

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**  
**Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**Christ The King**  
**Revelation 1: 4-8**

**Welcome**

Whether we are old or young,  
whether we are first-time or long-time worshipers,  
whether we come full of doubts or confidence, joy, or sorrow,  
in this place we are all family,  
because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.  
Welcome to all of you today!

**Announcements**

**Friday Night for youth (12+ ~ 20):**

- Friday at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall.

**Bible Studies:**

- Mondays with Walter: "How to Read the Bible"
- Wednesday Community Bible Study on "The Book of James". Times: 8:00 a.m., Noon & 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

**Outreach**

- Santa Claus Parade is Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Please come out and encourage those who have worked on the float. They will be unable to hand anything out this year because of Covid regulations, so volunteer walkers will not be needed. And expect the display to find a home on the corner of North and Drummond Street.
- Alpha is in the planning for Feb 2022.
- Advent books are in the process of being obtained for every family. We will also have some extras so if you know of someone that could utilize one, please let us know.
- Looking for Volunteers for visits to PCCC and Lanark Lodge.
- I Love First People Charity -Is collecting for boxes of Art supplies for First Nation Communities in Northern Ontario, BC, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut. Boxes cost \$50 each. If you would like to contribute to this designate the ILFP on your offering and we will contribute a single offering at the end of the

year. Remember that you do not need to give the full \$50, every little bit helps.

### Christmas

- Due to the continuing physical distance limitations, there will be **3 Christmas Eve services**. They will take place **at 3 p.m., 5 p.m., and 7 p.m., on Friday December 24**. They will be the traditional Candlelight service. We are asking members to “reserve” their seat(s), as there is 50-person limit, which allows for 20 “walk in’s”. We are attempting to respect our seating space while welcoming the wider community to join us. Please contact the church office if you have questions.
- *I would like to know if the congregation is interested in having a Christmas Day, Saturday December 25, 2021, at 11:00am, worship service- if willing please drop a note or call the Church office.*
- Worship service on Sunday Dec 26, 2021, will be at 10:30 and 1 p.m.
- There will be a special **New Year’s Day service on Saturday January 1, 2022, at 1 p.m.** Sunday January 2, will have the 10:30 and 1 p.m. services.

God Bless,  
Pastor Gerry

### Call to Worship (Responsive)

O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;**  
**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**  
**For the LORD is a great God,**  
**and a great King above all gods.**  
In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it,  
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.  
**O come, let us worship and bow down,**  
**let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**  
**For he is our God,**  
**and we are the people of his pasture,**  
**and the sheep of his hand.**

### Prayer of Invocation

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you have willed to restore all things

in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King.  
 Grant that the people of earth,  
 now divided and enslaved by sin,  
 may be freed and brought together  
 under the gentle and loving rule of Christ,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Opening Hymn:

#267 – “Rejoice, the Lord is King!”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bA3h3nKc4io>

### Call to Confession

God’s Word assures us:  
 If we say that we have no sin,  
 we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
 If we confess our sins,  
 he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins  
 and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
 In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

### Prayer of Confession

Wondrous God,  
 who sets suns and moons above us,  
 mountains and valleys beneath us,  
 and friends and strangers among us:  
 how often have we tried to hide from your presence,  
 how seldom have we looked for your creating face  
 and your fashioning hand!  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
 Wondrous God,  
 who took upon yourself flesh of our flesh in Jesus our brother,  
 and being found in human form made the ultimate disclosure of yourself  
 in the face of Jesus Christ:  
 how often we have forgotten you,  
 how seldom have we really loved and followed you!  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
 Wondrous God,  
 who pours out freely the Holy Spirit:  
 how often have we ignored your promptings,  
 how seldom have we asked for your help or accepted your gifts!

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Do not weep!

See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed.

With his blood he has purchased people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation.

He has made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
and they will reign on the earth.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **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**

Psalm 93

*The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty;*

*the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.*

*Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.*

**Your throne is established from of old;  
you are from everlasting.**

*The floods have lifted up, O LORD,  
the floods have lifted up their voice;  
the floods lift up their roaring.*

**Mightier than the thunders of many waters,  
mightier than the waves of the sea,  
the LORD on high is mighty!**

*Your decrees are very trustworthy;  
holiness befits your house,  
O LORD, forevermore.*

## Music Ministry

#60 – “God, our Sovereign Lord remaining” (for Psalm 93)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4KZEQh8Zqc>

## Scripture

Revelation 1:4-8

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

## Children’s Hymn

## Children’s Lesson

Have you ever heard people refer to Jesus as Jesus Christ? I think a few weeks ago I shared that Christ was not Jesus’s last name. Instead, it was a way of referring to him as the anointed one, the one chosen to save the world, or as the Jews would say the Messiah. Last week we talked about the signs that would tell us that Jesus is coming again and how we should be looking forward to meeting him when he comes.

