

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth  
Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Love your Enemy  
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
Luke 6:27-36

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Take delight in the Lord;  
**For God will give us the desires of our hearts.**

Trust in the Lord;  
**For God will give us security and strength.**

Come, let us commit our ways to the Lord.  
**Let us worship the One who is our refuge in any time of trouble.**

Prayer of Adoration

Faithful God,  
You have gathered your people in faithfulness throughout many generations.  
You have offered your blessing to us through their examples,  
and led the Church through many changes and challenges by your Spirit.  
Draw near to us this day to guide us in these uncertain times.  
Root our faithfulness in the compassion and courage we meet in Jesus.  
Renew us through your steadfast love  
so that we may dare to trust our future to you.  
All praise and honour are yours, O God,  
Source, Saviour and Spirit of Life.

Opening Hymn: "He Knows My Name" (V 1, 2)

I have a maker He forms my heart  
 Before even time began my  
 Life was in his hands  
 He knows my name  
 He knows my every thought  
 He sees each tear that falls  
 And hears me when I call

I have a father  
 He calls me his own  
 He'll never leave me  
 No matter where I go  
 He knows my name  
 He knows my every thought  
 He sees each tear that falls  
 And hears me when I call

### **Call to Confession**

Let us join together in confessing our sins through prayer to our Lord.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God,  
 you test the mind and search the heart,  
 so you know the thoughts and intentions we keep hidden.  
 Trusting in your wisdom and mercy,  
 we confess the ways we have failed to love one another,  
 the times we looked the other way when someone needed help,  
 and the ways our actions betrayed your goodness.  
 Forgive us for missing opportunities to share your love,  
 and carrying grudges that keep us from offering the forgiveness we hope for.  
 Renew us with your mercy  
 to become more merciful to others we meet,  
 in the example of Christ our Lord.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear and believe the good news: anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
 The old life is gone, and new life has begun. Trust that you are forgiven by God's  
 generous love, and have the courage to forgive one another for Christ's sake.

### 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 37 1-11

- <sup>1</sup> Fret not yourself because of evildoers;  
 be not envious of wrongdoers!
- <sup>2</sup> **For they will soon fade like the grass  
 and wither like the green herb.**
- <sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
 dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
- <sup>4</sup> **Delight yourself in the LORD,  
 and he will give you the desires of your heart.**
- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD;  
 trust in him, and he will act.
- <sup>6</sup> **He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,  
 and your justice as the noonday.**
- <sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;  
 fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,  
 over the man who carries out evil devices!
- <sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!  
 Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.**
- <sup>9</sup> For the evildoers shall be cut off,  
 but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.
- <sup>10</sup> **In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;  
 though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.**
- <sup>11</sup> **But the meek shall inherit the land  
 and delight themselves in abundant peace**

**Music Ministry: “Your Grace Is All I Need” by Senior Choir**

**Prayer for illumination**

God of wisdom, your Word brings life and hope.  
By the power of your Spirit, open our minds to understanding,  
teach our hearts to love,  
and strengthen our wills to follow Jesus, your Living Word. Amen.

**Scripture**

**Luke 6:27-36**

**Love Your Enemies**

<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup> And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

**Children’s Hymn # 631: “Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands” (V 1, 2)**

Jesus’ hands were kind hands,  
doing good to all,  
Healing pain and sickness,  
blessing children small,  
Washing tired feet and saving  
those who fall;  
Jesus’ hands were kind hands,  
doing good to all.

Take my hands, Lord Jesus,  
let them work for you;  
Make them strong and gentle,

kind in all I do;  
Let me watch you, Jesus,  
till I'm gentle too,  
Till my hands are kind hands,  
quick to work for you.

### **Children's Lesson**

Jesus tells us to love our enemies. To love people who do bad things to us. I do not know about you, but this is not something I think is very easy for people to do. In fact, Jesus starts this off today by telling us some of the things we hear all the time, but very rarely put into practice in our lives,

He tells us that if someone hits us, we should not hit back, instead we should turn the other cheek. Think about that, when someone hits us, physically hurts us, we should not fight back, instead we should let them hit us again. Do we do this in our lives?

He tells us that if someone takes away our things, that we should not go and demand them or take them back. Wow! Again, I think this is something that is easy for us to say, but very hard to put into practice in our lives. When someone takes something away from us it usually gets us angry and we get it back as soon as we can, even if it means we call the police.

