

**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

*traditional land of the Three Fires Confederacy: the Odawa, Potawatami and Ojibwe.*

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**Worship This Week Nov. 6, 2022**

**WELCOME –**

**PRAISE SONGS --** Be Still, Knowing You

**YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART --** Rita

**SONG –** This is my commandment

**Words of Remembrance**

**SONG --** O Canada

**ANNOUNCEMENTS --**

**GOD IS MY WITNESS –**

**PRAYER REQUESTS --**

**PRAYER --**

**SCRIPTURE –** Colossians 2:11-12

**MESSAGE –**

**When you** came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. – Colossians 2:11

We’re not going to spend a lot of time on this first two sentences, other than to say that circumcision was a right of passage in the Jewish nation prior to the establishment of the church of Christ. It was physical. Christ came to fulfil the law, the old covenant, which means most of that was replaced by one single requirement – to believe. When that happens, the burden of our sinful nature is removed. We are cut off from the requirements of the old law and we are joined with the new covenant. It’s spiritual, not physical.

**We’re going** to focus on the next verse.

For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.” -- Colossians 2:12

This is not an easy concept. To be buried with Christ. In the most basic sense, it means we are invited to suffer with Christ, to experience what He went through.

In traditional baptism, the person is lowered or dunked into the water. It involves the entire body immersed or buried in water. And then quickly lifted out or raised. Of course, we don't do that with infants – it's more of a dedication for them because they can't make the decision for themselves. Parents do it for them. Baptism is a spiritual ceremony used to mark a spiritual transformation. When we enter that place of understanding and acceptance of Christ as the one true way to God – which could be as a child or as an adult at any stage of life – we are raised to new life. Baptism – or profession of faith if we've been baptized as a baby – is just a public affirmation of this rebirth.

**“And with him** you were Raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.”

All we have to do to have this new life is trust in God. We are raised to new life with Christ *because* we trust in God the Father.

In God we trust is way more than a phrase on American currency. It happens to be the official motto of our friends to the south. If only the nation truly lived that way. Not to get side tracked, but it's worth a bit of exploration.

In God we trust is a paraphrase of Psalm 56:11 – “I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?”

It's also inspired by Psalm 115:9-11 – “O Israel, trust the Lord! He is your helper and your shield. 10 O priests, descendants of Aaron, trust the Lord! He is your helper and your shield. 11 All you who fear the Lord, trust the Lord! He is your helper and your shield.”

Interesting and telling fact – “In God we trust” became official in the 1950s, at the height of the Cold War, in clear contrast to the official atheism of the Soviet Union. A literal translation of Paul's original Greek words reads like this: “Having been buried with him in baptism in which also you were raised with Him through the faith of the working of God the one having raised Him out of the dead.”

**“Working of God.”** Let’s look at that. It’s where we get the word “energy.” In this case, it’s superhuman. It’s God’s energy which transitions the believer from point to point in his plan. It’s energy that’s beyond our imagination. It’s what allows us to do God’s work. In fact, it’s not us, but it’s God working through us.

A key part of this definition is that it’s “efficient.” Not too much, not too little. Just the right amount. Raised to new life with Christ. Raised with Him. Raised together. There’s this ongoing theme of being with Christ. We know that, on a human scale, two people working together, in sync, is powerful. It’s more than just twice the brain power and muscle. It’s when we finish each other’s sentences. When we’re on the same wavelength. When we forget something, our partner remembers. When something doesn’t make immediate sense, our partner gets it.

Now imagine that partner is none other than the Son of God. Not that we are equals in any sense of the word. He’s 10,000 feet tall and move mountains. But in the same way He came to occupy a human body and live with us – and die for us –

**The Spirit of Christ** is willing to occupy our body and live with us. Do we let him in? Easy to say. Let him in. Allow the Holy Spirit to our constant companion. Make generous room in our heads, hearts, homes, workplaces, communities. It should go without saying that we should make Jesus the primary focus of the church – He should occupy every square inch of this building and every sentence of our statements of belief.

Is it all about Him? Take a second and quietly ask Him.