Do you know why we should be looking forward to meeting him? Well, it is actually pretty simple. Jesus is King and this Sunday we are celebrating today is known as Christ the King Sunday.



Do we ever think about Jesus as a King? Think about all the kings and queens you have seen in pictures, or read about in history books, or seen movies or on TV. They usually have fancy robes, big and expensive castles, they also usually have a bright golden crown, often filled with gems and are made to impress anyone who sees them.

Did we ever see Jesus with a crown like those crowns? Nope, in fact the only crown we ever see placed upon Jesus's head is a crown of thorns. Jesus's gets his crown of thorns in the midst of his suffering, when everyone is doing terrible things to him; he has been arrested, he has been beaten and things are about to get even worse for him. When we think *about Jesus as king we realize that he does not have the type of glory and richness that all the kings and queens we see everywhere else do.*



Even when you think about Jesus's life, it does not seem very kingly. He rode a donkey not a great horse. He wore simple clothes, not robes made of fine silks and satins. He hung out with fishermen, tax collectors and the sick, not the nobles, the upper class and celebrities. Jesus even washed the feet of his disciples. Imagine that the king washed the feet of his followers. That does not seem like a very kingly thing to do at all.

Jesus is a king like no other. While every king in history is concerned about themselves first and then their kingdom and last of all the people in their kingdom. Jesus is concerned about the people of his kingdom first. His kingdom is not one where the rich and powerful are valued, instead his kingdom is one in which those who serve others and are filled with empathy and mercy are celebrated. In the Kingdom over which Jesus is king we are called to be filled with love and mercy and we should know that He is an all-powerful king because he is God.

So, on this Sunday we see in the scripture a little bit about how incredible he is and on Christ the King Sunday we celebrate the hope that His kingdom will come to earth and the promise of love and mercy for all his followers will be fulfilled.

*King Jesus, teach us to love and serve others as you served your disciples. Teach us to be humble like you were when you rode a donkey. Teach us to love you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to show love and mercy to all, in Jesus' name we pray.*

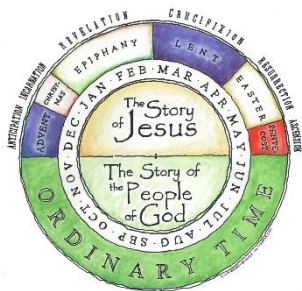
**Amen**

### **Prayer for illumination**

O God Most High!

Everlasting Lord, mighty and lifted up!  
 Grant to us your Holy Spirit,  
 that in these words of Holy Scripture  
 our hearts might be lifted up  
 and our minds set on heavenly realities,  
 that contemplating the reign of our ascended Lord  
 we might long to be with him  
 and enter into the joy of his eternal kingdom.  
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

## Sermon



This is the final week of the church year. Next week with the beginning of Advent and the start of a new church year. Which makes this Sunday a special Sunday! This is the Sunday when we recognize that Christ is King, that he came to save us and that he will come again to bring us into eternal Glory with Him and the Father and Holy Spirit. In today's scripture which is taken from the book of Revelation we will see Christ in his glory and as our hope.

Christ is a king like no other. Christ's kingdom is like no kingdom that has ever or will ever exist. It is a kingdom made up of people from all nations and backgrounds and this is part of what makes it unique. Where we learn the most about God's coming kingdom is in the book of Revelation. A book that many think is too complex, filled with twists and turns. A book that often jumps between times and understandings. The book of Revelation is the complete prophecy of the end of times and the second coming of Christ and at some point, in the future we will do a complete Bible study on this wonderful book. Today we are going to limit ourselves to the very start of the book, the introduction of Jesus and of the Book of Revelation.

### Revelation 1:4-5a

**<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia:**

**Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.**

The book of Revelation was written by John and what he wrote was based upon a spiritual vision he received while exiled on the island of Patamos. Most Biblical scholars date this book as being written during the reign of the Roman emperor Domitian between 81 and 96AD.