Now, Jesus is not telling us to let people beat us up and take our things.

The extreme form of never standing up, is not what Jesus is talking about here, instead he is telling us to treat others and we would like others to treat us. To try to see things from the perspective of the person who hurt us, to try to understand why it is that they hit us or called us a name. To see if maybe we can understand them and help them.

He means the same things with people who take our things, maybe they needed it more than we did. Maybe they were cold or hungry or in trouble and needed what we had and if we looked at things from their point of view we could understand and help them the way Jesus did when he was alive.

Jesus is just telling us to not seek out revenge or to get angry at people when we are hurt. He is saying love people always the way that Jesus loves us and the way we want others to love us and to love God.

Let us Pray,

Loving Father,

It is so hard for us not to get angry when we are hurt, not to take back the things we have taken from us. Lord we ask that your presence would be with us when we feel this way, that your love would be in us and remind us that we are called to love everyone the same way that you love us. We pray that you would help us to be more like Jesus every day. Amen

### Sermon

It is easy to love the people that love you!

I have no trouble loving my wife. I loved her from the moment we met and have loved her ever since. I enjoy being with her and the thought of being separated from her causes me to be stressed and upset. Even after almost 19 years of being together I still do not want to be away from her for any longer than I have to be! I still want her to be happy with me and love me. I still care very deeply about what she thinks, and what she thinks about me, and because I love her, she has much more influence on me than anyone other than God in my life. I am sure many of the married people her feel the same about their spouse.

I have no trouble loving my children. They are an extension of me. I care for them, look after their needs, and seek for them to grow up in Christ as good Christians and good people that show God's love in this world. I worry about them and seek to give them the best I can in life.

I love my family, but that does not mean that I am never frustrated with them. Every family has problems. Every family has arguments and gets upset with each other. Yet, no matter what happens we all still love one another at the end of the day. As frustrating and annoying as it may be when we are angry and frustrated, we still know we love that family member.

Then Jesus decides to make it even more difficult with 'Love your enemies?' Just when we thought you could do well by loving your neighbors, Jesus steps up the challenge.

Love your enemies! Does God really expect us to love our enemies the same way he expects us to love our neighbors? Yes! Yes, he does. This is one of the aspects of Christianity that sets it apart, we are called by our God to show love, grace, mercy, and compassion to our enemies.

How can our God expect us to do this, to love our enemies? This is an impossible request. It is hard enough to love people who do not love you. How can God expect us to love people who seek to do us harm, who seek to tear us down?

The truth is that even if we have no enemies right now, eventually one or more will appear. The truth of everyone's life is that some people are not going to like you, no matter what you do. We know this is true from the scripture we looked at last week, because of our faith and adherence to scripture we will have enemies. So, in the scripture today Jesus is going to help us better understand how we are to treat these people; the ones who hate us, dislike us, seek to cancel us, cast us out, harm our reputation or just scorn us.

First, he says, 'Do good to those who hate you.'! Whoa, this idea would have been foreign to the people of Jesus's time, just as foreign as it is to many people living today. The rabbis at the time of Christ were teaching something different, something that aligned with the people desires.

The rabbis taught that you should 'love you neighbor and hate your enemies.' That was simple for people to follow, they figured out who they liked, who lived in the same neighborhood as them and then they could hate everyone who was different. Everyone who did not align with them politically, socially, and economically. Looking at what is going on in the world I think this is still the rule that the majority of society follows. However, Jesus is calling for Christians to do something else, he reminds us in verse 32:

**Luke 6:32**

**<sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.**

This is against our very nature. Human nature tells us to lash out against those who do us harm, protect ourselves from those people, get revenge when we are hurt. Human nature does not forgive easily and will hold grudges, hurts and anger until we feel our justice has been served against our enemies.

We think we need to get even, we need to defend ourselves, so they will not mess with us anymore. We have been taught revenge is bittersweet, that when we hurt someone who hurt us it will somehow take away the pain and make us feel better. Yet it is just the opposite. Our anger, our seeking of vengeance, our hatred is a horrible disease that will destroy us.

These feelings destroy us physically. There have been plenty of studies down that show the damage that hatred does to our bodies. Anger causes a rise in blood pressure and heart rate; putting a strain on your heart and making you more likely to experience a heart attack or stroke. It can also cause headaches and even a breakdown of the immune system causing your body to be more susceptible to a wide array of diseases and illnesses. Not to mention all of the types of addiction that we can be exposed to as we try to find ways to escape from or cope with the anger that is welling up inside.

