

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

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

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Worship This Week Jan 29, 2023

WELCOME & Prayer – He has made me glad x2, 466 Praise the Lord for the sound of trumpet

PRAISE SONGS –

YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART – Andy. Live for Jesus. Make Him the most important thing in our lives. He is with you. He is like mom or dad or grandma or grandpa or your favourite aunt or uncle who is big and strong (and loving) and will be your friend and guide. Jesus will help you if you ask Him. I am weak but He is strong. Sounds like a song I know.

SONG – Jesus loves me

RECEIVE OFFERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

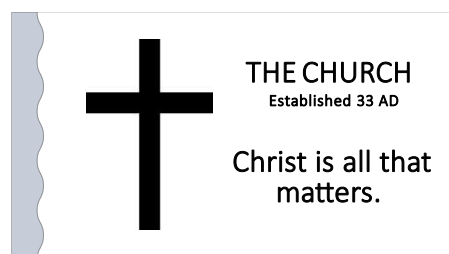
GOD IS MY WITNESS –

PRAYER –

SCRIPTURE – Colossians 3:6-11

Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. 7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. 8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. 10 Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. 11 In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

MESSAGE – Christ is all that matters. If the church was One – no divisions, just



one family under God – one possible logo or name plate **might be this**. The name is simply The Church. Incorporated in the year 33 AD. What we're all about is Christ. He is all that matters. Think

of it the same way **corporations** have logos and slogans. You know the company first by its symbol, and then with its slogan. It's branding. When you see it and hear it, you know exactly what it's about. You



know what you will get. In the same way, denominations have logos and so do denominations and

congregations. There's 100,000 different examples out there. One of the best ones I saw was for the First Biker Church of America, with Matthew 28:19 as the verse they ride with: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the



nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." In a sense, there's nothing wrong with this if it's done as a way of pointing to Christ. The human race is diverse. We are into different things. We worship in different ways. If the Christian bikers can merge their love of riding a steel horse on an open road with their love of Christ, then all power to them. If they can bring other people to Christ, that's what it's all about. The problem, in general, is that we are tempted to be divided. I get a sense that some churches are like companies trying to put out a more attractive product. Like the profit incentive for companies, it's almost as if churches are all competing to see who can have the most people on a Sunday, the bigger church, better programs and more staff. But as Paul reminds us, "Christ is all that matters." It's not about us.

And so while each church should want to reach more people, we should want the same for each other. We are not in competition with each other. Our adversary is Satan. And to a great extent, most churches recognize this truth. We are allies, like nations working together against a common foe. The Allied Nations against the Axis Powers in the Second World War or the Western World today against Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

If "Christ is all that matters", how does Paul get to that point? Set the scene. He reminds the church in Colossae of the presence of **sinful behaviour**. He listed several in last week's verses and he provides a few more examples here: anger, rage, malicious behaviour, slander, dirty language and spreading lies. The point is not to stop doing these things and you'll be right with God. We are right with God

when we have Christ in our hearts and minds, when we accept Him as the One who lived a perfect life and took our sins on His shoulders. And if we have truly embraced him in our heart and mind, then those behaviours should decrease substantially. The reason for listing these sins is to remind us that not all of us are right with God, and those who are can always go deeper.

In that mythical, perfect world – the same one in which there'd be just one church – no one would sin. But that's not God's plan. He gives us freedom to choose. Because we are not perfect as Christ was, we will all give in to temptation. The point in listing all these things is to remind us that we will sin. Not to beat ourselves up, just to be aware. And also to be reminded that God gets angry over nasty stuff that goes on. But there is forgiveness.

If we want to be better people, we can exercise self control, but this will be effective only to an extent. We are no match for the powers of darkness. We need God's help. And all the resources of Heaven are freely offered to us. Verses 9-10: "You have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him." Strip off your old nature and put on the new.

It's like working all day and your clothes are dirty and sweaty. You strip them off, take a shower and put on something fresh and clean. That's what we do in a spiritual sense. The first time we do that as believers it feels wonderful. That's the born again feeling. And it needs to be done continually. We can also see this as radical surgery: cutting off dead branches from a tree or vine. And so on.

Putting on the new nature is as simple as asking Christ to change you. Invite His Holy Spirit to dwell within. Invite him not just into the front door and the living room like we would with polite company but into every room in your home. Like family.

So we do this, we continue to learn. You may have been introduced to Christ and started following Him at a young age. And you may think you know him well. But none of us can ever say that we have arrived at that place in which we know Him

completely. Because we are human, sin is within us and will always prevent a full embrace. Doesn't mean we stop working. As Paul wrote to the Philippians:

Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. (2:12-13)

Yes, it's work. We need to actively open the door and invite Him in. Continue to check ourselves. Putting on the new nature is an ongoing exercise. It takes discipline. One big reason the church gathers, is to remind each other. We are better when we work together. Christian partnerships and friends are very useful. It's where we can share our struggles with one another. We can remind one another. We are not meant to be hermits. We are to live in community.

But again -- we cannot do it ourselves. Being right with God is not a DIY thing. Jesus help if we invite Him and allow Him to do so. The Spirit of Christ cleanses and makes us new, but only if we invite the Spirit into our hearts and minds. We are invited to yield to the transforming, healing power of Christ.

This is the New Covenant we have with God in Christ. In the same way Christ died for us, we are invited to die to our selfish, sinful nature and live for Him. Good living is more of a decision to submit to Christ than it is to follow a bunch of rules. The more we are submitted to Christ, the less we will want to do the things of this world. As we live more completely for Christ, our desire and need to engage in destructive behaviour and thinking will decrease. **This is the hope** for the world. Literally. It's for every nation and culture. "Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us." (Col 3:11). That's how we get to that slogan. Of course, it's way more than a marketing phrase. It's a powerful, eternal truth. Christ is all that matters. He is the way, the truth and the life. Take a time out and dwell on that truth.

HYMN – 299 Holy, holy, holy

BENEDICTION –

SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2gXgpMK6Hyd6HG2Kmcqp3A?view>

Feel free to say hello in the chat box/message area. Share good news and prayer requests. The entire service is recorded and available immediately afterwards on YouTube.

PRAYER -- requests can be sent to the pastor, either for sharing or in confidence. If a need is not listed here it's because the family has opted for privacy.

NEW PRAYER

Surgery – Tom O’Neill procedure to remove tumour in bladder Jan.30

CONTINUE TO PRAY

Health and healing –

1. Jennie Atherton, Becky Desjardine, Bill Eves, Margaret Follows, Mark Labadie, Bette Northcott, , Cherie Pegg, Sandra Whitson
2. Awaiting surgery: Dan Shaw
3. Anyone seeking or undergoing treatment for addictions
4. Anyone wrestling with anxiety and depression
5. Karen Northcott – thanks for good biopsy results but continue to pray.

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

Seniors and shut ins – Alan (Curly) Clark and Norma Latimer at Riverview Gardens, Jim Lusk and Ross Fuchs at Oaks Wallaceburg, Joyce MacTavish at Barrie Manor, Bill Lozon at Tilbury Manor, Aubrey Butler at home.

Session – Mark Labadie (clerk and representative elder), Cindy Brewer, Sheila Eves, Andrew Neely, Mark Richards and Julie Shaw.

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

WHAT’S UP:

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

DATES

Feb. 6 – Session

Feb. 8-10 – Rutherford Hall floors to be stripped and waxed. No entry!

GIVING:

E-transfer to pcvan1313@gmail.com. Bring envelope on Sunday or if you have a key, leave it 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 Vandenbogaerde. 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 January 29. Order form attached.**