

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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

Box 93, Dresden, Ontario NOP 1M0

519-683-2442 standrewspcdresden@gmail.com Rev. Andy Cornell

Worship This Week Dec. 3, 2023

Advent 1 – Hope

Piano – Dorothy O'Neill.

Sound/powerpoint/livestream –

WELCOME –

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Minister – “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned...

All – For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

Minister – And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All – Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

Minister – He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

PRAYER

SONGS – Hope is a Star, Knowing you

YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART –

Kid's PRAYER –

SONG – 139 Hark the Herald Angels sing

RECEIVE OFFERING –

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

GOOD NEWS MOMENTS –

PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAYER –

SCRIPTURE – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. 4 I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. 5 Through him, God has enriched your church in every way—with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge. 6 This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true. 7 Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be

free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. 9 God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

MESSAGE – Hope.

Last week, I invited you to dream. Think big. Think outside the box. Have you asked God to give you a vision of the future of the church? Is there something that God is calling us to do that has never been done before? I sometimes end worship with a reminder that God is able to do infinitely more than we can ask, or do for ourselves or even imagine. Glory to God when He and His Holy Spirit are welcome in a congregation. Revival happens.

Paul's opening words to the church in Corinth, which we just read, are reminders of what is available to us if we believe. If we live for Christ and not for ourselves, if we submit our gifts and talents to Him and eagerly seek His will, then not only will everything be alright – but nothing short of the amazing hope, peace, joy and love of Christ will flow.

Paul reminded the church of three things:

1. **God has** enriched the church in every way. He has given us the people, the resources, the location. He has given us people with spiritual gifts. He has given us a financial endowment. He has given us the best geographic location in town to proclaim the Good News.
2. **He will** keep us strong to the end. In our most recent five-week study on Wednesday evenings, we were reminded that weaknesses are good. God has provided gifts. But they are not total. Each of us has a human weakness – it's because we are innately sinful. God deliberately makes us weak so that we invite His Power to enter and work. God allows Satan to attack us for a reason. Paul said, "That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:10)
3. **He has invited** us into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Gifts and the strength from God – when we acknowledge those things, then we can be in partnership with Christ. When the church walks boldly with Christ and follows Him and doesn't lose faith and give in to the ways of this dark world, when we keep our eyes fixed upon Him, people take notice. They will ask, what do they

have that allows them to be strong despite their weakness, that allows them to be joyful in the midst of pain, what gives them hope despite the physical world crumbling around us?

There is a great deal of hope in this passage. The rich spiritual gifts provided to those who belong to Christ keep on giving, never wear out and have an endless power source. These things keep us strong if we use them. We can live in freedom from guilt and shame. And we can live in the assurance that Christ our King is with us always to the end of the age.

If we have hope, we can dream. We have a future. We began our time of worship with the words of the Prophet Isaiah, who declared, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.” (Isaiah 9:2)

The Dark Age of the early medieval times has long passed. But we continue to live in Dark Times. Mental health is a major problem in 2023. The pandemic didn't help. Increases in the cost of living and the growing gap between rich and poor are alarming. At the same time, many churches are shadows of themselves in their prime. Congregations are closing and not much is being planted to replace them.

The light has not been extinguished. It has always been there. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

Light entered the world in the form of a child born to refugee parents soon to be on the run from a genocidal king. Despite having all the powers of the universe at His command, He lived a simple life and exercised servant leadership – compelling and just, speaking the truth in love. Pointing the way to right living but not condemning. “Go – and sin no more.”

He reigns in Heaven and will one day return. “Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, **establishing** and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.” (Isaiah 9:7)

Nothing is impossible for God. All things are possible. The darkness in our world actually cowers in fear of the power of the Almighty. This is my hope.

If we have hope, we can dream. We can look to God with great expectations. We can boldly ask that His hands provide the wisdom and the way to do something new and exciting, bold and life changing – not from our power but from the Almighty hands of God, who can work through us.

HYMN – 548 Let us break bread together

THE LORD’S SUPPER –

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 our thanks and praise.

Holy God, creator of heaven and earth, with joy we give you thanks and praise. You commanded light to shine in the darkness, you divided sea and land, created the vast universe and called it good. You made us in your image to live with one another in love. You gave us life and freedom to choose your way. . . . Therefore, with that great cloud of witnesses who live for you, we lift our hearts in joyful praise, saying:

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.

