

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth  
Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Learning Through Lent - Temptation  
First Sunday in Lent  
Luke 4:1-13

### Welcome

### Announcements

### Call to Worship

We live in the shelter of the Most High,  
**We abide in the shadow of the Almighty.**

Let us worship God who is our refuge and our strength,  
**For God is the One in whom we trust.**

The Lord will deliver us from the perils that threaten us.  
**Under God's wings, we will find refuge and not be afraid.**

### Prayer of Adoration

God of our living and our loving,  
we rejoice in your grace and mercy which has called creation into being,  
and makes all life complete.

We praise you for Jesus Christ  
who reveals your loving purposes for all people;  
in his face we glimpse your love;  
in his life we see the pattern for our lives.

We bless you for the Holy Spirit  
who guides us and strengthens us,  
drawing us into the embrace of your tender love.

And so we praise you, O God,  
our eternal, creating father who loves us with motherly care,  
united with Christ, our savior,  
and your Holy Spirit, the breath of life,  
Three in One, now and always.

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #381: “Open My Eyes That I May See” (V 1, 3)**

Open my eyes that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

Open my mouth and let it bear  
gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere.  
Open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my mouth, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty and most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in things we have done,  
and things we have neglected to do.  
We have held back from giving  
to protect what we have.  
We have not trusted in your goodness  
and relied on the world's empty promises instead.  
Forgive what we have done and direct who we shall become.  
Help us to serve you  
by serving your world with generous spirits.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Hear and believe the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
The old life is gone. The new life has come.  
Know that you are forgiven, and so, in Christ, forgive one another.

### **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**

#### **Question 3. Yet some people no longer believe there is a God. Why do we believe in God?**

We believe in God because we are part of a community of faith which through the preaching of Christ's gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit creates and nourishes faith. We believe in God because of revelation. God is revealed in the history of Israel and supremely in Jesus Christ. Through God alone can God be known.

We believe in God because the universe poses the question: "Where did all of this come from?" We reply: "It came from God. God made it. God is creator. The world is charged with the glory of God and the universe points to its maker."

We believe in God, because we are made in the divine image and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God.

**Rom 10:17, 2 Cor 4:6, PS 19:1**

#### **Question 4. Is the pursuit of science incompatible with faith in God?**

No. We believe that God created a universe with its own order which we can explore by scientific investigation. Yet scientific investigation and the Christian faith differ in their goals and approaches. While science proceeds by theorizing about and testing the universe, the Christian faith is primarily concerned with knowing God who exists above and beyond the creation. The Christian faith values all efforts to understand the universe that God has made. We are guided by the conviction that all truth comes from God.

**Gen 1:1-3, Jn 1:1-4**

**Music Ministry: "At The Table Of The Lord" by Senior Choir**

### Prayer for illumination

As your word is read, heard, and preached, O God,  
 send your Holy Spirit to aid our understanding  
 and nurture our faith with the Good News we meet in Jesus Christ, your Living Word.  
 Amen.

### Scripture

#### **Luke 4:1–13**

**4** And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness <sup>2</sup>for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” <sup>5</sup>And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, <sup>6</sup>and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup>And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

“ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God,  
 and him only shall you serve.’ ”

<sup>9</sup>And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written,

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
 to guard you,’

<sup>11</sup>and

“ ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
 lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>12</sup>And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” <sup>13</sup>And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

### Children’s Hymn: “Jesus In The Morning”

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning, Jesus in the noontime  
 Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes down.

Love Him, love Him, love Him in the morning, love Him in the noontime.  
 Love Him, love Him , love Him when the sun goes down.

Serve Him, serve Him, serve Him in the morning, serve Him in the noontime  
 Serve Him, serve Him, serve Him when the sun goes down.

Thank Him, thank Him, thank Him in the morning, thank Him in the noon time  
 Thank Him, thank Him, thank Him when the sun goes down.

### **Children's Lesson**

Today's scripture is all about temptation. Temptation is kind of a tricky subject, and it is often one we struggle with trying to understand.

However, there is a story told about a little boy in a grocery store that I think illustrates what temptation is very well.

There was a young boy standing near an open box of cookies. The store owner seeing the young boy standing so close to the cookies looking nervous walked over to him and said, "Now then, young man, what are you up to?"

"Nothing, nothing." Replied the nervous little boy.

The store owner accusingly said, "Well it looks to me like you were trying to take a cookie."

