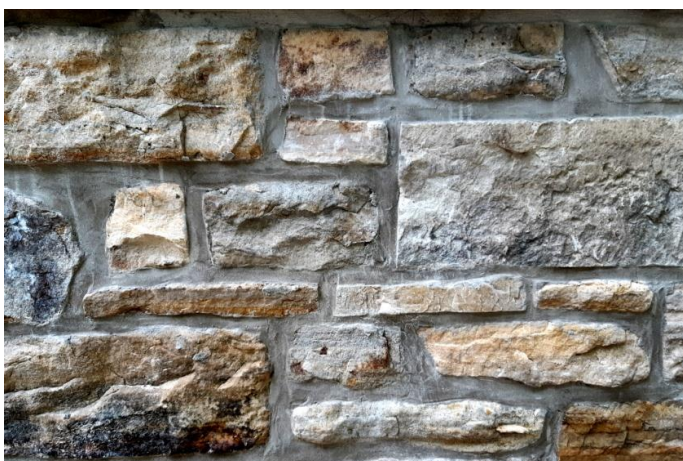
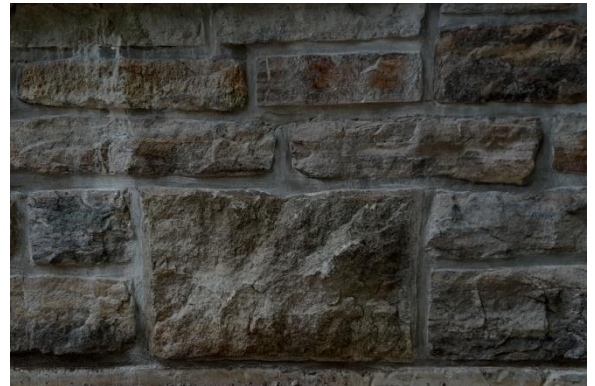


some of the stones used to build the wall were large and heavy. These were special stones that we only used on the corners because they had two faces. These stones serve to anchor the wall and tie the two sides together. Then notice that all the stones running off the corner that form the bottom row are not the same size as the corner stones, but they are the same height. Every church needs “heavy” (not obese) people with multiple spiritual gifts that like these cornerstones serve to anchor the church and tie it together. The Holy Spirit is the mortar that holds the whole structure together. Without the active involvement of the Holy Spirit, a church can quickly fall apart. Loose stones can be pulled out of such a structure. It becomes unsafe and a hazard.



The **Chief Cornerstone** is the most important stone in this spiritual edifice called the church. This is Jesus Christ, **The Living Stone**. But the other cornerstones are also important and necessary. They may carry various titles such as

elder, teacher, pastor or shepherd, and it is not unusual for them to combine several of these functions. Of course, we may find other large stones like this one that appears in the middle of the wall. They may provide a managing or helping function, yet they are just as necessary as the cornerstones.



If you look at this next picture, you will notice that in this section of wall, interspersed with some larger stones, are a number of much smaller stones. You don't want to build a stone structure only of large stones. When the stones are all uniform, then you know that they are what are known as architectural stone. That is just a nice way of saying that they are not real stone.

They are manmade. They are fakes. They are not the real McCoy. Architectural stone has its place and uses. But in our context this morning, it does not qualify as being a “living stone”. Many congregations are made of “architectural stones”, not living stones. Their members have never had a genuine encounter with the resurrected, living Lord Jesus Christ. The whole idea of Christ “The Living Stone” is foolishness to them.

Church for them is a liturgy, a form, something you do on Sunday morning – a place where you go to socialize and meet friends

But I have digressed from my earlier focus on small stones. Small stones don't look impressive like large heavy stones. You might even consider them to be "lightweights". However, don't be deceived. These small stones serve an absolutely essential function. Each one fits perfectly in its space. The wall would look terrible if their place was just filled with mortar. Whether these stones serve as a bridge to a larger row of stones or as fillers, they have a place and a purpose. Without them, the wall doesn't work. You may say to me this morning; "Stephen, I will never be one of the big heavy stones in this congregation. I am not one of those multi-gifted, spiritually talent people that anchors or holds the church together." I have only one question to ask you. "Are you truly one of the "living stones" who has a vital relationship to Jesus Christ and are you willing to use whatever spiritual gift that God has given to you to the glory of God?"

