

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth  
Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022  
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Forgiveness  
Proper 22  
Luke 17:1-10

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

- Study Club for Students!!!! M&W 3-5. Need Volunteers

**Call to Worship**

We come as guests invited to a table;

**We come to celebrate with friends and neighbors.**

Jesus Christ, our Friend and Saviour, invites us to gather:

**We gather with his friends around the world.**

Come and worship with hearts full of God's praise and promise.

**We worship God in gladness, for God's faithfulness endures forever.**

**Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

Gracious and Generous God,  
you spread a banquet table and make room for all to come:  
friend and foe, healed and sick, hopeful and hopeless.  
You feed our desires with goodness  
and fill our longing with steadfast love.  
We worship you with grateful praise,  
together with all your people, here and everywhere,  
who break bread at your table and who share the cup.  
We celebrate our life together in Christ  
and offer our love and loyalty to you, O God,  
Source of all goodness,  
through Jesus Christ, who shares our flesh,  
and your Holy Spirit who prays within us.

**Opening Hymn # 382: "Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart"**

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move.  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,  
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;  
 Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
 To face the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;  
 Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,  
 One holy passion filling all my frame;  
 The baptism of the heav'n-descended Dove,  
 My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

### **Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**God of mercy and mystery,  
 When you invite us to your table,  
 you ask us to come with clean hands and open hearts.  
 You ask us to come in peace,  
 seeking reconciliation with you and with each other.  
 In this silence, we hand over to you  
 the broken relationships, disagreements and disappointments  
 that keep us from living in your peace.  
 Free us from the burdens we carry  
 which we share in this silence.  
 so that we may be a source of peace in this troubled world. Amen**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear and believe this good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
 The old life has gone, new life has begun.  
 Know that you are forgiven.  
 Have the courage to forgive one another, and be at peace – with God, with your  
 neighbor and with yourself.

### **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.**

**Music Ministry: "Behold the Lamb" by Choir**

### **Responsive Reading**

#### **Question 79. What is a sacrament?**

In obedience to our Lord's command and example, we observe two sacraments, baptism and holy communion. Sacraments are visible expressions of the gospel and are given as means of entering and sustaining the Christian life. By baptism we are initiated into the Christian community and begin our Christian pilgrimage. Through the Lord's Supper we receive food for our journey and are strengthened in faith.

In baptism and the Lord's Supper there is a sacramental union between the sign and the thing signified. Water signifies forgiveness and new life in Christ, bread and wine, the body and blood of the Lord. The grace effective in the sacraments comes not from any power in them but from the work of the Holy Spirit. Rightly received, in faith and repentance, the sacraments convey that which they symbolize.

Mt 28:19, 1 Cor 11:24-26

#### **Question 80. What is baptism?**

Baptism is a sign and seal of our union with Christ and his body, the church. Through it, by faith and the work of the Spirit, we are washed and cleansed from sin, share in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and are commissioned to Christ's service. Baptism assures us that we belong to God. Our great comfort in life and in death is that we belong to our faithful Saviour Jesus Christ (Heidelberg Catechism, Answer 1).

Matt 3:16, Rom 6:4-5, 1 Cor 6:11, Jn 3:5

### **Children's Hymn #358: "There is a Redeemer"**

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

Refrain  
 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)

When I stand in Glory  
 I will see His face

And there I'll serve my King forever  
In that Holy Place (Refrain)

### **Children's Lesson**

### **Prayer for illumination** **(Congregant Prepared)**

### **Scripture**

#### **Luke17:1-10**

#### **Temptations to Sin**

**17** And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! <sup>2</sup>It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. <sup>3</sup>Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, <sup>4</sup>and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

#### **Increase Our Faith**

<sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

#### **Unworthy Servants**

<sup>7</sup>"Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? <sup>8</sup>Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup>Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? <sup>10</sup>So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.' "

### **Sermon**

Today we are dealing with yet another challenging topic, conflict in our lives as Christians. If you are alive and have interacted with another human being for any length longer than a couple of minutes you have probably experienced some form of conflict in your life. Anyone who is married, has kids, has a job, or engages in any hobby or discussion experiences conflict, there is no way to avoid it in our lives. Because as humans we have a desire to live in community, we are always going to have differences and disagreements with others, yet how we handle these situations reflects how we think about our God and His importance in our lives.