This is important to understand, because as we learned last week, the book of revelation has prophecy that has already occurred, is occurring and is still yet to occur. This is not a book written as a historical presentation or a book that is based upon what someone thinks may happen. The book of revelation is God unveiling his plan to John, and through John to all Christians throughout time.

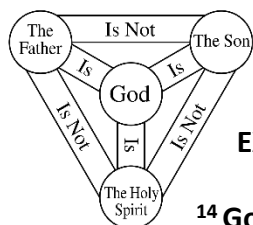
The book starts off by stating it is written to the seven churches in Asia. These are seven real churches that existed at the time. Real churches that had pastors and congregants. Churches that were just as real as the church we are gathered together in today. These churches are actually named later, Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.



This were the seven major churches that existed at the time and in these seven churches every church and Christian who has existed throughout all time is represented. These churches were filled with both saints and sinners, just like the church today. So, we need to understand that while our church might not be named specifically, we are represented in the seven churches or maybe as a combination of a couple churches to whom this letter is written. This is part of what makes the boom of revelation a book that has both historical prophecies fulfilled, current prophecy being fulfilled and for future churches prophecy still to come.

It begins classically with a greeting that each of these churches will continue to be blessed with the grace and peace which God brings to his people. This is a reminder that even when we face prophecy which may seem terrifying or troublesome, we are to remember the words of James and find Joy in all things. God's grace is with all of us, at all times and God's peace is with any who seek out him, no matter how much turmoil exists in their lives.

Yet this promise of peace and grace is not coming from the author John, but instead from **'from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.'** This book is not the creation of man, but instead is the Word of God being delivered to man. It is a book filled with divine inspiration and for we should learn how to study its word and apply it to our lives.



The trinity described as 'Him who is.' God the father. The God who is simple described as 'I am.'

#### EXODUS 3:14

**<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"**



This is the part of God we most often think of when we say the word God. Yet we need to remember that God the father is part of the trinity which makes up the one God. This is the part that we know has always existed and who will always exist. The one who lives in all dimensions of time and space at all times. The God of the past, present, and future. This is the one who we see as never changing.

Next, we are told of the Seven Spirits. The spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, or the Holy Ghost as it is known to some. This is that part of God that is at work in our lives. The part that helps us work to become better Christians. The part that helps us overcome our sins and our temptations. This is the part of God which brings us to new life and lives in each believer.

Finally, the third member of the Trinity is Jesus Christ our lord and our King. John changes his language here somewhat, when he speaks of the Father and Holy Spirit, they are abstract concepts. When he speaks of Jesus Christ it is clear he is speaking of someone he knew, someone who was in fact a real and important figure in this trinity.

And it is here in the introduction of the book of revelation, a book that describes the final plans that God has for all of creation where we will see Jesus take center stage as a critical part of the Trinity. The book of Revelation wants to be sure we know who Jesus is, because knowing and understanding who he is can help us come to understand how we are called to live our life as servants following Him.

Jesus is the first described as the faithful witness. Jesus came to teach people about God the father. Yet many did not listen then and many today still do not listen. Jesus walked upon the earth and any who looked on him were meant to see the Father in Him.

### **Colossians 1:15**

**<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.**

We see Jesus spoken of as God's witness, the one who tells the truth about who God is throughout the Bible. Jesus was the only true faithful witness. In the Old Testament the Israelites, who were to be both God's people and his witness, were often led astray by their own desires and failed to live up to the life which God had called for them to live. The modern church, God's current witness, is no different. Many modern churches fail to live up to, or even remain true to, the word of the scripture as it was written and therefore no longer act as witnesses of God in this world.

Even the most faithful in the modern world are just reflections of what God is, we have the Holy spirit in us, helping us to live Christ like lives. But, Jesus was God. He did not need to reflect God because he was fully God and for that reason, he was able to faithfully witness the truth of who God is everywhere he went and at all times.

Jesus is then referred to as the 'first born of the dead'. This is an interesting point as Jesus was not the first person who was raised from the dead. In fact, in the scriptures, we have seen Jesus raise others who people believed were dead. In the case of Lazarus, who had been dead for four days, we can be confident that Jesus did in fact raise Lazarus from death. So then why is Jesus the 'first born of the dead'?

The key lies in the Greek yet again, the word is prototokos. A word from which we get the modern word prototype, the first creation of a new concept or idea. Jesus was the first to be raised from death who will never die again. This is the new standard of resurrection in God's kingdom. Jesus promises eternal life to those who believe in Him and are invited into his kingdom. This is made clear when Jesus visits Martha and Mary after the death of Lazarus.

