

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, June 5th, 2022
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Day of Pentecost
Romans 8:14-17

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

The love of God has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us;
we dwell in him and he in us.

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him,
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!

Prayer of Adoration

Praise and glory to you, creator Spirit of God;
you make our bread the communion of Christ's body
to heal and reconcile
and to make us the body of Christ.
You make our wine the communion of Christ's saving blood
to redeem the world.
You are truth.
You come like the wind of heaven, unseen, unbidden.
Like the dawn
you illuminate the world around us;

you grant us a new beginning every day.
 You warm and comfort us.
 You give us courage and fire
 and strength beyond our everyday resources.
 Be with us, Holy Spirit, in all we say or think,
 in all we do, this and every day. Amen.

Opening Hymn # 357: "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" (V 1, 2)

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
 in a believer's ear;
 it soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds
 and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
 and calms the troubled breast;
 'tis manna to the hungry soul,
 and to the weary rest.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God,
 you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples
 creating bold tongues, open ears,
 and a new community of faith.
 We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us.
 We do not listen for your word of grace,
 speak the good news of your love,
 or live as a people made one in Christ.
 Have mercy on us, O God.
 Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit,
 and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people,
 doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord's Prayer

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

Responsive Reading

Question 40. How did Jesus fulfil the office of prophet?

A prophet is one who speaks for God. Jesus is himself God's Word to a needy and broken world. He proclaimed and lived God's love and justice, spoke God's truth, and announced God's coming reign.

Lk 7:15-16, Mk 1:14-15, Lk 4:24

Question 41. How did Jesus fulfil the office of priest?

A priest is one who acts before God on behalf of the people. Jesus became both priest and sacrifice for us. In his obedient life and death on the cross, Jesus offered himself once for all, the innocent one for the guilty.

Heb 4:14, 1 Cor 5:7, Phil 2:7-8

Question 42. How does scripture describe Jesus' death for our sins?

Biblical descriptions include atonement by a priest, the sacrifice of a lamb, the ransom of a slave, punishment in our place, payment of a debt, and victory over the powers of evil through His blood. These express God's great love for the world, reveal the enormity of our sin, and emphasize the cost of our Lord's sacrifice and the sure achievement of his reconciling work.

Heb 9:11-12, Jn 1:29, Mk 10:45, 2 Cor 5:21

Music Ministry: "Hungry I Come" by Choir

Prayer for illumination

**God of mercy,
 you promised never to break your covenant with us.
 Amid all the changing words of our generation,
 speak your eternal Word that does not change.
 Then may we respond to your gracious promises
 with faithful and obedient lives;**

through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture

Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Children’s Hymn # 435: “All Things Bright and Beautiful” (V 1, 4)

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
in love God made them all.

1. Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours;
God made their tiny wings.

(Refrain)

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty
who has made all things well.

(Refrain)

Children’s Lesson

Sermon

Romans is a book which overwhelms many of its readers. It delves into the deeper meanings of faith and what the gospel of justification and salvation means to both Jews

and gentile, and on the importance of their faith in Jesus Christ. The section that we are exploring today deals with one of the most important doctrines for all Christians to understand when it comes to understanding their own salvation.

The doctrine of adoption, the truth that all faithful followers of Christ become the Children of God. This is a critical component of understanding the real value of our salvation and the importance of our relationship with God in our lives.

It lets us explore and get a better understanding of how much God loves his people, a better understanding of the sacrifice that was made by Jesus Christ when he died upon the cross and shed his blood to pay the debt that every one of us owes to God for our sinful ways.

Knowing the sacrifice that Christ made upon the cross for us allows us to begin to understand just how much God loves us and when we begin to understand how much God loves each of us it should begin to change the way that we think about God, the way we think about our lives, the things we say and the things we do. It should create in us the desire to be more like Christ in our lives. To become followers of Christ, to be his faithful people and to be as it is put here in the book of Romans 'led by the Spirit of God'.

So, the question we need to begin to ask ourselves is what does it mean to be actually led by the Spirit of God?

It means more than just acknowledgment of the existence of the Holy Spirit. It means that we know of, believe in, and obey the Spirit of God. Believing in the Holy Spirit is easy, it is the obeying the Spirit that is a challenge for most people. It means that we are baptized by the spirit, and it can be seen in our lives changing us to be more like the people the bible calls for us to be.