Jesus came to earth and set us free of our sins and the burdens of law that were upheld in the Old Testament covenant. Christ gave us freedom, the freedom to live our lives with the assurance of our salvation if we accepted Him as our Lord and Saviour and lived our lives in accordance with His teachings. The truth of the matter is that sometimes when we live our lives with the freedom that Christ has given us, we can cause problems in our lives and in the lives of others. You heard that correctly, our personal freedoms, the ones we feel so entitled to in our lives, can cause stumbling blocks in the lives of others around us.

Perhaps one of the most common and most widely debated one of these in the modern world is the drinking alcohol. There are Christians who believe that drinking alcohol is a freedom that they can enjoy, and others who see drinking alcohol as a sin. For those who see it as a sin, they see any drinking of alcohol as sinful, wearing clothing branded with alcohol company slogans or names, sinful, doing anything sponsored by an alcohol manufacturer, sinful. They are strict in their adherence to avoiding the sin of alcohol, often because of the sins that are associated with alcohol. However, is that what the Bible actually teaches us about consuming alcohol? Remember, Jesus's first miracle was creating wine. Jesus and the disciples often shared wine at meals and on the road as they walked, wine was safer than water to drink in the world at that time. However, it was often very watered down as well. The truth is that the Bible does have a teaching on alcohol, it tells us to avoid anything that impairs our judgement. Drinking is not a sin, drinking it to the point where it impairs your ability to make sound judgements about sin or where it could cause someone else to sin however is sinful. This goes for all forms of chemicals that can impair our judgement in this world, our freedom ends at the point in which our freedom begins to hinder someone else's walk with Christ.

Because everyone of us has different freedoms we value and different struggles in our lives we are going to run into conflict, it is unavoidable. So, in Luke 17:1-10 Jesus is going to build a framework for Christians to live with and work with when they face conflict in their lives so they can come to a Biblical resolution. Jesus is going to teach us about Sin, Repentance, Forgiveness.

'Temptations to sin are sure to come'. Sin is unavoidable for humans. We will always face situations in our lives where the temptation to sin is present. That does not mean that we have to give in to the temptation, however, we all know that we will never be perfect. As much as we try to live our lives like Jesus in this world, we are not him and can never be a perfect reflection of Him. We will give into temptation and sin at times, and there will be times that we lead others to sin. Jesus warns us that we should be careful of not leading others to sin, we should not be creating stumbling blocks in the faith of other people who are walking with Christ in their lives. In fact the penalty for doing so is severe, 'It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.' This is a dire warning that we are not to be the ones who lead others into sin, meaning

we need to acknowledge the truth that the freedoms we hold to so dearly at times might need to be given up for the benefit of the people around us in this world.

This is why sin and freedom both lead us to conflict. Jesus wants us to know how we are to respond to conflict. Whether we are at fault or the one offended, Jesus wants to teach us three important things about how we should deal with sin and conflict in our lives.

1. Do not sin
2. Do not tempt others to sin
3. And when you fail at number one and number two, repent.

Did you know that there are two types of sin: omission and commission.

I think we are all fully aware of the sins of commission, the things which we do that are sinful. When we lie, when we cheat, when we steal, when we have lustful thoughts, these are all common examples of sins of commission.

Sins of omission are a bit harder for us to accept. They are when we fail to do the right thing. When we let someone else take the fall for our error, when we see someone being hurt, or in need and we do not help, when we have the opportunity to share our faith, or stand up for the truth of the gospel and we chose not to because of the cost to our lifestyle, these are sins of omission. The biggest sin of omission that exists in this world is when people disconnect from God in their lives, when they do their own thing, seek their own way, and live a self-focused life, essentially when they fail to recognize their need for God and the call to place Him first in their lives is a sin of omission, by leaving him out they have created a false idol of something else in their lives.