These feelings of anger and hatred can destroy us emotionally. They can affect our judgement, causing us to make decisions too quickly, too emotionally charged and that will harm us in the long run. They can cause us to react too quickly, in an outburst of words or actions that can lead to embarrassment or worse. Our behavior when we are angry can lead to us being embarrassed and seeking to pull away from those around us, even depression and anger towards ourselves. And we all know that when we are angry and hateful it makes it harder for people to be around us, leading to a feeling of loneliness.

Then there is the spiritual cost. How can we love one another, friend and enemy when we are hateful or angry? We are literally harboring the thing in our heart that puts us contrary to God's laws. This will result in us feeling a disconnect from God.

Instead of being able to turn to God we become entrapped by the emotion. It becomes the focus of our lives. Look at people who are angry about something, no matter what is happening around them their thoughts and actions are focused on the anger, on the hatred. They become entrapped by that emotion, so focused on their thoughts of hurt, revenge or reparations that they find it difficult to function in society as a person or as a follower of God.

So how do we stop this from happening to us? Jesus starts by telling us to do good to those who hate you. We have no control over the things that others will do to us, but we can control how we react to those actions. We get to make the choice of whether we will respond to those who seek to do wrong to us with a response of anger or of love. When we chose to respond to anger with love it often will diffuse a tense situation.

People don't know how to react when you respond with love because they are expecting you to react in anger. They know and understand human nature, they know how they would respond and when you do not respond like they would respond it confuses them and causes them to let go of a little bit of their anger, because it is hard to stay angry at someone who is kind to you. The truth is that kindness and love changes people, even the ones who seek to harm you.

Kindness and love will change others while it changes us. So how do we put this into practice in our lives? Maybe it is by mowing the lawn or shoveling the walk of someone who constantly annoys you, maybe it means volunteering to help or cover for the co-worker who always seeks to make your life more difficult. Perhaps it means being kind to someone you knew in high school who treated you poorly. Or it may mean stepping up and looking after a parent or relative who never showed you the kindness and love you felt you deserved while growing up. Doing good to those who hated you is not easy for us to do, but it is easy for us to see where it should be practiced in our lives.

When we practice love instead of hate to our enemies it changes us. It is amazing how free you will feel not being tide down by the emotional responses that we are so used to having. You do not get caught up in the spiral of hate and can easily move on with your life serving God



wherever he calls you to serve. You will get to witness the changes in your enemies and might even be surprised by how your love can change their lives.

Abraham Lincoln said he destroyed his enemies by loving them. He made them his friends.

Jesus tells us to love them and bless them. The Bible tells us over and over about the power that is in our words and what we say. James reminds us that we are to watch our tongues because it is much easier to use our words in a negative way than a positive way. It is much easier for us to lash out with our words than to use our speech to build up and support others.

When we lash out against others with our language with people who have hurt us in some way it is like throwing gas on a fire. We are rubbing salt in the wound. We know how much that hurts, a little salt in a cut causes pain, lots of pain and a much stronger reaction. Gas on a fire or salt in a wound makes things worse and this is what we avoid when we show love and speak blessings.

Kind words has a way of being a salve to heal the wounds in peoples lives.

### **Proverbs 12:18**

**<sup>18</sup> There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.**

Can you think of a time in your life when someone said something to you that brought encouragement to you, something that gave you hope in your life?

Has anyone here experienced the wonderful blessing of making a mistake that you knew would make your significant other upset with you. Forgetting to do something or doing something wrong and knowing that it will garner a negative response, but instead of responding in anger they simply said, 'I love you.' When something like that happens, it changes everything. It changes the mood of the whole situation, it causes you to set aside the defense you had already started to build up, the emotional response, the words you were going to use. You set them all aside and just relax.

### **Proverbs 15:1**

**A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.**

How true this is; a kind word of encouragement can actually radically change the way that someone responds to you. Just imagine how different our lives would be if we practiced the usage of kind words, of blessings and building up instead of the words of anger and tearing down. We all know harsh words put us in a fighting mood and kind words soften our spirit.

Blessings however do not always need to be through words, they can also be through actions.