"You're wrong, mister," replied the young boy, "I'm trying not to!"

That is temptation. It is not the desire to do something. It is the will to fight against doing something you want to do that you know is wrong.

The boy was tempted because he wanted the cookie, there is nothing wrong with wanting a cookie. The reason this was temptation is because the cookie was not his to take and eat, so he knew that doing so was wrong and he was trying to fight against his desire to have that cookie.

Jesus was tempted in the desert by the devil in many ways, and each time he turns to God's Word, to teachings in the scripture to resist the temptations in which the Devil is trying to trap him.

This is what we are learning about today. When there are things that we want to do, but we know are wrong, because they go against what our parents have taught us or against what the scripture teaches us, we are facing a temptation.

And when we are facing a temptation, no matter how old we are, we should be turning to Jesus and seeking his help in doing the right thing and not giving into our desires.

So let us all bow our heads together and pray that we would have the wisdom to turn to Jesus when we face temptations.

Let us pray,

Loving God, let us always be reminded of the words of the Lord prayer 'Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' When we are faced with things in this world which tempt us, things which we want to do, places we want to go, possessions which we desire, or position which we wish we had, let us be reminded that we are called to obey your word first, and if these things are in disobedience of your will Lord give us the strength to turn to your word. We pray in our Lord Jesus's name. Amen.

### Sermon

The Temptation of Christ. What a wonderful way to start off the season of Lent, a season where we are to examine our own failings and recognize our need for Christ to overcome those temptations of this world that rule over our lives.

As we dig into the scripture today, I hope each of us finds some truth in the word that is directly relatable to our own lives.

Jesus was just 30 years old, freshly baptized, and full of the Holy Spirit when he was led into the desert to face his temptations. In fact, if you pay attention to the scripture he was 'led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil.' The Holy Spirit led him there, the same way it will sometimes lead us into temptations to put us through tests and trials.

Jesus is there in the desert, alone, not eating, spending time in prayer and contemplation. Then when he is weakened with hunger and tired from prayer and his forty days in the desert, the Devil appears.

The devil challenges Jesus, he plays on his pride and hunger. 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' Jesus stood there with Satan, his belly empty and knew that he could easily change the stones into bread. He is the Son of God, he could create anything he wishes, we see him later in scripture feed five thousand men with nothing but a few fish and a few loaves.

Jesus could in that instant create bread from stone and show the devil he is the Son of God, shut him up and send him away, and satisfy his hunger at the same time. However, instead he states, 'Man cannot live on bread alone!'

'Man cannot live on bread alone!' this is a piece of Scripture that many know and quote. They use it to justify many different refusals of physical wants and desires. However, this is Jesus quoting from the Old Testament, from the book of Deuteronomy.

**Deuteronomy 8:3**

**<sup>3</sup> And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

Is it not interesting that the Lord warns us against the desire for food over the Word of God? The first sin of mankind was giving into the temptation of food, the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden, instead of choosing to obey the Word of God. Satan is challenging Jesus with the same temptation that he used in the Garden of Eden, think of your own hunger, think of your own desire, eat what you want, ignore the instructions of God. To which Jesus replies with Scripture, man does not live on the physical needs alone, he also needs to obey the word of God, denying the desires of the flesh.

The lesson for us here is that we need to be able to see past our direct physical needs into the spiritual needs we have in our lives. Think about how we eat, many of us seek out comfort foods, those sweets, or other foods that we eat when we are stressed, angered, saddened. We are attempting to distract ourselves, fill up a space that we are feeling. Comfort food fills us up momentarily, but the issue usually comes back, and everyone tells you that if you want to stop binging on comfort foods you need to find what it is you are trying to fill. I challenge you explore your desire for comfort foods, and you will probably find that you are not handing over things to God, you are holding them to yourself. You are seeking to fill up a spiritual Emptiness with a physical satisfaction.

We need to listen to Jesus's response here when he is physically tempted and know that physical needs are secondary to spiritual needs.

Satan is not deterred. He cannot cause Jesus to give into temptation of a physical nature or pride, so he tries again.

He shows Jesus the world and its kingdoms, and he offers to Jesus the authority over all the world. He tempts him with power. Jesus gave up all of his power, all of his authority when he came to earth and was born in the form of man.

Here Satan is saying, all you need to do is worship me, and you can have all this power and authority. How many of us are facing temptations like this? Just give up your faith, just curb your understanding of scripture and you can be more powerful, more recognized in this world. You can get that raise, get that promotion, get that role in society you are after, you just need to place your desire for that power, that authority, that recognition above your obedience to God's word.