We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only son Jesus Christ to live among us, full of grace and truth. Sharing our joy and sorrow, he healed the sick and was a friend to all. Obeying you, he took up the cross and died that we might live.

He overcame death and is risen. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes in glory, we will celebrate victory with him.

We thank you that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and said, ‘Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’

In the same way he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me.’

Therefore, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we take this bread and this cup and give you praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Apostle’s 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 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.

When we break the bread, it is a sharing in the body of Christ.

When we bless the cup it is a sharing of the blood of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

We share in the elements

Prayer after Communion: Eternal God, we thank you for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN – 118 Hark the glad sound

BENEDICTION – All glory to God, who is able – through His mighty hands working in us – to do infinitely more than we can ask for, imagine or do for ourselves. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ. Go in peace!

PRAYER -- Requests may 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

1. Ellen Robinson remains in ICU at University Hospital in London as she recovers from a triple bypass – she is progressing as expected.
2. Discernment for the Childrens' Educator interviewing committee
3. Thanks for improvements in Ron Mason's health
4. Many friends and family members who need hope and healing right now

CONTINUE TO PRAY – For the ability to deal with unexpected challenges.

Health and healing –

1. For this year's flu, cold and COVID season to be mild.
2. Park Street Place: residents, staff and owner
3. For all those recovering from surgical procedures.
4. Pat McKinnon's friend Linda, Becky Desjardine, Margaret Follows, Bette Northcott, Karen Northcott, Tom O'Neill, Cherie Pegg, Sandra Pegg, Julie Shaw, Sandra Whitson
5. Anyone seeking or undergoing treatment for addictions
6. Anyone wrestling with anxiety and depression

Seniors and shut ins – Betty Bradley at Albany Retirement Home Petrolia, Dianne Richards at Park Street Place, Jim Lusk at Oaks Wallaceburg, Lane Douglas and Ross Fuchs at Fairfield Park in Wallaceburg, Aubrey Butler at home.

Elders on session – Mark Labadie 519-359-4842, Cindy Brewer 519-683-4113, Sheila Eves 519-683-4148, Andrew Neely 519-359-8903, Mark Richards 519-809-9175 and Julie Shaw 226-627-1953.

Board of managers – Wendy Weston (chair), Will Brewer, Linda Malott, Jenn Mason, Von Parking, Mark Richards, Jodie Rich, Bob Vriesema and Mike Wicks.

WE'RE HIRING:

A new Sunday School co-ordinator. <https://standrewsdresden.ca/employment/childrens-educator/>

To start anytime before Jan. 1

A new administrative assistant. <https://standrewsdresden.ca/employment/administrative-assistant/>

To start anytime.

WHAT'S UP:

Weekly email – Send announcements and new info to standrewspcdresden@gmail.com

Presbytery consultant– Grant Fairley met with session and the board on Nov. 25 and will prepare a report prior to a followup meeting early in the new year.

DATES

Dec. 4 – Session

Dec. 12 – Heather Club 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 24 – 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Carols & Message

MINISTRY LINKS

Renewal Fellowship – Pastor Andy is employed at 40% time as RF's Executive Director. St. Andrew's is the other 60%.

Dunamis Fellowship Canada – Pastor Andy serves on the Board of Directors.

Community Counselling Centre of London – Pastor Andy is a Therapist Intern as he works towards a degree in Psycho-Spiritual Counselling and registration as a psychotherapist.

WAYS OF GIVING:

E-transfer st.andrewspcdresdenon@gmail.com. If required by your bank, our treasurer's name is Linda Moore. Her number is 226-627-2727. If you are asked for a security question, please contact your local bank branch.

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. NOP 1M0.

Gift Cards – You pay face value for the gift cards and the church buys them at a discount through Chatham Christian Schools. Next deadline Dec. 11. Cards will be available for pickup at the church on the 15th or will be distributed in church on the 17th. Gift card orders are on the website.

<https://standrewsdresden.ca/> under the "giving" tab

Send e-transfer AND order forms to st.andrewspcdresdenon@gmail.com. Normal deadline (the last Monday of the month) returns in January.