I want to share a story with you about a Christian woman who was raising chickens in her backyard. She only had two chickens, but they made a lot of noise early in the morning, they

often got out of their cages and ran rampant around their own yard and the yards of the neighbours on both sides.

One day the birds got into the yard of a particularly grouchy neighbor, he became frustrated and ran outside where he chased down the chickens and caught them. He wrung their necks and threw them back over the fence into the woman's yard.

When the owner went outside, she found her two chickens dead in her yard and as you can imagine she was quite upset. However, she avoided her initial urge to rush over and get angry at the man.

Instead, she gathered the birds up and took them inside where she dressed them out and prepared two chicken pies. She then took one of the freshly baked pies over to the man who had killed her chickens. As she handed him the pie, she apologized to him for not being more careful about keeping her chickens in her own yard.

Instead of lashing out against her with his anger, the chicken pie and the apology filled the man with a burning sense of shame. He looked the woman in the eye and apologized to her for his harsh reaction to the birds invading his yard.

Her actions changed his heart.

The next time someone upsets us, gets under our skin instead of reacting stop and try to think of a kind word or deed that you can share with them. Do that because you want to live your life more like Jesus and imagine the impact you can have in your own life and in the lives of others by loving and blessing others.

Finally, we are called by Jesus to pray for those who mistreat us.

We know that when people mistreat us, they dominate our thoughts. We cannot set aside the physical things they have done, the mental trauma they have caused or the emotional damage they have caused.

We have all been there before. There have been times in our life where we just cannot forgive the wrongs that someone else has done to us. We dwell on them, ponder them, we just seem like we cannot let go and move on, they consume our thoughts. These thoughts entrap us, and we become exhausted and miserable because of the way these people and their actions dominate our thoughts and minds.

Jesus has the answer. Pray. Pray for your enemies. Pray for the people that hurt you. Pray for the people who upset you. Pray for the people who scorn you. Pray for the people who push you away. This does not mean we pray for they have the wrath of God come down on them, it does not mean we pray for them to receive justice. Instead, Jesus means we should be praying for them to have a change of heart.

Pray for the root of the problem to be fixed, to often we are focused on the symptoms and not of the cause. When we stay up all night and get a headache, we can deal with it by taking aspirin

and avoiding loud noises. But the truth is that all we are doing is treating the symptoms of the problem, the only real way to fix the issue is to get more sleep. If I get more sleep, I eliminate the problem and the need for the medication.

We do the same thing with our enemies. When people are rude to us, they do things that hurt us, they ridicule us; what do we usually do? If we do not fight back, if we do not get angry, we often chose a passive action instead, we avoid them or ignore them. We are only dealing with the symptoms when we chose these paths, not addressing the truth of the issue that lies below.

Instead of avoiding them, ignoring them, or passively listening to them we need to be praying for them. Taking an active role in our relationship with people. Praying for God to be active in their hearts, Praying for God to bring change into their hearts. And at the same time Praying for God to be doing the same in our hearts, so that we can set aside our emotional responses and instead focus on loving and blessing our enemies.

Prayer for our enemies serves as a tool for us to fight against the bitterness and anger that can well up in us. Prayer serves as a way for us to control our emotional response. Prayer keeps us from losing control, our communication with God takes the sting out of the things which hurt us. Prayer helps us set aside our anger towards others.

Prayer reminds us of what it is that Jesus has done for us.

**Romans 5:8**

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

We are all sinners. We all did things that upset God, made him angry with us, and what did he do? He showed us love, he showed us kindness, He blessed us in word and deed, and he prayed for us.

Jesus made our lives better by loving us!

If we want a better life, if we want to live as he has called us to live, if we want to show others the power of Christ, we need to love others. Love people, love all people, love your friends, love your enemies, love people who you have never met.

Love people with all the grace, mercy, and compassion that Jesus shows to us when he loves us. Be kind compassionate and forgiving of one another, those we love and those who love us, those we hate and those who hate us.

Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who mistreat you, show love, mercy, compassion, and grace to everyone you interact with, everywhere you go and in everything you do.

So, as we all head out into the world this week can we think of someone who has mistreated us? How about someone who has wronged us in some way? Can we think of them and put loving your neighbor into practice? Can we respond with deeds, with prayers, with words and thoughts that are faithful to the love, compassion, grace, and mercy we received from Christ?