When we look at a Christian, or someone who claims to be a Christian it should be clear to us that they are being led by the Spirit.

When you see someone who is a follower of any particular thing, we can usually identify them by their behaviors. We know fans of musical bands because they have t-shirts of the band that they wear, they might have a poster of the band on their wall, the same goes for sports teams. I have witnessed many people wearing the jersey or hat of their favorite sports team, especially around playoff time or during the Olympics you see a sudden explosion of people wearing nationality branded clothing that is almost vacant at all other times. Even the local High School has followers, I have seen so many kids walk past my place every day wearing PDCI clothing.

We all become a reflection of what we look up to and follow in our lives. Our behavior is always and indicator of the things which we place importance and value on in our lives.

Every one of us reflects our parents in some way. When I look at my children, I see behaviors that they have inherited from both myself and my wife. They often do not even see these behaviors in themselves, but my wife and I often comment to each other about their behaviors.

So as a Christian is it clear to the rest of the world who you are a follower of in this world?

There are many people who are struggling each and every day to look like Christians. They have read their bibles and think that there is some benefit to appearing Christian in this world. So, they pretend to be Christian, they come to church, but it's a struggle, they come occasionally, they suffer through the service waiting for the sermon to end, they suffer through the fellowship, counting the minutes until it is over, they latch on to the sacraments of the church, focusing on some assurance by the pastor or through their brothers and sisters that they are saved. They think that they earn their salvation by works, or by something that the church on earth does.

They are like the person who is travelling through a new city for the first time. Struggling to find their way, trying to spot street signs, trying to find the right turn, to avoid traffic jams, and not get lost. However, because they have never been there before it causes everything to seem like work, and the stress of it all just makes it a very uncomfortable and trying experience.

They struggle with the Scripture because it is foreign to them, they only really go into it when they are forced into and every time, they do it is a struggle to even get through a few verses, the language is not clear enough and they begin to become less and less interested in learning more about God and his rules. Instead, they become focused on Church becoming a place that is meant to make them happy with their lives and not a place where they are meant to praise, worship, and learn about their God in fellowship with other Christians.

The truth is that it does not matter if you memorize scripture, if you attend every bible study, if you know all the rules that man has created, if you volunteer at the church, or even that you have been a member of a church since birth. It is not anything of this world that makes you a child of God, it is only being led by the spirit of God that makes you a child of God.

When we are saved by Christ it is through the Holy Spirit entering us, it is a spiritual baptism, our baptism by water is just meant to be a physical reminder of this event. When the Holy Spirit enters us, it brings us from spiritual death to spiritual life. It awakens in us the love for God's word and the will to be obedient to it.

The Holy Spirit bring us to church with excited hearts, because we get to share in praise, worship, and study of God. It has us on the edge of our seats eager to grasp onto any

tidbit of knowledge about who God is in our lives. It has us reading our bibles, it has us spending time in sharing the gospel with others, it has us turning to Christ in all aspects of our lives.

It is like going to a new city with a tour guide, someone who is going to tell you where to turn, which roads to avoid, and all kinds of information about the area you are in. Its fun, its exciting and informative and the experience helps us grow in knowledge and understanding.

The Holy Spirit is active in the lives of real Christians leading them in their faith. When they make mistakes, when they fall into sin, it is the one who is correcting them, the one who lays the will on their conscience to struggle against their sins. They are the one who will give them the strength and perseverance to seek out help in living the life that the scripture and Christ call for every Christian to live in this world. They understand that there is nothing in this world that grants them salvation, because they know they will always fail, they admit that they are sinners and know that it is only by the grace, mercy, and love of our Lord Jesus Christ that they have received their salvation and been called children of God.

When the Holy Spirit leads us, we no longer need to live lives of fear.

People who are not faithful followers are always struggling, they are always trying to appear on the surface that they are obedient to Christ. They are the ones who feel they have to be baptized by a minister or church, they have to confirm, they have to appear on the surface to obey all of the commandments.