When we accept that our sinful nature is unavoidable, we then realize our need for repentance. We are going to make mistakes, hurting ourselves, hurting our relationship with God and with others. When this happens, we need to repent. Repentance is not denying that our sin is in fact a sin. Repentance is not downplaying a sin as being less sinful because it is not serious, or it has become acceptable in the world. Repentance is not justifying our sin or blaming our sinful action on others.

Repentance is truthfully admitting your sin, owning that you sinned against your God, and trying to turn away from your sinful nature. Repentance does not mean that there are no consequences for our sin, it just means we begin to recognize our sin and desire to remove that sin and its temptations from our lives with the help of God. Repentance is more than just feeling bad, it is a desire to change the way we live. Jesus teaches us in the scriptures that we are to do everything we can to avoid sin in our lives, and when we fail, that we are to repent. We are to change the way we live, to hate our sin and move away from our sinful nature towards God in our lives.

So, what are we called to do when others around us sin? When we sin and hurt someone else the steps are simple, we repent and we apologize to the person we hurt, whether that is God or another person. What about when someone sins against us and hurts us, how are we called to respond? Jesus again wants us to know there are three basic steps.

1. Do not hold a grudge
2. Do confront sin in brothers and sisters
3. Do offer forgiveness for sin in others

It seems so simple. When you sin; repent. When other sin; forgive. The hard part is the call to confront other Christians about the sin in their lives and how it is impacting their walk with Christ, something which Jesus calls us to do.

**Matthew 18:15-17**

**<sup>15</sup>“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.**

Matthew 18 tells us that we are to follow three simple steps when we are sinned against by a brother or sister in Christ. First, we are to go to them privately and tell them what it is that they have done. Tell them what they did and how it hurt us essentially. If they refuse to listen to that, then we are to bring along a one or two fellow Christians to work as mediators while we talk with them. Finally, if they still refuse to listen, we are to take the matter to the church leadership. Most people like to skip one and two and go immediately to number three. They want to bring it to the church and ask the church to fix it because they do not want conflict in their lives. However, here Jesus is teaching us that the matter should only come to Church leadership when we have found the first two steps unfruitful. Now if they refuse to listen to the Church leaders, they are to be dealt with church discipline, which could range from loss of membership status to excommunication from the church.

How often are we willing to do this, how often are churches willing to hold people accountable to church discipline. This teaching is often neglected because we do not want to offend or hurt other people’s feelings. In some cases, we do not want to hold others accountable for their sins, because we kind of hope that if we turn a blind eye to their sins, they will turn a blind eye to our sins. Or we blame privacy, that is a private matter, and we should not get involved, we let our sense of privacy rules in this rule overrule the importance of obeying God and concern for someone eternal wellbeing. The truth is that we need to address sin in our brothers and sister truthfully and directly. This also means we need to recognize that there are things which we might find really

annoying, but that are in fact not sinful. Even things which other do that hurt our feelings do not always fall into the category of sin.

Sin never just goes away, the only way to get rid of sin in someone's life is to deal with it directly. This means that as Christians we need to be open to receiving correction from our brothers and sisters without being defensive. At the same time, it means that we need to be strong enough in our faith and our relationship with others to be willing to move into places where we may not be comfortable when we address the sins of others. We need to realize it is not about pointing fingers or tattling on others, instead it is about coming to someone out of the Love of Jesus and making them aware of the sin that is in their lives. When we confront sin in others without love, we are just as wrong as the sinner and when we refuse to confront the sins that are in our brothers and sisters' lives, we are not really loving them.

God shows us the sin on our lives because of His love for us. God wants us to have an intimate relationship with him and it is sin that separates us from Him and from our brothers and sister in His church. When we ignore sin, we are allowing that separation to continue, or ever to get bigger and that is not loving. When we love someone, we do not want a separation between us. God loves us, so he shows us our sin and teaches us how to repent. He does this so we can remove the sin and the separation in our relationship with Him. If we truly love our neighbor as ourselves, we should be willing to do the same thing for them.

When we do not confront sin, we are allowing that separation to grow. If it is something that happened between us and someone else this can lead to feelings of bitterness or resentment, in some cases we will simply begin to avoid that person in our lives. Essentially, we are saying that we do not love them enough to confront them. It is unhealthy physically, mentally, and spiritually to avoid conflict in our lives.