If someone says something hateful, do not lash back, instead pray for God to heal their hurt. Pray for God to be at work in you to create a love for them in your heart, so that you can be an example of Christ to them. Pray for God to show you ways to show love, compassion, grace, and mercy to them.

Love your enemies in such a powerful way that they cannot help to recognize Christ in you.

Let us Pray,

***For Others***

I offer up to you my prayers and intercessions,  
 for those especially who have in any matter hurt,  
 grieved, or found fault with me,  
 or who have done me any damage or displeasure.  
 For all those also whom, at any time,  
 I may have vexed, troubled, burdened, and scandalized,  
 by words or deeds, knowingly or in ignorance;  
 that you would grant us all equally pardon,  
 for our offences against each other.  
 Take away from our hearts, O Lord,  
 all suspiciousness, indignation, wrath, and contention,  
 and whatsoever may hurt charity, and lessen brotherly love.  
 Have mercy, O Lord,  
 have mercy on those who crave your mercy,  
 give grace to those who stand in need thereof,  
 and make us grow to enjoy your grace,  
 and go forward to life eternal.  
 In Jesus name we pray. Amen

*Source: Thomas à Kempis*

**Music Ministry: “I’m Going To Live So God Can Use Me” by Edgar de Paz**

**Baptism**

*The minister addresses all present:*

Matt. 28:18–20

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
 All authority in heaven and on earth  
 has been given to me.  
 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father,  
 and of the Son,  
 and of the Holy Spirit,  
 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.  
 And remember, I am with you always,  
 to the end of the age.

Hear also these words from Holy Scripture:

Eph. 4:4–6

There is one body and one Spirit,  
 just as you were called  
 to the one hope of your calling,  
 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
 one God and Father of all,  
 who is above all and through all and in all.

Obeying the word of our Lord Jesus,  
 and confident of his promises,  
 we baptize those whom God has called.

In baptism God claims us,  
 and seals us to show that we belong to God.  
 God frees us from sin and death,  
 uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.  
 By water and the Holy Spirit,  
 we are made members of the church, the body of Christ,  
 and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.  
 Let us remember with joy our own baptism,  
 as we celebrate this sacrament.

*An elder presents the candidate for baptism,*

On behalf of the session,  
 I present Rinoa Haven, daughter of Kevin and Jen Cosens,  
 to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

*The minister addresses parents presenting children for baptism:*

Do you desire that Rinoa Haven be baptized?

*The parent(s) respond:*

I do.

*Minister:*

Relying on God's grace,  
do you promise to live the Christian faith,  
and to teach that faith to your child?

*The parent(s) respond:*

I do.

*The minister addresses the congregation:*

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ,  
promise to guide and nurture (name) and (name)  
by word and deed,  
with love and prayer,  
encouraging them to know and follow Christ  
and to be faithful members of his church?

*The people respond:*

We do.

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established.  
Within this covenant God gives us new life,  
guards us from evil,  
and nurtures us in love.

In embracing that covenant, we choose whom we will serve,  
by turning from evil  
and turning to Jesus Christ.

*The minister then asks the following questions of the candidates for baptism  
and/or the parents or guardians of children being presented for baptism.*

As God embraces you within the covenant, I ask you  
to reject sin,  
to profess your faith in Christ Jesus,  
and to confess the faith of the church,  
the faith in which we baptize.

## PROFESSION

*The minister continues:*

With the whole church,  
let us confess our faith.

*The people stand.*

*All present profess their faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Water is poured visibly and audibly into the font.*

## THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

*One of the following prayers is said by the minister.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eternal and gracious God, we give you thanks.  
In countless ways you have revealed yourself in ages past,  
and have blessed us with signs of your grace.

We praise you that through the waters of the sea,  
you led your people Israel out of bondage,  
into freedom in the land of your promise.

We praise you for sending Jesus your Son,  
who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan,  
and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit.  
Through the baptism of his death and resurrection,  
you set us free from the bondage of sin and death,  
and give us cleansing and rebirth.

We praise you that in baptism  
you give us your Holy Spirit,  
who teaches us and leads us into all truth,  
filling us with a variety of gifts,  
that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations  
and serve you as a royal priesthood.  
The minister may touch the water.