The religious leaders of Jesus's day were often these sorts of people. They focused on the laws that the religious leaders throughout history had developed to try to prevent people from disobeying the scriptures. They actually wrote thousands of rules beyond the scriptures that the people were supposed to obey in an effort to keep them from disobeying God, and it resulted in many becoming so focused on obeying the rules that the religious leaders had created that they lost focus on God. People lived in fear of breaking one of the rules of the Church because they were taught that if you broke a rule, you would not go to heaven.

When you are led by the spirit this is no longer a fear. You know that regardless of the teachings of the church you are called to be obedient to the scripture to the laws laid out by God in his word. You know that you cannot live up to those laws, and yet you still struggle to keep them, often meaning you will be going against the will of the world. You know you will falter, your will stumble and you will sin, yet you keep going because the spirit is with you guiding you and helping you to get a little closer each time to the one God has called for you to be. You also know that even though you sin, Jesus Christ has paid all of the debt you owe, the minute he saved you and the Holy Spirit entered you, 100% of your sin debt was paid in full.

Those who are led by the spirit have no fear because they have nothing to fear. They come to God in praise, worship and with a desire to learn because they know and understand they great debt that has been paid to grant them their freedom. They know the love that God had for them to pay such a debt and they want to show their love to him for what he has done for them while they are here in this world and then for all of eternity when they return to their eternal home in the New Jerusalem.

They know that the Holy Spirit is at work in them, changing them, making them desire to move away from sin and sinful desires. Convicting them to change their ways, convicting them to praise and worship with a joyful heart, convicting them to be led by the spirit. It is not instantaneous, I wish that it was, it is a change over time for everyone who has the spirit in them, for some people it can move every quickly, for others it is so gradual it might not even be perceived, but it is there and those who are led by the spirit will be changed into the people who God is calling for them to be in God's own time and according to His plan.

It is the spirit that teaches us to call God 'Abba, Father'. Literally that would translate as 'Father, Father'. Paul uses the word Abba here, the Aramaic word for father because of the meaning it has. It means a deep personal relationship with your father. It was only used in the family and only between a father and his children. Paul wanted those who read the letter he wrote to the Roman churches to know that their relationship with God was to be close and personal, like that between a father and his children.

It is the Spirit that brings us into this close and personal relationship. That when Christ died upon the cross and the Holy Spirit came and began to enter the hearts of Christian that they no longer needed the temple and the religious leaders to know their God. They were no longer slaves to the laws that the religious leaders created, instead they were able to freely follow the will of God that was presented to them in His scriptures.

The no longer lived in fear of sinning. They no longer had the internal debate, asking themselves if something was a sin or not before they did it. They no longer worried about breaking one of God's rules or justifying their sin, because they were freed by the Spirit.

The Spirit changed them to be someone who no longer thought is this a sin, instead they begin to think would this please God. They no longer live in fear and obedience of the law, they live in the hope and joy of following Christ.

They no longer believe God is trying to prevent them from doing things, they know and understand that God is trying to help us do what is best for us. We are not obeying God for his benefit, He gains nothing through our obedience, instead we are obeying God because we understand that he is seeking to teach us and show us what is best for us in this life and in our eternal life.

We begin to see that the rules God has laid out in His scripture are for our benefit. By obeying His word, we live better lives here on earth, glorifying His name and helping people discover him in their lives, and we become co-heirs with Christ in His eternal kingdom in heaven. We lose nothing on this planet and gain everything for all of eternity.

Our problem is that instead of seeing that God desires to give us much more than we can ever have here on earth, we are focused on worldly things. We want our sin, we want our wealth, our fame, our pride, our personal gratification in sex, drugs, alcohol, and all of the other sinful actions. We place our value in these things over the understanding that what God wants is not to deny us, but instead to give us eternal life. He does not seek to take things away from us, but instead to show us the way to better things, to things which will reach far beyond the things of this lifetime.

Romans 4:17

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

I think human nature means we often read this line ‘IF you suffer with Christ you will share in his inheritance’ They heavily emphasize the if statement and almost skip over the indeed statement. There is a difference between ‘if’ and ‘if indeed’. IF implies we have a choice, we can choose to or not. The truth is that for true followers of Christ the indeed is a reality.

Those who are led by the Spirit will suffer, it is a guarantee. People who obey Gods word will be persecuted, will be hated, will be prejudiced against. The litmus test of Christianity is John 15:18-19

John 15:18-19

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

If your faith does not put you against the world in any way, if your faith does not make your life challenging, if your faith does not cause you to suffer, your faith is probably not Spirit led.