How does Jesus respond to this temptation, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.' Once again quoting the book of Deuteronomy.

**Deuteronomy 6:13-15**

**<sup>13</sup> It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. <sup>14</sup> You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— <sup>15</sup> for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God— lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.**

Satan tries to offer Jesus' things in the here and now and Jesus does not fall for it. He knows that the here and now is temporary, the eternal life in God's kingdom is worth far far more than the temporary satisfaction he could gain in this life.

This is one of Satan's favorite tricks, convince us that the here and now, the power, authority, fame, pleasure, acceptance we desire at this moment is more important than what God has to offer.

The devil seeks to have us desire the things of this world more than the obedience of God's word. He will modify the God's word and ask us all forms of questions to try to convince us that what God says is not really what we think. Like in the garden of Eden, he questioned Eve by asking her

**Genesis 3:1**

**3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.**

**He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"**

What a brilliant trick, 'Did God actually say that?' because if he did not say that you could not do that directly, you can do it. This is a child's logic, mom said I could not have a chocolate bar because it would spoil my dinner, so I had a cookie instead. I didn't go against her word, but I still spoiled my dinner.

How many people do this in our world? They look for the exact meaning of God's word. It says do not murder, so if I only beat someone to the brink of death its ok. It says do



not commit adultery, well what is adultery, the exact definition and then we can walk as close to edge as we want, or even just change what it means so that we can do whatever we want. Do not steal, that means rob from a store or someone, it surely does not mean downloading a music file. Do not lie, means only major lies, not the little white lies we all tell to cover our mistakes or protect others' emotions.

The devil, sin itself will play on our desires and seek for us to turn from the truth of God's word, for those who were here for Ash Wednesday, to curve our way inward, and seek our own desires, protection, and promotion.

Jesus is reminding us that in our lives it should always be God first.

Not yet willing to give up, the devil tries a new approach. He brings Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and tells him to jump. Prove you are the Son of God and then Satan quotes the scriptures.

Satan says, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you' and, 'on their hands they will bear you up lest you strike your foot against a stone'.

Did you know that Satan can quote scripture? He knows God's word as well as any human and he will twist it, he will seek to use it out of context, to change its meaning so that we will fall for his trick. Instead of just asking 'Did God actually say that?', he will tell us that 'God says this' and then misuse the scripture in an attempt to prove his point.

The Devil is quoting the Old Testament this time, responding to Jesus's challenging him with Scripture.

**Psalm 91:11-12**

**<sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.**

**<sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

What Satan quotes is scriptural, it is in the Bible, the word of God. But he uses it out of context, he says God will provide this angelic safety net around his believers that will protect them from harm. Kind of like churches that teach if you are a believer, you will always be healthy or wealthy.

The truth is that when you read the first few verses of psalm 91 it sets the context.

**Psalm 91:1-2**

**1** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

**2** I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,

my God, in whom I trust.”

When we live our lives in obedience of God, he will protect us. When we are abiding by his word we are protected. Not when we ‘test’ his protection as the Devil is challenging Jesus to do.

Jumping off that pinnacle would have been a senseless act, it would serve no purpose, it would not show God’s glory in any way. Jesus knows that we are called to live in faith and in worship and praise of God. We are called to live lives that Glorify his name, not lives in which we test his powers.

This time Jesus responds that ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the Test’, quoting the prophet Ahaz he said he would not put the Lord God to a test.

The devil his plan thwarted leaves Jesus

**Luke 4:13**

**<sup>13</sup> And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.**

For a more opportune time. The truth is we never defeat Satan, the devil is never permanently pushed away. He will always return and seek new ways of tempting us, of tricking us, especially if we think we have overcome him.

Sin is always present. The temptations of the flesh are always present. This is why Alcoholics Anonymous and other addiction programs have tokens for people who go 1 year, 3 years, five years, 10 years or more. People celebrate these milestones because they are milestones. They know that making it one more year is a victory because all it takes is one temptation at a moment of weakness and they are addicted again.

That is why we are all warned in

**1 Peter 5:8**

**<sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**

Or in Ephesians

**Ephesians 6:11**

**<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.**

Jesus was God, but he was also fully man. He was just as human as you or I and he suffered all the same temptations of the flesh that we do each and every day of his life.