There are people who have been sinned against their whole lives and they just take it. They are more concerned with the tension that is created by conflict than the matter of correcting the wrong that was done, so they do not say or do anything. Yet over time they may begin to hold a grudge and struggle with forgiving the person who hurt them. They do this because they never confronted that original issue, they might try to pretend it never happened, but deep down they know it did and they struggle with the truth. In the end they might start feeling guilty and then anger at their guilt because they never dealt with the conflict. Causing stress and the wide array of health issues it presents, along with spiritual challenges. Ignoring sin and conflict is never a good thing, it will always lead to a worse place. You cannot forgive and let things go until you have dealt with the sin and the conflict that it creates in your life.

Others deal with it by bottling up their feelings. When they are sinned against, they do not speak up against the offender and instead suppress their emotions. They avoid the conflict and instead they start to build up a place of resentment in their hearts and



become bitter, they will begin to lash out at others because of that bitter resentment that they have been holding onto for so long. They struggle with repenting and asking for forgiveness themselves because they have never dealt with the conflict that they have in their own lives.

Do you know what forgiveness is? Forgiveness is not holding someone's sin against them.

Many people believe forgiveness means telling someone that 'it's ok' or 'not to worry about it' or 'it was not a big deal'. Yet the truth is that it was a big deal, it is not ok, and they should be worried about it and thinking about it so that they can repent and change their ways!

Forgiveness does not mean we downplay the truth of what has happened. Forgiveness means truthfully dealing with something, even when it is awkward and uncomfortable, because it does matter. Sin is not ok; sin is never ok. Sin is sin!

We should not ignore sin, we should not make excuses for sin, we should not downplay the seriousness of sin. When we do these things, we are removing the value of forgiveness. When we downplay the severity of sin, especially the sin that other commit against us we are not making it ok, we are telling someone that their behavior is ok, that it was not really a sin and they do not need to repent and change their ways. Do not ever pretend that sin is ok. When we forgive someone without recognizing the truth that the sin caused damage to the relationship, we are not truly giving forgiveness.

Think of sin against you like a glass that was dropped on the kitchen floor. We can go through and get all the big pieces we can find, but eventually some day down the road we might be walking barefoot in the kitchen and a shard of glass will give us a jab from out of nowhere. It is a painful reminder for us of that broken glass. Forgiveness is like that, we deal with the big parts immediately, but it could take a long time and little by little for all of the little pieces to make themselves known and be dealt with in your relationship. Forgiveness is not a one-time thing; it is a process.

Which should also make us realize that forgiveness is not forgetting something that has happened. People who have bad memories are not better Christians because they forget the sins that have been committed against them. Forgiveness means not holding the sins of another against them any longer. You might remember the sin, but you do not judge the other person by that action. We can read countless tales of this written by Christians who were persecuted and tortured in countries where Christianity is outlawed. They may go back to the very person who tortured them and offer them the forgiveness of Christ, which is in their hearts, but they will never forget the torture that they underwent. They may forgive them, but the memory of the pain they underwent will always be with them. Forgiving does not mean forgetting. Forgiving means letting go of our emotional attachment to something and giving it over to God.

So, when someone sins against me, I forgive them, that seems simple enough. However, what happens when someone sins against me over and over and over. Do we use the three-strike analogy, after three strikes they are out of our lives forever. Jesus had something to say on this as well, he tells us that we are to forgive a person seven times a day!

So, do we get a pad of paper and every time someone sins against us in a twenty-four-hour period put a mark on the page, then when they hit eight, we can cut them off and banish them from our lives forever? Remember seven is the number of completeness, Jesus is telling us that when someone sins against us we forgive them the first time, second time, third time, eighth time, one hundredth time, every time. No matter how often someone sins, we forgive them completely, always, every-time.