### **JOHN 11:21-27**

**<sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."**

He promises everyone who believes in Him shall never die. Our faith has given us a new life in God's Kingdom.

Then Jesus is also given his title of ruler of the Kings of the earth. He is the one perfect witness to God, the firstborn of the dead and the ruler over all of the kingdoms of earth and over all of creation. Jesus was there at the beginning of Creation and is the master and life sustainer of everything that exists.

### **Philippians 2: 9-11**

**<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

This is the Lord our God. The one who on the day of judgement will be recognized by even those who refused to believe in Him here on Earth. John then tells us a bit of why we should be recognizing Jesus as our Lord and Saviour and our King.

### **Revelation 1: 5b-6**

**To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

He begins by telling us that Jesus loves us. Jesus loves you and I and everyone else he saves regardless of their past. In spite of the sins we have preformed, in spite of the sins we currently struggle with and in spite of the sins we will still do in the future, Jesus loves us. He loves us so much that he was willing to be nailed to the cross and suffer in our place.

#### **Romans 5:8**

**<sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Jesus, our Lord, loved us so much that he was willing to take the punishment for everything we have done wrong or will do wrong in our entire lives. When we talk about unconditional love this is the ultimate form of it. His blood paid the price of our sins.

#### **1 John 1:7**

**<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**

His blood cleanses us from our sin, setting us free of the punishment that we are meant to receive when judgement comes at the end of times. Recognize that for a moment, Jesus paid for your eternal life with his blood.

#### **Ephesians 1:7**

**<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,**

What is it that you and I did to earn our salvation? Nothing, our only contribution was our sinful ways that forced Jesus to pay this heavy cost. It was 'our sins' and 'His blood.' Jesus went to the cross and gave his blood to save us through his grace and mercy on each and every one of us.

Jesus's love for us is unconditional, unending, and unceasing

#### **Romans 8:38-39**

**<sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Nothing can separate us from God once we have come to faith. Once we finally begin to understand the cost of our sins and the price which Jesus paid for our eternal life, we should have no doubt in our faith and in offering him our eternal praise and worship.

Jesus refused to leave us in the state of sin, in the state of condemnation. God has known that there will be a day of Judgment ever since he created the earth. God knows that upon that day everyone, believer and non-believer will stand in front of His throne to be judged and he refused to let us stand there alone to face his wrath.

Instead, Jesus has sought us out here on earth, shown us His love, washed our sins in His blood and saved us from our damnation for our sins. Jesus lifts us from our sinful condition and raises us to this state of glory. We go from being the condemned sinners to a Kingdom of believers.

This is Christ the King, the one who should be praised for loving us, cleansing us, and changing us all for His Glory. We were the prodigal sons and daughters who left our place and sought out our own selfish pleasures and desires. Christ has sought us out in our selfish ways and brought us back into His home, making us into new beings, implanting in us the desire to serve others and bring glory and praise to God.

John calls for us all to recognize this and offers us the doxology, his first song of praise in the book of Revelation **‘to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.’** This is what we are called to do as Christians. To bring praise, honor, and glory to God in our worship, our bible studies, our life at home and at work, in everything we do and everywhere we go.

### **Revelation 1:7-8**

**<sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.**

**<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**

Jesus is coming. Throughout time faithful believers in God have anticipated the coming of the Redeemer. He came the first time 2000 years ago, born a human and died upon the cross to pay the cost of our redemption. The second time he comes it will be in the clouds, returning to the earth in his full glory and power. When he returns everyone will recognize him, the entire world will see him in his return. Years ago, the idea of watching a live event worldwide was a fantasy, events like the Olympics took effort and technology to be able to share live worldwide. Now anyone can show a live event instantly from the phone in their hands. When Jesus returns in all his Glory it will be witnessed by all, everyone will see him appear in the clouds and begin his return to earth. They will not be able to deny His presence and glory upon that day.

Even those who do not believe, even those who are false teachers and false believers, even those who condemn Christianity will all see the return. And in His second coming he will be here as a Judge. For those who are unbelievers His return will be a fearful event, those who do not believe

will wail because upon his return he will judge both sin and sinner and those who have not been washed clean by his blood will be punished.