When the devil came after him in the desert, he was weak and he was hungry. The devil sought to take advantage of him and instead was foiled by Jesus.

Jesus was alone when this happened, remember he was alone in the desert, he also must have shared this story of temptation with his disciples, so that they could share it in the scriptures. It was shared so that through our study of this event we could grow in faith.

We could see that Jesus experienced temptation as we do and that he overcame those temptations by turning to God as we should. Being fully human he was showing us what we are to do when we face temptations in our life.

**Hebrews 2:18**

**<sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.**

First, we need to know that it is possible for us to resist temptations. Even when we think that it is not possible it is always possible.

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

**<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.**

Notice it does not say that when you become a Christian you will never be tempted. Temptation never goes away; the devil does not have a checklist that you are taken off of when you come to faith. Temptation is real and will always exist in our lives. It is not a sin to be tempted, it become a sin when we yield to the temptations.

An old saying that holds true to this is 'You cannot help it if birds fly over your head, but you can prevent them from making a nest in your hair.'

God is greater than the things of this world and He is with us when we face temptations. Jesus beat the devil and his temptations by turning to God's word. He quoted directly from the book of Deuteronomy, the book of law because that was the word of God that the Jewish people lived their lives by at the time.

He could do this because he had read the book and knew what it said. We can beat temptation the same way, by reading the Word of God and knowing what it says.

**Psalm 119:9-16**

**9 How can a young man keep his way pure?**

**By guarding it according to your word.**  
**10 With my whole heart I seek you;**  
**let me not wander from your commandments!**  
**11 I have stored up your word in my heart,**  
**that I might not sin against you.**  
**12 Blessed are you, O Lord;**  
**teach me your statutes!**  
**13 With my lips I declare**  
**all the rules of your mouth.**  
**14 In the way of your testimonies I delight**  
**as much as in all riches.**  
**15 I will meditate on your precepts**  
**and fix my eyes on your ways.**  
**16 I will delight in your statutes;**  
**I will not forget your word.**

We can overcome temptations; we can resist the devil and his workings because we know that we are saved by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony. We have the empty cross and the Scriptures of the New Testament in our battle against sin and Satan.

We are now 5 days into the season of Lent, a season in which many people make promises to abstain from something they enjoy so that they can identify with Christ and share in the sufferings that he experienced while fasting and praying in the desert.

I challenge you this Lenten season to not give something up but instead pick something up. Know that God can satisfy all our spiritual emptiness.

God can fulfill our desire for physical things, for authority, for fame. He will fulfill these desires or take them away when we turn to him first in our lives.

Jesus knows what we need in our lives better than anyone else, He created us, He has known each of us since the beginning of time. Jesus teaches all of us that when we turn to Him first, when we seek of his kingdom instead of the things of this world, we will be blessed by him.

Jesus will meet our physical needs, but he also will meet all of our spiritual needs. When he met the women at the well and his disciples are encouraging him to eat, he instead tells them of the food he has that will satisfy him.

**John 4:31-34**

**<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said**

**to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.**

We are filled when we serve God first. Many of you who have served on mission, or in homeless shelters, or with those in need know this feeling. You feel a fullness of joy when you serve others, when you bring an understanding of Christ to others by ministering to them in word and in deed.

So instead of giving something up for lent, Go, and do something for God this season. Study his word daily so that you can use it when you face temptations, start a new prayer routine in your life to build a better relationship with God. Go out and share your faith with someone new, serve those in need or just be there for others as we come out of the chaos that this pandemic has caused in our society and be filled with the joy in serving.

**James 4:7**

**<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

James reminds us to live in God, to submit ourselves to him fully. Mankind’s most urgent needs in this world are not physical they are spiritual.

**Hebrews 12:1-2**

**12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Turn to Jesus, know we will face temptations, we will face trials, things will not always be easy.

Turn to Jesus, know that he too faced temptations and trials and overcame them.

Turn to Jesus, know that he is the founder of our faith, he is the one who we are to follow, the one who sets us in the correct direction to God.

Turn to Jesus and know that he is the perfecter of our faith, He is the one who will help us through the temptations, trials, and troubles of life. He may need to rough us up and smooth off some edges in our life, but he knows the perfect finished product and seeks to bring us closer to it through our journey of change in Christ.

Turn to Jesus, know that your life matters to God and to God's people. Know that you do not need to face this world alone. Through all of its trials, temptations, troubles, pains and sorrows, God has provided you the fellowship of brothers and sisters who love you deeply.