Doing this is going to challenge and stretch your faith in Jesus. It is also going to remind us that no matter how many times we sin in our lives, when we repent Jesus forgives us the debt of our sin and we are called to do the same. When someone repents; we forgive, simple. Either we offer forgiveness to others the same way that Jesus has offered it to us, or we build up bitterness and resentment and become more and more like the devil in our lives. We can choose either path. Being like Jesus is the more challenging of the two but it will strength our faith, so we need to learn to forgive every time.

That faith we have in Jesus means that we forgive even when it seems like it is not going to make a difference. Forgiveness does not always mean that the other person will every truly change. Faith means that we know that we have handed the situation over to God. We know that it may not go the way we want, it might not change, it may not even get any better, but we have done our part. We have dealt with it truthfully and handed it over to God, that is faith.

**Luke 17:7-10**

**<sup>7</sup>“Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and recline at table’? <sup>8</sup>Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink’? <sup>9</sup>Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? <sup>10</sup>So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’ ”**

In the last three versus there is a final lesson about sin and forgiveness for people who want to follow Jesus in this life. Masters give instructions and servants obey those instructions. Guess which ones we are in this example? You do not thank a servant for doing what they are told to do because that is what they are supposed to do. You do not thank someone or congratulate someone for doing their job, that is their job to do. There is no reason for us to have pride or arrogance in our faith as Christians because

this is our job, this is what we are called to do by our faith in Jesus. Even on our best days as a Christian we are struggling not to make a million mistakes, not to give into our own temptations or to lead anyone else into temptation, and most days, if not every day, we fail at this job. We are called to do this because the master has instructed us to do so, and we should not expect praise or special treatment because of our faith.

His final point in this section of scripture is simple; do what I have told you to do. Repent for your own sins and forgive others for their sin. When we do this, we have a better life, our faith grows, and we begin to walk closer and closer with God. It is not easy, and it will constantly challenge us in our faith.

However, there are many people who do not want to follow the masters' instructions. They want to do things their way, get revenge, get angry, hold grudges, hurt others both through acts of commission and omission.

Jesus says if you belong to him, if you love him, you will walk in his ways. You will love your God first and love your neighbors as yourself. You will repent when you sin, and you will forgive others of their sins. Which means if you do not do these things, you do not belong to Him and you are not part of His house.

Forgiving is hard, especially when we have been hurt in some way, even more so when it has happened over and over. Jesus knew this, he understood it better than anyone, yet he still tells us that this is what we are to do. He lived his life as an example of this for all of us to follow. Jesus was betrayed by one of his closest friends, arrested, wrongfully convicted, beaten, mocked, spit on, tortured and nailed to a cross to die. Do you remember what he said that day while he hung on that cross? Do you remember what Jesus said to the people who tortured him, to the ones who verbally abused him, the ones who ridiculed him and then divided up his belongings?

**Luke 23:34**

**<sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.**

"Father, forgive them"! The people who did these things to Jesus never repented. Jesus forgave them before they even understood the wrong, they had committed. Jesus bore the pain and the penalty of all of our sins, my sins, and your sins, on his body while he was nailed to the cross. He died for you and I, and for all of our debts, and his last thoughts in this life were: Forgive them! No matter how many times we sin, no matter what those sins are, Jesus forgives those who worship him as their Lord and Saviour. No matter how great we see our sin, or how minor we believe it to be, Jesus Forgives those who obey his Word. This is not a license for us to sin, but it should remind us that no matter how many times we fail in our walk with Christ in this life, He is always there to help us get back up and begin our walk with him again when we admit that we need him in our lives. Being like Jesus begins with us learning to forgive like

Jesus! You cannot forgive someone who has wronged you without loving them more than you love yourself. That might be difficult to hear so I am going to say it again. **You cannot forgive someone who has wronged you without loving them more than you love yourself.** Forgiveness teaches us to how to love others so we can love like Jesus. When you sin repent; turn away from sin and change the way you live. When you are sinned against; forgive and let the sin go. This is what Jesus calls for his Faithful to do so that we can be a better reflection of him in this broken world.