If we trust in God and are truly raised to new life in Christ, then we can boldly invite Christ to our side. When we begin each new day, we can say “Lord, I will draw near to you today.” When we leave the house, we can say, “Lord, I will walk with you today.” As we are driving down the road, we can say, “Lord, I will follow the path you lead, the direction you take.”

That journey will be a new and blessed life devoted to God.

**HYMN:** 626 Lord of all power

**BENEDICTION –**

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## **DISCUSSION GROUP CONTINUES! –**

“You were made for this moment” – the new book by Max Lucado based on the Old Testament story of Esther. **Meeting at 7 p.m. at Evangel Pentecostal.** Co-lead by Pastors Andy Cornell and Rob Elka. If you missed the first one – no problem – we’ll do a recap!

Week 5 -- Nov 10 -- Rob leads

## **PRAYER POINTS**

Outbreak – at Park Street Place. Bible study and worship cancelled for the balance of November.

Recovery from surgery – Karen Northcott

Elder election – Pray for session and the congregation to know God’s will.

Board of managers – Meeting Nov. 14. Wendy Weston (chair), Paul Vandenberg (treasurer), Will Brewer, Ross Fuchs, Linda Malott, Jenn Mason, Von Parking, Mark Richards, Jodie Rich, Dan Shaw and Mike Wicks.

Heather Club – Meeting Nov. 8

PCC Pastor Retreat – Nov 7-9 at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga. Safe travels. Pastor Andy is organizer and host.

Transition –

1. Bill Lozon’s move to Tilbury Manor.
2. Joyce MacTavish settling in at Barrie Manor

Health and healing – CONTINUE TO PRAY!

1. Jennie Atherton, Gary Carroll, Becky Desjardine, Margaret Follows, Bonnie Lozon, Bette Northcott, Tom O’Neill, Cherie Pegg, Phil Williams, Sandra Whitson
2. Awaiting surgery: Dan Shaw
3. Waiting test results: Caleb
4. Mary Templer – relief from dizziness, more able to walk normally, and for my vision to continue to improve. [Mary was minister at St. Andrew’s from 1997-2001. She sustained a concussion after being hit by a vehicle while crossing the street on Christmas Day 2021.]
5. Anyone seeking or undergoing treatment for addictions
6. Those who are addicted but not seeking treatment
7. Anyone wrestling with anxiety and depression

There are many whose names are not listed here – God know who they are and what they need.

LIFE! – Love in Faith Everywhere! is our Wednesday after-school program on hold since COVID hit.

Pray for every child who took part in this ministry since it started in September 2016. May Christ dwell in them and come alive.

Seniors – Dianne Richards and Bill Lozon at Park Street Place, Norma Latimer at Riverview Gardens and Jim Lusk and Ross Fuchs at Oaks Wallaceburg.

Session – Next meeting Dec. 6. Mark Labadie (clerk and representative elder), Cindy Brewer, Sheila Eves, Mark Richards and Julie Shaw.

### **WHAT'S UP:**

Christmas shoe boxes – Operation Christmas Child continues. Boxes available to take home and fill. Deadline to return Nov. 12

Pop can fundraiser – Bring your pop cans to church! Leave them in the bin behind Rutherford Hall. They're worth money!

### **DATES**

Nov. 8 – HEATHER CLUB would like to invite all ladies of St. Andrew's to our meeting

on Tues. 8th Nov at 2 pm. at the church. Please join us for coffee and fellowship.

Nov. 14 – Board of managers 7 p.m.

Dec. 6 – Session

### **GIVING:**

E-transfer to [pcvan1313@gmail.com](mailto:pcvan1313@gmail.com). Leave envelope in the black locked box at the hall entrance, or if you have a key, leave your donation in the treasurer's mailbox

Mail it to the church, PO Box 93 Dresden. N0P 1M0. Put it in the mailbox at the home of treasurer Paul Vandenberg. 1313 North Street, Dresden. Telephone number 519-683-6194

GIFT CARDS – You pay face value for the gift cards and the church buys them at a discount through Chatham Christian Schools. Next deadline Nov. 27.