The spirit will lead us to places where we will suffer, it will challenge us to keep Gods word even in places where the world goes against the scripture. Our suffering as Christians is promised, not optional. We will suffer and God will be there alongside us in our suffering.

We view suffering in the world as such a negative, yet the truth is that we choose to suffer all the time. People will go to the gym, practice for their favorite sport, study hard for a test, they will push themselves to their human limit, working hard, mentally, physically, and emotionally suffering so that they can benefit in this life.

When we suffer spiritually by staying true to the scripture even when it is difficult, we are doing so not to make this life better, but to make our eternal lives better. When we suffer, we gain perseverance?

Romans 5:3-5

³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Perseverance gives us the ability to overcome and achieve success, it strengthens us, God strengthens us, the Holy Spirit is with us when we suffer and gives us the strength and endurance to stay true to Gods word even when the rest of the world turns away.

It is our suffering spiritually that helps us grow in Christ. When the spirit leads us through our troubles, our sufferings we are becoming more and more like Christ, and this is what sets Christian apart from everyone else in the world. This is our witness to our God, that he is with us when we suffer and we grow in our faith and obedience to him, sticking to the narrow path rather than turning away and taking the wide road.

When we are suffering, we should not be focused on our next weekend, or day off, not on our next vacation or trip away, not on the end of the school term, or a party we have coming up or any other worldly escape. We should be focused on the eternal kingdom, they eternity we will have in New Jerusalem, away from all of the pains, sorrows, and troubles of this world.

Those led by the Spirit are co-heirs with Christ. This is our truth, our reality, regardless of how the people of this world call us we are Children of God, His people. Regardless of all of our earthly accomplishments, no matter how rich, famous, or powerful we become it is nothing compared to the inheritance we receive from our Faith. The things of this world will pass away, but the things of heaven are eternal. The greatest treasure we have on earth is our faith, our obedience to God and his word, because these are treasures that are stored in heaven.

All of the debt of our sin, past, present, and future is paid in full. Even though we are not perfect, even though we are broken people who still sin, God has called us His own and adopted us as His children for all of eternity. He gives us all we need; he knows what is best for us and we just need to have faith in Him and allow ourselves to be led by His spirit.

Let us Pray,

Lord God Almighty,
 shaper and ruler of all creatures,
 we pray for your great mercy,
 that you guide us towards you,
 for we cannot find our way.
 And guide us to your will,
 to the need of our soul,
 for we cannot do it ourselves.
 And make our mind steadfast in your will
 and aware of our soul's need.
 Strengthen us against the temptations of the devil,
 and remove from us all lust and every unrighteousness,
 and shield us against our foes, seen and unseen.
 Teach us to do your will,
 that we may inwardly love you before all things with a pure mind.
 For you are our maker and our redeemer,
 our help, our comfort,
 our trust, our hope;
 praise and glory be to you now and forever. Amen

Source: Alfred the Great, 9th century

Music Ministry: "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" by Rob Noyes

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

*It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
eternal God, creator, and ruler of the universe.
With the majesty of your hand,
you shaped this world and all that is in it.
By your Holy Spirit,
you breathed life into human form,
and set us on the earth to praise and serve you.
When we wandered from your ways
and were lost in sin's wilderness,
your truth burned in the hearts of prophets
who called your people to return to the path of righteousness.
In the fullness of time
you sent your Son to be our deliverer.
In every age your Holy Spirit has led us in your ways.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:*

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

You are holy, O God of majesty,

*and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
 At his baptism by John,
 your Spirit came with gentle wings,
 settling on him your blessing.
 In the wilderness of temptation,
 your Spirit stood by with power.
 In his life and ministry,
 your Spirit led him to serve the poor,
 proclaim freedom from sin's bondage,
 open eyes with faith's sight,
 and befriend the friendless and the outcast.
 In all he did and said,
 he announced the coming of your saving might.
 By his death on the cross and rising from the tomb,
 he broke the power of death,
 and led the way to eternal life.
 Ascended to rule from on high,
 Christ prays for us and promises the coming of peace and power.
 Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and
 this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the
 redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise
 and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives
 may proclaim the One crucified and risen.*

According to his commandment:

**We remember his death,
 we proclaim his resurrection,
 we await his coming in glory.**

*Gracious God,
 pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
 and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
 that the bread we break and the cup we bless
 may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
 By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ
 and with all who are baptized in his name,
 that we may be one in ministry in every place.
 As this bread is Christ's body for us,
 send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.
 By the fire of your Spirit, O God, forge us into one church,
 many and different people, together in Christ's embrace.*

*Set our hearts aflame with a love for the truth
and the desire to do your will,
that our witness to Christ may burn brightly
in lives of joyful discipleship.
Keep us faithful in your service
until Christ comes in final victory
and we shall feast with all your saints
Through Christ,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,
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.*

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

*Gracious God,
may we who have received this sacrament
live in the unity of your Holy Spirit,
that we may show forth your gifts to all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. 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 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

**O Lord our God, the author and giver of all good things,
we thank you for all your mercies,
and for your loving care over all your creatures.
We bless you for the gift of life, for your protection round about us,
for your guiding hand upon us,
and for the tokens of your love within us.
In all these things, O heavenly God,
make us wise for a right use of your benefits,
that we may render an acceptable thanksgiving unto you
all the days of our lives,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

Closing Hymn # 358: "There is a Redeemer" (V 1, 2)

There is a redeemer
Jesus, God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Holy One

Thank you, oh my father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done

Jesus my redeemer
Name above all names
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Oh, for sinners slain (Refrain)

Pastoral Prayer

Gracious God,
because we are not strong enough
to pray as we should,
you provide Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit
to intercede for us in power.
In this confidence we ask you
to accept our prayers.

Faithful God,
you formed your church from the despised of the earth
and showed them mercy,
that they might proclaim your salvation to all.
Strengthen those whom you choose today,
that they may faithfully endure all trials
by which you conform your church to the cross of Christ.

Creator of all,
you entrusted the earth to the human race,
yet we disrupt its peace with violence
and corrupt its purity with our greed.
Prevent your people from ravaging creation,
that coming generations
may inherit lands brimming with life.

Sovereign God,
you hold both the history of nations
and the humble life of villages in your care.
Preserve the people of every nation from tyrants,
heal them of disease,
and protect them in time of upheaval and disaster,
that all may enter the kingdom that cannot be shaken.

Judge of the nations,
you created humanity for salvation,
not destruction,

and sent your Son to guide us
into the way of peace.
Enable people of every race and nation
to accept each other as sisters and brothers,
your children, on whom you lavish honor and favor.

God Most High,
in Jesus of Nazareth you show us the authority that pleases you:
for he rules not by power or might,
but serves in obedience to your will.
We pray for all in authority over us:
for our Prime minister, for members of our Federal Government,
for our Premier, and members of our Provincial Government
Deliver them from vain ambitions
that they may govern in wisdom and justice.

Merciful God,
since Jesus longed to protect Jerusalem
as a hen gathers her young under her wings,
we ask you to guard and strengthen all who live and work here.
Deliver your people from jealousy and contempt
that they may show mercy to all their neighbors.

Holy God,
from whom every family on earth takes its name:
Strengthen parents to be responsible and loving
that their children may know security and joy.
Lead children to honor parents
by compassion and forgiveness.
May all people discover your parental care
by the respect and love given them by others.

Compassionate God,
your Son gives rest to those weary with heavy burdens.
Heal the sick in body, mind, and spirit.
Lift up the depressed.
Befriend those who grieve.
Comfort the anxious.
Awaken those who damage themselves and others
through the use of any drug.
Fill all people with your Holy Spirit
that they may bear each other's burdens
and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Eternal God,
your love is stronger than death,
and your passion more fierce than the grave.
We rejoice in the lives of those
whom you have drawn into your eternal embrace.
Keep us in joyful communion with them
until we join the saints of every people and nation,
gathered before your throne in ceaseless praise.

God of glory,
you see how all creation groans in labor
as it awaits redemption.
As we work for and await your new creation,
we trust that you will answer our prayers with grace,
and fulfill your promise
that all things work together for good
for those who love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who live and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit
as the One true God,
now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

The God of peace,
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
make you complete in everything good
so that you may do God's will,
working among us that which is pleasing in God's sight,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be the glory forever and ever!

Alleluia! Amen