Notice John ends with Amen; 'So be it' or 'May it come to pass.' John is praying for the coming of this day when the world will receive judgement. Not because he wishes the judgement of others but because he wishes the eternal life and glory in God's kingdom. We should all recognize this that the return of Christ is guaranteed, and we should be looking forward to that day as true believers.

Jesus's return is the completion of God's plan. What was begun in the book of Genesis comes to fruition in the book of Revelation. This is the beginning and the End. The Alpha and the Omega which are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Jesus was there at the beginning when the whole of existence was brought out of nothing, and he will be there at the end when it is all recreated into the eternal Kingdom of God. Jesus is the one who knows all things. He started the world on its present course, he sustains the world, and he will be the one will guide the world to its end. He is the one who is in control.

Jesus is the one **"who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."** He is God. This is the same title used to describe God the father earlier and here we see Jesus included in the description. Jesus is part of the eternal 'I am.' He is the almighty one, the one who holds power over everything in the world. He is the only being that has the power to bring forth his plan as promised. Jesus will carry out the prophecies of the book of revelation and there is no one capable of stopping his prophecy from becoming reality.

Jesus is the King of all creation, The king of all kings, lord of all lords and our one and only saviour.

This is what we are called to look forward to as Christians. Everything that Jesus has promised in the scripture will become reality. Those who are believers will receive eternal grace and mercy in God's Kingdom.

As Christians living in the world, we are called to be faithful followers of Christ. To live our lives in a manner that brings glory and honor to God. To pray for and serve those who have not yet come to Christ so that they can witness the power of God through us. We also need to know that we are saved through our faith in Him as our Lord and Saviour in this life and in our eternal life. Jesus is the Eternal King of Kings!

Let us Pray,

Almighty and merciful God,  
through your well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ,  
the King of kings and Lord of lords,  
you have willed to make all things new.  
Grant that we may be renewed by your Holy Spirit

and may come at last to that heavenly country  
 where your people hunger and thirst no more  
 and the tears are wiped away from every eye,  
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### Hymn:

#275 – “Jesus shall reign where’re the sun”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE4DDB5whyk>

### Invitation to Offering

God has shown us the meaning of generosity  
 in the beautiful diversity of creation,  
 in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ,  
 in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit.  
 God has abundantly blessed us and called us  
 to be a community that honors each other,  
 to serve others with joy,  
 to share our love and material possessions.  
 Let us rejoice in what we have been given  
 and in what is ours to give.

### 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. [standrewspertloffering@gmail.com](mailto:standrewspertloffering@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.**

### Offertory Prayer

Lord God, heavenly King,  
 we offer these our gifts  
 as a sign of love, devotion, and praise.  
 Through these, as through our praises,  
 we acknowledge that you are our Lord.

In your name we pray. **Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn**

“Come Thou Almighty King”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tX1DCOBi4cw>

### **Pastoral Prayer**

Holy One, the Source, Story and Spirit of Love,  
We praise you for the signs of your reign among us:  
For hope overcoming despair,  
trust rising above hurt,  
love prevailing over hatred,  
and peace restoring harmony after discord.

God of Hope Beyond Fear,  
We pray that you will comfort this broken world.  
May the vision of your peaceable kingdom take root—  
in your church, in our families, in our community,  
and in countries marked by violence and struggles for power.

God of Wholeness Beyond Fracture,  
We pray for a world where differences are overcome by understanding,  
and everyone can find a place of dignity and respect.  
Shape our hearts soft with the kindness of your Spirit  
so that all our relationships honour your image in each person,  
and our actions and attitudes help you mend the world you love.

God of Life Beyond Death,  
We pray for all those who are grieving the loss of a loved one,  
the loss of hope or the loss of a dream.  
Be present with each one living through a time of sadness or discouragement.  
Bring them comfort through your presence,  
and show us how to be good companions on the journey to renewed hope.

As we honour Christ, the only King and head of the church,  
we pray for the continuation of Christ’s ministry through the church.  
We have faced many challenging months,  
separated by the pandemic and the divisions it has created among us.  
Send your Holy Spirit to knit the church together;  
bring renewed life and commitment to each congregation and parish;  
enliven ecumenical action on needs in every community;  
open minds and hearts that have experienced disagreement to mutual understanding;

and refresh all who are tired out  
with a vision of the future you will create for us, with us and through us,  
in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. **Amen**

### **Benediction**

Grace to you and peace  
from him who is and who was and who is to come,  
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,  
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,  
the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.  
To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,  
and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father,  
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. **Amen.**