The future of the ministry of St. Andrew's depends on two things. First, Jesus Christ must be the "The Living Stone" – the "Chief Cornerstone" – from which everything else this church stands for and the message it proclaims must proceed. If you ever move away from this and lose your grip on the Bible as the written Word of God, which is the only guide to your faith and conduct, then you will cease to be Christian church and will become a social club.

Second, you must be yourselves "living stones" that are being built together into a spiritual house. If you fail to play your part as one of these living stones, then the structure that is St. Andrew's will be weakened and lopsided. You were not created just to hold a place in a pew. As it says in the last verses of this morning's Scripture Lesson,

**9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

As of this morning, my ministry at St. Andrew's effectively comes to an end. Over this latest four and a half years, I have sought to faithfully proclaim God's Word to you. My aim, in these chaotic times, has been to unite this congregation and hold it together with God's help, when many forces have been trying to pull it apart. It has been my privilege to serve as your Interim Moderator and minister. While I look forward to retirement, this has been one of very best times of ministry for me in my career.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the hard work of the Session and the Search Committee, together we have sought for the person of God's choosing that he will use to lead St. Andrew's in this next chapter. That person is Pastor Gerry Gallant. In May

we lost our beloved Music Director Ann Savage. We lost a very dear friend as well as a capable worship leader. I thought that meant we were going to be forced to use YouTube for an extended period of time. But God in his wisdom made Morna Douglas available to be our next Director of Music. This allows me to retire knowing that with God's ongoing presence, I can entrust you to their very capable care. May God bless you richly.

**Ministry of Music: "I Go To The Rock", by Dottie Rambo**

(Sung by Whitney Houston in the movie, "The Preacher's Wife")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJb2596sQ18>

Where do I go when there's nobody else to turn to?  
Who do I talk to when nobody wants to listen?  
Who do I lean on when there's no foundation stable?

I go to the rock  
I know he's able  
I go to the rock

I go to the rock of my salvation  
I go to the stone that the builders rejected  
I run to the mountain and the mountain stands by me

When the Earth all around me is sinking sand  
On Christ, the solid rock I stand  
When I need a shelter, when I need a friend  
I go to the rock

Where do I hide, where do I go  
When the storms of life are threatening?  
Who do I turn to when those winds of sorrow blow?  
And is there a refuge in the time of tribulation?

I go to the rock of my salvation  
I go to the stone that the builders rejected  
I run to the mountain and the mountain stands by me

When the Earth all around me is sinking sand  
On Christ, the solid rock I stand  
When I need a shelter, when I need a friend  
I go to the rock

I know He's the rock for my salvation  
I know He's the stone that the builders rejected  
I run to the mountain and the mountain stands by me

When the Earth all around me is sinking sand  
On Christ, the solid rock I stand  
When I need a shelter, when I need a friend  
I go to the rock

**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**

With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy.  
 With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love.  
 With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

### **Offertory Prayer**

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift,  
 teach us to render to you all that we have and all that we are,  
 that we may praise you,  
 not with our lips only, but with our whole lives,  
 turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joys of all our days  
 into a living sacrifice to you,  
 through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn: “Before The Throne of God Above”, Grace Community**

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

1. Before the throne of God above  
 I have a strong and perfect plea  
 A great High Priest whose name is love  
 Who ever lives and pleads for me  
 My name is graven on His hands  
 My name is written on His heart  
 I know that while in heav'n He stands  
 No tongue can bid me thence depart  
 No tongue can bid me thence depart
  
2. When Satan tempts me to despair  
 And tells me of the guilt within  
 Upward I look and see Him there  
 Who made an end of all my sin  
 Because the sinless Savior died  
 My sinful soul is counted free  
 For God the Just is satisfied  
 To look on Him and pardon me  
 To look on Him and pardon me



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

### **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:**                    **“Jerusalem (And did those feet in ancient times)”**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAA0A5WpZE4>