Turn to Jesus, know that we have the example of Jesus Christ, we have the full armour of God, we have the Word of God, we have the Holy Spirit, and we have prayer.

Turn to Jesus and know that when we face moral, physical, ethical, and emotional temptations. When we are challenged, or tempted or face trials, when we face troubles and tribulations we can lean on God's strength and God's word and live in Victory... and even if we fail, know that we have his grace, mercy, love, and compassion for those whom he loves.

Let us pray,

### **Help Us against the Adversary**

Lord God, heavenly Father,  
just as the adversary continually afflicts us  
and as a roaring lion walks about,  
seeking to devour us,  
for the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
help us by the grace of the Holy Spirit  
and strengthen our hearts by your Word,  
that our enemy may not prevail over us,  
but that we may always abide in your grace  
and be preserved to eternal life,  
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one true God, now and forever.

***Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Lent 1***

### **Communion Hymn: "Glorify Thy Name" by Peri-Ann Echlin**

### **Communion**

#### **Declaration of God's Invitation and Promises**

*Hear the words of the institution  
of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,  
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,*

*"This is my body, which is for you;  
do this in remembrance of me."  
In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying,  
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood;  
do this in remembrance of me."  
For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

### **Opening**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
*Lift up your hearts.*  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*  
**It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

### **Thanksgiving to God**

*Generous God, overflowing fountain of good,  
you who lived from all eternity in trinitarian abundance  
and yet made room for creatures, creating life  
through the mediating Son and the hovering Spirit,  
pouring out value on all that you made—*

*You honored us human beings with the breath of your life,  
making us in your image and likeness,  
to care for the earth in stewardship and love,  
to live together in hospitality and zest  
as a daily reminder of your trinitarian abundance.*

*You crowned us with virtue and honor  
and are now renewing us in your image through the work of your Son.  
Magnificent you are, strong God, giver of splendors.*

*You bless inside a world of curses.  
You heal inside a world of wounds.  
You save inside a world bent on being lost.  
We thank, praise, and honor you,  
generous God, overflowing fountain of good,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen***

**Acclimation of Praise**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
 God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest.**

**Thanksgiving to Christ**

*Holy God, you are mighty in power yet abounding in mercy.  
 While our world was marred with sin,  
 so much so that we had no hope of redemption,  
 you made a covenant with your people.  
 You promised to renew your creation.  
 You promised to give hope amid the sorrow,  
 healing in place of sickness, wholeness in place of emptiness.*

*You stepped into our darkness in the person of Jesus Christ.  
 Our Lord and Savior lived among us.  
 He, God before the beginning of time,  
 willingly came to live at a specific place in a specific time.  
 He came quietly to a young unwed mother  
 through the power of your Holy Spirit.  
 He experienced our human joys and sorrows.  
 The Lord of the universe became a helpless boy.  
 He ate, he drank, he grew.  
 He was like us but without sin.*

*Then the King of kings showed us how to live.  
 He healed the sick, cared for the least of society,  
 and took time for children.  
 He forgave sins and performed miracles.  
 He loved, and he served.  
 He gave up his very life for his friends.  
 He died the excruciating, disgraceful death of a criminal for us.  
 Yet you raised him out of the tomb.  
 He triumphed over death so that we too may live.*

*On the night before our Lord died, he ate with his disciples.  
 As we so often do, Jesus began with prayer.  
 He took the bread and the cup,*



*and he shared them with his friends,  
saying, "This is my body given for you. This cup is poured out for you.  
My body and my blood are given for the forgiveness of your sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me."*

*So, loving God, we do, in obedience to your command,  
eat the bread and drink from the cup.  
As we do, we remember with awe and gratitude  
the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of all, Savior, Anointed One.*

*We rejoice that your great love through our Redeemer's sacrifice  
has set us free and given us hope for a future with you.*

*Until our Lord Jesus returns to establish his kingdom without end,  
we will joyfully proclaim his death and resurrection.*

**We shall do as our Lord commands.  
We proclaim that our Lord Jesus  
was sent by the Father into the world,  
that he took upon himself our flesh and blood,  
and bore the wrath of God against our sin.  
We confess that he was condemned  
to die that we might be pardoned,  
and suffered death that we might live.  
We proclaim that he is risen to make us right with God  
and that he shall come again in the glory of his new creation.  
This we do now and until he comes again.**

*Heavenly Father, show forth among us  
the presence of your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit,  
to sanctify us and your whole church through this sacrament.  
Grant that all who share the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ,  
may be one in him and may remain faithful in love and hope.  
And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf  
and these grapes from many hills into one cup,  
grant, O Lord, that your whole church may soon be gathered  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.*

**Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory are yours,  
Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

### The Apostles Creed (Affirmation of Faith)

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 again 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.