Let us pray,

**By Your Word You Have Brought Us out of Darkness**

Lord God, heavenly Father,  
 we most heartily thank you  
 that by your Word  
 you have brought us out of the darkness of error  
 into the light of your grace.  
 Mercifully help us to walk in that light,  
 guard us from all error and false doctrine  
 and grant that we may not become ungrateful  
 and despise and persecute your Word,  
 as your people did long ago,  
 but receive it with all our heart,  
 govern our lives according to it  
 and put all our trust in your grace  
 through the merit of your dear 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, Trinity 25 / Reformation*

**Music Ministry: "It Took a Miracle" by Susan Parsons**

**Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!  
 They will come from east and west, and from north and south,  
 and sit at table in the kingdom of God.  
 This is the table not of one denomination, but of our one Lord Jesus Christ.  
 It is made ready for those who love him  
 and those who want to love him more.  
 So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,  
 you who have been here often

and you who have not been for a long time.  
 Our Saviour invites all those who trust him  
 to share the feast which he has prepared.

### Invitation

Jesus invites us to this table and now we do as Jesus did.  
 We take this bread and this wine, ordinary things of the world.  
 In these, Jesus has promised to be present.  
 Through these Christ can make us whole.  
 Come all of you this is the joyful feast of the people of God.

As Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth,  
 let us also bless God with great thanksgiving.

### The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

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 to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three,  
 You are source of all that exists.  
 You are beyond the galaxies, deeper than the oceans;  
 You pour down rain and bring forth the fruit of the earth.  
 You carry us through deep waters and hold us in the darkest night.  
 So with all your creatures, great and small,  
 with angels and archangels, with saints and servants in every generation  
 we join in the rejoicing of your creation:

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

Holy is your Son Jesus, O God,  
 Walking this earth, feeding the hungry, calling the lost, noticing the forgotten,  
 healing those who reached out, teaching those who sought wisdom,  
 he revealed your kingdom in our midst.

Today we thank you for all Jesus shared with us  
to show us that you are always with us in times of plenty and times of pain.  
And so we celebrate the mystery of our faith in him:

**Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

Holy God,  
When the sounds of our rejoicing fall silent,  
we remember those who cannot rejoice today,  
who face times of pain or fear or upheaval.  
We think especially of those whose countries have been overwhelmed  
by earthquake, flood and storm, by conflict, drought or famine.

Draw near to them in the power of the Spirit  
to strengthen and sustain them through Christ's compassion and ours.

Holy Spirit, come now and settle on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
May they become for us Christ's body and life blood,  
healing, forgiving and making us whole.  
So may we become Christ's body, the Church,  
loving and caring throughout the whole world  
until that day when all creation feasts with you  
in the fullness of your mercy and peace  
that we savor today in the name of our Saviour  
who taught us when we pray to say together:

### **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 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 Story of the Last Supper**

The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks for it, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

This is the body of Christ broken for you.

This cup is the blood of Christ shed for you.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Loving God, Christ our Lord, Holy Spirit,  
you have nourished us, body and soul, in this meal.  
We have heard your love, so send us out to speak it.  
We have seen your love, so send us out to show it.  
We have been fed by your love, so send us out to share it.  
And let all things be done for your glory. 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**  
**(Congregant Prepared)**

**Closing Hymn: "How Deep the father's Love for Us"**

How deep the Father's love for us  
 How vast beyond all measure  
 That He should give His only Son  
 To make a wretch His treasure  
 How great the pain of searing loss  
 The Father turns His face away  
 As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
 Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross  
 My sin upon His shoulders  
 Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
 Call out among the scoffers  
 It was my sin that held Him there  
 Until it was accomplished  
 His dying breath has brought me life  
 I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything  
 No gifts, no power, no wisdom  
 But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
 His death and resurrection  
 Why should I gain from His reward?  
 I cannot give an answer  
 But this I know with all my heart  
 His wounds have paid my ransom.

**Pastoral Prayer**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
 we, your unworthy servants, give you humble thanks  
 for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
 to us and to all whom you have made.  
 We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
 and all the blessings of this life,  
 but above all for your immeasurable love  
 in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
 And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies



that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen

### **Benediction**

Go from here to serve God, your strength renewed and your faith reassured,  
for you are part of Christ's body embracing the world in his name.

And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen