

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth  
Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Rev. Gerry Gallant

The Cost of Discipleship  
Proper 18  
Luke 14:25-33

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Let us worship God, our light, and our salvation.  
**The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.**

We desire to live in God's house  
and to seek God in his holy temple.  
**We have come with shouts of joy,  
to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.  
**Teach us your ways and make straight our paths  
in this hour of worship and always.**

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Dear God,  
help us to worship you today.  
May we listen carefully, pray honestly, and sing joyfully.  
Send your Holy Spirit  
so that our words will bring you glory.  
Thank you that Jesus makes our worship perfect for you.  
Help us remember that when we worship you,  
we are part of your family;  
we join everyone who loves you  
around the world and throughout history.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Opening Hymn: "I Love to Tell the Story" – William Fischer and Katherine Hankey

I love to tell the story  
Of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory,

Of Jesus and His love.  
 I love to tell the story,  
 Because I know 'tis true;  
 It satisfies my longings  
 As nothing else can do.  
 I love to tell the story,  
 'Twill be my theme in glory  
 To tell the old, old story  
 of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story;  
 More wonderful it seems  
 Than all the golden fancies  
 Of all my golden dreams,  
 I love to tell the story,  
 It did so much for me;  
 And that is just the reason  
 I tell it now to thee.  
 I love to tell the story,  
 'Twill be my theme in glory  
 To tell the old, old story  
 of Jesus and His love.

### **Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**Righteous Father,  
 we who own more than we use,  
 proclaim more than we experience,  
 and request more than we need,  
 come asking your forgiveness.  
 We seek your salvation, then act like we save ourselves.  
 We beg your forgiveness, then repeat our errors.  
 We experience your grace, then act defeated.  
 We rely on your power, but only in hard times.  
 We have become confused and misguided.  
 Forgive our every defection.  
 Bring us to an unbroken commitment  
 and a steady trust,  
 through Jesus Christ, who is the way of hope,  
 the truth of God,  
 and the life of love,  
 now and always. Amen**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Take comfort in the assurance  
 that even those things that are hidden from memory,  
 or are too deep for our words,  
 are not beyond God's forgiving love.  
 God, who knows us completely,  
 bestows pardon and peace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

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

**Responsive Reading (Catechism)**

**Question 68. Why does the Apostles' Creed emphasize belief "in the holy catholic church"?**

It does so to emphasize that the church is essential to Christian belief and practice. The church is holy in that it is set apart by God to be a chosen people in the world. The church is catholic in that it is universal, including all people of all time who affirm the Christian faith. To belong to a congregation is to belong to the holy catholic church.  
 1 Tim 3:15, Eph 4:4-5, 1 Pet 1:15-16

**Question 69. How does the Bible speak of the church?**

The New Testament uses many images, including Bride of Christ, flock, the elect, salt, light, yeast, branches of a vine, living stones, people of God, body of Christ, and fellowship of the Holy Spirit. These all emphasize the union of Christ and his church.  
 Mt 5:14, Lk 12:32, Jn 15:5, 1 Pet 2:9

**Question 70. How is the church related to the "people of God" of the Old Testament?**

The biblical image of the "people of God" connects the community of the Old Testament with the community of the New Testament. The church continues and renews the ancient covenant people through Christ's fulfilment of a new covenant prophesied by Jeremiah. All believers are the people of God.  
 Jer 31:31, 33, 1 Cor 11:25

**Music Ministry: "How Great Is Our God"**

**Prayer for illumination**

Blessed are you, Lord God Almighty, King of the universe.  
 In the beginning your Spirit breathed life into the creation,  
 and you continue to renew the face of the earth.  
 Your Spirit breathed life into the Scriptures,  
 and we pray you will continue to speak your Word to us.  
 Your Spirit breathes peace and comfort to the whole world,  
 and we pray you will enact that among us today.  
 Through Christ, our Lord. Amen

**Scripture****Luke 14:25-33****The Cost of Discipleship**

<sup>25</sup> Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

**Children’s Hymn: “Lord I Lift Your Name on High”** – Lincoln Brewster

Lord I lift Your name on High  
 Lord I love to sing Your praises  
 I'm so glad You're in my life  
 I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth  
 To show the way  
 From the earth to the cross  
 My debt to pay  
 From the cross to the grave  
 From the grave to the sky  
 Lord I lift your name on high

## Sermon

There are many types of people in this world who claim to have Christianity as their religion. This is nothing new, even in Jesus's day there were many people who claimed to be his follower, even if they were only there for their own personal reasons. We also know that even within those who followed him faithfully there were people who had different levels of commitment.

In the modern church it is the same. We can define by looking at the level of commitment and growth that one has within their faith. As I go through these broad definitions of where people fit within the church, try to figure out where you feel you are at in your faith right now, at this moment in your life? Remember that your level of commitment and growth can change, people are constantly going through highs and lows in their commitment and faith, what matters is where you are right now.

The broadest level of the church is the community; people who live in the area around the church. Many never attend or might attend for Christmas and Easter. These are our friends, neighbors, work colleagues, and others with whom we all interact regularly.

The next level is what we call within the church adherents; these are people who attend church regularly, by definition at least twice a month, and may contribute to the church's mission and outreach, yet they have not sought membership within the church. We are fortunate here to have a very active and committed adherent group.

Then comes the congregation; this is the group of people who are active members with regular attendance within the church.

Yet even within the congregation we have those who are committed; people who almost never miss a service, people who are active in the church mission and outreach, but also in education and bible studies so that they can grow in their faith and understanding of Christ.

Finally, there are the core; people who are committed to not just developing their own faith, but also in helping others to develop their faith.

What is interesting is that many people who claim Christianity as their religion when asked actually never make it to even the adherent level of commitment and faith within the church. Sure, when they first come to Christianity they might seem like a core member of the church, they jump in and join ever bible study, volunteer everywhere they can and never miss a service, but eventually, usually within a year or two, they have fallen away and become a member of the community around the church. Why is this?

I read a story that helps people understand why this happens.

One day, a young disciple of Christ who wanted to become everything that God had in mind for him visited the home of an elderly Christian seeking his advice. He had heard that this old man had never lost his love for Christ in all the years he had known the Savior.

The old Christian was sitting on the porch with his dog stretched out before him taking in a beautiful sunset. The young man asked a question: "Why is it, sir, most Christians zealously chase after God during the first year or two after their decision to follow him, but then fall into the complacent ritual of merely attending church once or twice a month and end up losing their passion for the Lord?" The young man continued saying: "I have heard you are not like that. I've been told that you have fervently sought-after God throughout all your years as a Christian. People see something in you that they don't see in most people who claim to be Christians. What makes you different?"

The old man smiled and replied, "Let me tell you a story: One day I was sitting here quietly in the sun with my dog. Suddenly a large white rabbit ran across in front of us. Well, my dog jumped up, and took off after that big rabbit. He chased the rabbit over the hills with a passion. Soon, other dogs joined him, attracted by his barking. What a sight it was, as that pack of dogs ran barking across the creeks, up stony embankments and through thickets and thorns! Gradually, however, one by one, the other dogs dropped out of the pursuit, discouraged by the course, and frustrated by the chase. Only my dog continued to hotly pursue the white rabbit. In that story, young man, is the answer to your question."

The young man sat in confused silence. Finally, he asked, "I don't understand. What is the connection between the rabbit chase and the quest for God?"

"You fail to understand," answered the older man, "because you failed to ask the obvious question— 'Why didn't the other dogs continue on the chase?' And the answer to that question is that they were only joining the excitement of the group. They had not seen the rabbit. Unless you have actually seen the rabbit, the chase is just too difficult. You will lack the passion and determination necessary to keep up the chase."

This is important for us to understand because in today's scripture Jesus is speaking about the cost of discipleship, the difficulties, and challenges we will face, the things we will need to do to become a disciple of Christ in this world. Like the pack of dogs who are chasing the rabbit, most will give up unless they have seen the Lord in their life. The course will become too frustrating and difficult, the price too high and they will slow down and eventually give up in their pursuit of Christ.

Jesus is explaining to those gathered around him that the cost of discipleship is high, it is not easy to be a follower of Christ. The price is a complete surrender of self. Mathew 16:24-25  
<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it'

**Matthew 16:24-25**

**<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**

This is the reality of Christianity and the reason why we see so many give up on their faith journey when the cost become more than what they are willing to pay in their life. Christians are called to place God first in their lives, love him with all of their heart, mind, soul, and body. God comes first. God comes before family. God comes before friends. God comes before even our own desires. God is the central focus of our lives. Let that sink in a moment, Jesus is calling his disciples to live a radically different life than all the other people in this world, one that sets us apart from the world in the way we think, act, and speak.

Jesus is asking all of those gathered with him in that large crowd, and all of us here in the church today and every day, are you willing to pay that kind of price to be one of his disciples? He is asking each of us, are you willing to turn the love you have for Christ into action that will set you apart from the norms of society, action that could isolate you from friends and family; make you unable to pursue your own personal goals and ambitions. That is a big price to pay? Are you willing to pick up your cross and follow Christ?

Christianity is not a philosophy, its not just a moral way to live or a way to be a good person. Christianity is not about being loved in this world, it is about making a personal commitment to follow Jesus and the teachings of the scripture, even when they go against the things we want in this world. When you are a Christian, you want to follow Christ, you want to place him first.

Christians who follow Christ, the ones who have seen him in their lives, know and appreciate the fact that we are called to live a life of self-denial, of giving to others and set apart from this world. When you have seen Christ in you life and in the lives of others, the cost of being a disciple does not seem like a challenge, it does not frustrate, you can overcome the course, the challenges, the ups and downs, you do not feel like giving up or that the cost is too high because you have seen the Lord, and understand the grace, mercy, love and compassion that he was given you in your own life.

If you have not seen Christ in your life or in the lives of people around you, you are like the pack of dogs who joined in on the chase. When things in your life become difficult, when the challenges cost you personally, when you have to give up a sin you enjoy, you will slow down, and eventually fall out of the chase. You will still say you are Christian, but your life will say otherwise.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian who was executed for his faith in Nazi Germany wrote in his book *The Cost of Discipleship*, ‘We have cheapened grace, and cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our church.’ Cheap grace is what is being proclaimed and preached by so many in the modern world. Bonhoeffer defined it by saying that ‘Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness

without the requirement of repentance, it is baptism without church discipline, it is communion without confession, absolution without personal confession.' Bonhoeffer wrote this more than 70 years ago, what would he think of the modern church and what is being preached and taught about the faith today?

And its not just in the church that we have become complacent in life. We live in a society in which inconvenience is unacceptable. People are becoming more and more entitled, more and more focused on self, less and less willing to suffer, to take on challenges, to stay the course when things get difficult.

Don't believe me? In the Grand Teton Mountains of Wyoming is the Bridger Wilderness Area. It is one of the most beautiful and majestic parks in the world. The following are actual responses from visitors' comment cards given to staff members of the Bridger Wilderness area:

- Too many [mosquitoes, chiggers, ticks] bugs, leeches, spiders, and spider webs; please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests.
- Please, reconstruct the trails avoiding building trails that go uphill.
- Please, pave the trails. Chair lifts need to be in some places so that we can get to the wonderful views without having to hike to them.
- Escalators would help on the steep uphill sections.
- A McDonald's at the trailhead would be nice.
- Coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals.
- A small bear came into my camp and stole a jar of my pickles. Is there a way to be reimbursed? Please call.

These people wanted to go to a wilderness area, to get photos, to say they went there, to claim their fame on social media and with their friends and others, but they really did not understand what it meant to be in the wilderness. They were looking for convenient and comfortable, like staying at an all-inclusive resort in a wilderness park. This is the same way many people approach Christianity in this world.

Many people who claim Christianity, are in fact looking for a Christianity that is giving them everything they want, accepting them regardless of their thoughts, words, or behaviors. They are changing Christianity to be what they want, and not changing themselves and becoming a disciple of Christ. They have never learned the cost of discipleship as defined by Christ, and even for those that have, they just ignore it, because it does not fit into their lifestyle.



They might claim to be followers, they might appear to the world to be followers, but they have never really seen Christ, they do not really understand the call to pick up their cross and carry it, even though the people of this world might see them as Christians. They might go through all of the worldly practices of faith; they might go to church, they might recite the prayers and professions of faith, they might read parts of the Bible, they might pray and tithe and support ministries of their church, but all of these are just worldly things, superficial when it comes to following Christ.

Jesus is saying that these superficial things are not enough to be his disciple. Going to church, reciting the confessions and prayers, singing in worship, reading the Bible, participating in mission and support the church are all results of giving your life to Christ, not actions that save you. In order to be his disciple, you need to be willing to give up everything and follow him faithfully. There is no reason for anyone who is a disciple to not understand that this is the real cost of discipleship, the giving of self completely to the Lord.

We need to understand that cheap grace is a grace without discipline, a grace without any opposition from the world, a grace without and inconvenience, this is all cheap grace it has no value because it is a grace that has no cross. Jesus calls for us to separate ourselves from the world, to live differently, to think differently, just last week we spoke about how we should live without price and full of humility and how the redemption and helping of all mankind should be the priority in our thoughts, words, and actions.

Martin Luther, one of the fathers of the reformation once said, 'A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing.' While many people who claim to be disciples of Christ, they are not willing to give up anything in their lives to follow him, and this is why when they come to judgement before the Lord, he will not know them. Christ requires more than just lip-service, he requires our whole being.

We are fortunate here in Canada, and also unfortunate at the same time. People here now of Christ and Christianity and that familiarity is part of what allows them to treat Christianity so flippantly. We are not really persecuted for our faith, we do not feel the life and death of our faith every day, part of that is because many who claim Christianity do so in lip service alone and are not willing to stand up for their faith and instead bow down to societal pressures when confronted, unwilling to bear the burden of the cross.

But if we open our eyes and look around this world, we can see the reality of how Christianity is persecuted. Since the death of Christ just about 2000 years ago there have been around 43 million Christians who have become martyrs. Almost half of these martyrs have been killed in the last century. 21.5 million people killed for their faith in the last 100 years! Around the world today there are more than 200 million Christians who face some form of persecution, from harassment to death each and every day, just because they are a Christian and almost 60% of these Christians are still children. Each and every day that we walk with Christ there are around 300 of our brothers and sisters being put to death around the world because they refuse to renounce their faith in Jesus Christ.

Yet in North America and in much of Europe we no longer see the Christ who gave everything for our salvation, whose blood paid the debt we owed for our sin, people no longer see and know the God of the bible. Instead, they have become complacent and created their own version of the God of the Bible, one that allows them to live easily without sacrifice and persecution. False prophets stand in the pulpits and preach a God that does not require anything from his followers, skipping over the parts of scripture that their congregation might find uncomfortable. Teaching their flock that they do not need to be actively involved in the community, that showing up once or twice a year is fine, that they do not need to change from their sinful ways, that they can still cheat their neighbor for a profit, that they can gossip and spread lies, that they can hold grudges and get angry, that they can still be self-focused, greedy, egotistical, and power seekers, that they can be disrespectful of others and that they can do whatever they want as long as it does not hurt any one else, even if it hurts themselves and the body they were given by God.

None of what they say is true! Christians are called to be disciples of Christ, to follow him to seek to be like him. Christ gave up everything he had on the cross to pay the debt we owed through the sacrifice of his blood. We are called to give up everything we have when we follow him for that reason, we can never repay the debt we owe for the grace, mercy, love, and compassion that he showed us when his grace fell on each of us.

This is what we need in the world today, a return to the focus on Christ in the Churches. The truth of who Christ is being preached from the pulpits and shared by his people with everyone who they meet. People need to know and understand who the Jesus of the bible is and not just the Jesus of popular culture. People need to know that the cost of discipleship is more than just a sprinkling or dunk in water with some words spoken over them, the cost is more than just giving up a day or two a week to the Lord.

Christian is called to be disciples, to give their lives over to the Lord, Jesus did not teach that we are to love God to the limits of our own desire, to love God as long as he meets our worldly aspirations, to love God to the limits of our own convenience. No, instead we are called to love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and body first. To be willing to give up of our selfish nature in the same way Christ did for each of us. Jesus does not ask us to love our neighbor as long as we get something from it, or when we feel like it, or when it was convenient, Jesus called for each of us to love our neighbor as ourselves, each and every day.