### The Passing of the Peace

*Thanks be to God: Christ makes us one.  
 The peace of Christ be with you all.*  
**And also with you**

### Preparation of the Bread and Cup

*We celebrate this feast in obedience to Christ's example and mandate.*

*(Bread Breaking)*

*The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread,  
 and after giving thanks to God,  
 he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
 "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.  
 Do this in remembrance of me."*

*(Cup Lifting)*

*In the same way he took the cup, saying,  
 "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,  
 shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
 Whenever you drink it,*

*do this in remembrance of me.”*

*Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord  
until he comes.*

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.  
Amen**

### **Invitation**

*The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.*

### **Taking of the Elements**

*Take, eat, remember, and believe  
that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given  
for the complete forgiveness of all our sins*

*Take, drink, remember, and believe  
that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed  
for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.*

### **Response of Praise and Prayer**

Praise the LORD, my soul;  
**all my inmost being, praise his holy name.**  
Praise the LORD, my soul,  
**and forget not all his benefits—**  
who forgives all your sins  
**and heals all your diseases,**  
who redeems your life from the pit  
**and crowns you with love and compassion.**

*Loving, glorious, gracious God,  
you have fed us at your table.  
In your mercy you have nourished us,  
and we are grateful.  
This day, in this time and place,*

*we connect through the centuries  
with the church everlasting,  
those who before us broke bread and took the cup.  
Help us now, as we leave this place,  
to continue the work of the holy catholic church,  
to practice the communion of the saints,  
and, with hearts and souls refreshed, to seek your will.  
Help us, now that we have been fed,  
to feed those who are hungry,  
invite in the stranger,  
and visit the imprisoned.  
You have met us where we are, O Lord,  
and filled our needs yet again.  
May we do the same for all of your children;  
may we leave this place to love abundantly.  
May we love you with all our hearts.  
May we love our neighbors as ourselves.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen*

### **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 (e.g., Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.**

### **Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, we thank you for all the goodness we receive in Christ and in creation. Bless the gifts we offer to share in the work of the kingdom Jesus declared, and bless our lives so that we may be witnesses to his love and mercy.

**Amen**

**Closing Hymn #382: “Be Thou My Vision” (V 1, 4)**

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
 Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art -  
 Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
 May I reach heaven’s joys, bright heav'n’s Sun!  
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
 Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Amen.

**Pastoral Prayer**

God of grace,  
 You are our Judge and our Hope.  
 Transform us with your love and harness our energy for your purposes in the world  
 into which Christ came and for which he died.

We pray for the Church facing the challenges of rebuilding ministry and mission  
 amid the uncertainties of this world.  
 Where congregations are tempted to guard traditions and resist new possibilities,  
 where members magnify differences instead of celebrating our unity in Christ,  
 where energy for leadership and community life has grown weaker,  
 send your healing and transforming grace.

We pray for relationships suffering under the stress of prolonged pandemic restrictions.  
 Where families are tempted to nurse grudges and harbour complaints,  
 where friendships have been wounded by misunderstanding or neglect,  
 where workplace tensions have arisen over clashing opinions or exhausting demands,  
 send your reconciling and restoring mercy.

We pray for the world filled with increasing threats and conflicts.  
 Where countries are torn by unrest and persecution,  
 where communities are diminished by prejudice and discrimination,  
 where those with power and authority degrade or dismiss their critics,  
 empower those who work for just solutions and advocate for the powerless.

We pray for all who are troubled and find it hard to face these uncertain times,  
 we pray for those who face illness or loss of any kind,

for those challenged by economic hardship,  
and for those faced with the reality of death, their own or of someone dear.  
Embrace each one with your compassion and courage.

Even as we remember the many challenges around us,  
we give you thanks for the blessings we know,  
for moments of pleasure,  
for laughter shared,  
for conversations that brightened a day.  
Thank you for your steadfast love  
and the comfort we draw from your presence with us in all things.  
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen**

### **Benediction**

Grace and peace to you  
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age,  
according to the will of our God and Father,  
to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.