Pour out your Spirit upon us  
and upon this water,  
that this font may be your womb of new birth.  
May all who now pass through these waters  
be delivered from death to life,  
from bondage to freedom,  
from sin to righteousness.  
Bind them to the household of faith,  
guard them from all evil.  
Strengthen them to serve you with joy  
until the day you make all things new.  
To you be all praise, honor, and glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
who, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
lives and reigns forever.  
Amen.



## THE BAPTISM

*The candidates, other than infants, who are to be baptized by pouring or sprinkling may kneel.*

*Calling each candidate by their Christian (given) name or names only, the minister shall pour or sprinkle water visibly and generously on the candidate's head, or immerse the candidate in the water, while saying:*

Rinoa Haven, I baptize you  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

## LAYING ON OF HANDS

*The minister lays hands on the head of each person baptized, while saying one of the following:*

O Lord, uphold Rinoa Haven by your Holy Spirit.  
Give her the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,  
the spirit of joy in your presence,  
both now and forever.  
Amen.

*The minister may mark the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the newly baptized, while saying one of the following. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used.*

Rinoa Haven, child of God,  
you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism,  
and grafted into Christ forever.  
Amen.

## WELCOME

*Candidates who have been kneeling will stand.  
A representative of the session, or the minister, addresses the congregation in these or similar words:*

Rinoa Haven has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church

through baptism.

God has made them members of the household of God,  
to share with us in the priesthood of Christ.  
Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*The people respond, saying:*

With joy and thanksgiving  
we welcome you into Christ's church  
to share with us in his ministry,  
for we are all one in Christ

*Those who have been baptized are welcomed in a manner appropriate to the particular congregation.*

## THE PEACE

*The minister then says to all assembled at the font:*

The peace of Christ be with you.

*They respond:*

And also with you.

*The people may exchange signs of God's peace, greeting those who have been baptized.  
(Baptismal Gifts)*

## Invitation to Offering

### 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) If you have an Offering Envelope #, please**

**include it 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**

God of generous love, we bring our gifts with grateful hearts,  
for we have received so much through your kindness.  
Bless our gifts, and use them to touch lives in situations we cannot even imagine with  
your love. Make us a blessing in our community for the sake of Christ, our Friend and  
Saviour. Amen.

### **Closing Hymn # 315: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (V 1, 4)**

A mighty fortress is our God,  
a refuge never failing;  
our helper sure, amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
yet seeks to work us woe;  
with craft and power great and,  
armed with cruel hate,  
on earth has not an equal.

That Word above all earthly powers  
no thanks to them abiding;  
ensures that all God's gifts are ours,  
through Christ in us residing,  
whose summons rings above all goods,  
all earthly love.  
Earth's powers waste a way;  
God's word endures always,  
whose reign will last forever.

### **Pastoral Prayer**

God of all life and each life:  
You created us and set us in relationship with each other  
in families and neighbourhoods,  
in communities and countries,

in cultures and nations.

Today we give you thanks for all the gifts of home life and community celebration which bring meaning and encouragement to our lives.

Thank you for the blessings we know through the contributions of those who have gone before us.

Help us offer what we can to sustain the wellbeing of our community and country, so that all who make it their home will find security and dignity.

God of our faith and our future,

there are so many pressures we face today, so many problems without simple solutions.

Draw near to anyone who is struggling in economic difficulty, and all those burdened by challenges to their health and happiness.

Guide us all through the changing face of the pandemic, and support all those who are finding the stress overwhelming.

Ease any conflict in homes and workplaces and inspire solutions that express mutual respect and deeper understanding. Help us share with others the hope we find in your presence.

God of mercy and forgiveness,

You call us to live together in peace and unity.

We pray for our neighbourhoods and the nations of this world.

Where people are divided and bitterness turns into resentment, show us how to work for reconciliation.

Where violence and fear turn neighbour against neighbour, or nation against nation. equip leaders to work for justice that will bring peace.

Help us build a world where children enjoy a future filled with good health and happiness.

God, our hope and our help,

send your Spirit to equip our congregation with skill and resilience to weather the challenges the pandemic has brought for our life together.

Strengthen friendships, new and old, and make us a source of encouragement and connection to each other.

Help each one find a place and a purpose in our mission and ministry for it is as your children that we pray together in Jesus's name. Amen

### **Benediction**

May the grace of God,  
freely given through Christ, our Lord,

and sufficient for all our needs,  
and may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
who testifies with our spirit  
that we are God's children,  
guide and sustain us this day  
and forever. **Amen.**