People of God know this as we go out into the world today. We are called by the lord to take up our cross, to deny ourselves, to humbly follow after the lord. That our Lord will be with us through all of the good times and difficult times in our lives when we carry his cross. That we are all called by the great commission to share the truth of who Jesus Christ is with everyone we meet in this world, even if they reject us, even if they hate us and even if they persecute us. When we leave here today let us do so by loving God first with everything you are and then get to the task of loving your neighbor as yourself.

Let us Pray,

**Help, Enlighten and Guide Us**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
 my Lord and my God,  
 you know our weakness,  
 and that we cannot do anything  
 without your help and support.  
 When we depend and trust in ourselves  
 we fall into a thousand errors.  
 Have mercy on us in our distress.  
 Help, enlighten and guide us,  
 that we may see what is truly good,  
 desire it, and obtain it.  
 We commend ourselves, body, and soul, to you alone.  
 With the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
 you are worshiped as one God,  
 forever and ever.  
 Amen.

*Source: Wilhelm Löhe. Freely adapted from Seed Grains of Prayer, A Manual for Evangelical Christians, Wartburg Press, Chicago, 1914 (#108)*

**Communion**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

Friends, 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.

According to Luke,  
 when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,  
 he took the bread, and blessed and broke it,  
 and gave it to them.  
 Then their eyes were opened  
 and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's table.  
 Our Savior invites those who trust him  
 to share the feast which he has prepared.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy  
to give you thanks and praise,  
O Lord our God, creator, and ruler of the universe.  
In your wisdom, you made all things  
and sustain them by your power.  
You formed us in your image,  
setting us in this world to love and to serve you,  
and to live in peace with your whole creation.  
When we rebelled against you  
refusing to trust and obey you,  
you did not reject us,  
but still claimed us as your own.  
You sent prophets to call us back to your way.  
Then in the fullness of time,  
out of your great love for the world,  
you sent your only Son to be one of us,  
to redeem us and heal our brokenness.

Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with choirs of angels,  
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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.**

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

In Jesus, born of Mary, your Word became flesh  
 and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.  
 He lived as one of us, knowing joy and sorrow.  
 He healed the sick,  
 fed the hungry,  
 opened blind eyes,  
 broke bread with outcasts and sinners,  
 and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and needy.  
 Dying on the cross,  
 he gave himself for the life of the world.  
 Rising from the grave,  
 he won for us victory over death.  
 Seated at your right hand,  
 he leads us to eternal life.  
 We praise you that Christ now reigns with you in glory,  
 and will come again to make all things new.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,  
 we take from your creation this bread and this wine  
 and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,  
 as we await the day of his coming.  
 With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you  
 to be a living and holy sacrifice,  
 dedicated to your service.

**Christ is the bread of life:  
 When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
 we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
 until you come 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 make us one with Christ,  
 that we may be one with all who share this feast,  
 united 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.

In union with your church in heaven and on earth,  
 we pray, O God, that you will fulfill your eternal purpose

in us and in all the world

Keep us faithful in your service  
until Christ comes in final victory,  
and we shall feast with all your saints  
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever.

### **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.**

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Because there is one loaf,  
we, many as we are, are one body;  
for it is one loaf of which we all partake.

When we break the bread,  
is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

When we give thanks over the cup,

is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

### **INVITATION**

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious God,  
you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
You have fed us with the bread of life,  
and renewed us for your service.  
Help us who have shared Christ's body and received his cup,  
to be his faithful disciples  
so that our daily living  
may be part of the life of your kingdom,  
and our love be your love  
reaching out into the life of the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
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**

Gracious God, we give our best,

lest in gaining the world we lose life itself.  
 As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way.  
 Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do  
 with the wealth entrusted to our care.  
 As we contribute to the needs of your people,  
 we present ourselves as living sacrifices.  
 Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Closing Hymn: “Great is Thy Faithfulness” – Thomas Chisholm and William Runyan**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
 As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.  
 Great is Thy faithfulness!  
 Great is Thy faithfulness!  
 Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
 Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
 Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
 Join with all nature in manifold witness  
 To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.  
 Great is Thy faithfulness!  
 Great is Thy faithfulness!  
 Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
 Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**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**

May you, people of God, know that  
God our Father made you and guides your every step;  
Jesus Christ gave his life for you and brings you new life;  
the Spirit keeps you in the Lord's presence and empowers you to serve.  
May almighty God continue to bless you and move you to give thanks. Amen.