

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**

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

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**Worship This Week Nov. 26, 2023**

**Piano** – Dorothy O'Neill. **Sound/powerpoint/livestream** –

**WELCOME & Prayer** – This is the final Sunday of the church year. Next week, Advent begins.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** – Psalm 95

LEADER: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

ALL: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

LEADER: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

ALL: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

**Two SONGS** – Majesty (x2), Knowing you

**YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART** –

**Kid's PRAYER** – **SONG** – Thank you Lord for giving us life

**RECEIVE OFFERING** –

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** –

**GOOD NEWS MOMENTS** –

**PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAYER** –

**MESSAGE INTRO** – In **Isaiah 55**, God says this: "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts. And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine." For me, those are comforting words. If we understand God as good and His Kingdom as perfect, then that gives me hope. When times are tough and life is challenging, I am reminded that this is not our resting place. We are only visiting this planet. The Kingdom of heaven is so much different. It's set up by the God of Wonder and it's governed by the King of glory.

**When times** are tough, it's good to dream. It's why some people read romance novels or get into fantasy and science fiction movies. If you're younger, video games. It's an escape.

The Bible is filled with scenes that – if you didn't know otherwise – sound like the setting for a fantasy movie. Daniel – the man of faith who interpreted the dreams of the evil kings and didn't get burned when thrown into the fiery furnace and then didn't even get scratched in the lion's den – had a vision from God. I'm going to read this slowly. Take it in and imagine what's being described.

**SCRIPTURE** – Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

7:9 As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. 7:10 A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. 7:13 As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

The Ancient One is God. The one like a human being is the Lord Jesus. Note the word “presented.” This is ceremonial, something special, like a coronation. Did any of you watch the coronation of King Charles? This is like that. But multiply it 1,000 times.

7:14 To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Him is Christ. Although God is spirit and is not of this world, we understand Him in human terms, because that’s all we know. We simply cannot comprehend the majesty of God in Heaven. The Apostle Paul reported in 2 Corinthians 12:4 being “caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell.” He could not find the words, because they do not exist.

Another thing about Christ is that He is the ruler over all nations, not just one. In this world, kings and queens are rulers of specific nations or countries. The Kingdom of God is for all people. Human leaders are born, they live and die. But Christ is for all time; he is immortal. Our brains cannot comprehend this. It’s too much for us. And so we are forced to comprehend it in such a way that makes sense to us.

**MESSAGE** – It’s OK to dream. It’s healthy to dream. It’s good to be reminded that wars, disease, pain, hate, laziness, incompetence, sloth, stupidity, narcissism and all the brokenness of the human condition are the stuff of Planet Earth and the human condition. The King provides the way out of this mess. Christ was given dominion and glory. Daniel uses the word “should.” All people, nations and language should serve him. If we know what’s good for us. But, sadly, we don’t.

Christ is King of heaven. But he has not yet been made King of Earth. It's because we remain under Satan's control. One day that will end. And in Christ, we get a glimpse.

**In Matthew** 28:18-20, also known as The Great Commission, before commanding his disciples to go into the world, baptize and teach, He reminded them that "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth." When someone announces that they have authority, and when it's credible, believable – when it's real – you pay attention. Not because you have no choice. But because you want to. There is a great need in humankind for leadership. We are like sheep, scattered and open to temptation and destruction.

When true leadership comes along, people naturally flock. I recognize Christ as my King. I trust Him. Of course, I am far from perfect and do not bow down as completely as I should. What would it look like if I truly made Him the King in my life. . . . what would that look like? I have a sense that my life would be significantly different. The first step is to seek God's will in my life. What's God's plan for me? Am I mostly in sync with that?

**He is King.** What's stopping us from making Him King everywhere? The challenge is to remove the blinders. The enemy does a masterful job of tempting us and getting us off track. So it's worth doing some self examination in each area of our lives. Start with **family**. That's how we enter the world. And most of us reside with partners and are in close contact with siblings and children or grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews. Even if you're not close, your family could simply be the people around you.

**We are** invited to make Him King at work. Do we invite Him in – is He welcome? You don't have to be a pastor or be on the church payroll. God needs mechanics, farmers, retailers, office managers, contractors, truck drivers.

**We are invited** to make Him King in our downtime. Housework, fixing and maintaining. Hunting, fishing, attending car shows – whatever.

**We are invited** to make Him King in our on our roads and in our towns, our cities and nation. On the road could be literally – do we treat other drivers like Christ would? Do we love our neighbours, whether it's the next farm or right next door, the way Christ would love us?

**And then** there's the church. We are invited to make Him King in our church more than just in name. When Jesus said "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth," he gave them marching orders. **"Therefore**, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you." Go, baptize and teach. That's for all of us, not just the pastor. My job is to equip and teach and encourage and all that. And I am grateful for the presence of those

who want to be equipped, who want to learn and whose hearts yearn for reconciliation with God and justice. That's why you are here on Sunday and for midweek study.

**The King's final** words can be repeated during the day. "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Jesus you are welcome in my life, in my family, my friendships, my work, my community and nation and in my playtime.

In a few minutes, we will be standing and declaring our allegiance to this King as we welcome a new life and join with her parents as she is dedicated to God. I invite you to stand and sing as we prepare.

**HYMN** – 375 Fairest Lord Jesus

### **BAPTISM/DEDICATION –**

**Minister:** Baptism is a formal way of welcoming someone into the church. Your age is not important – all are welcome. It is a sign to God that we are taking this young child, her parents (and her sister and brother) under our wings. As a congregation, we are committed to being there for Isla and her family, to help them grow in their faith. This is just the first step in the journey of faith. The hope is for Isla, with the help of her family and the church, to build a life of faith on this foundation so that when she is ready, at whatever age, she can make her own personal declaration of faith as a believer.

Jesus said: Unless you are born of water and the Spirit, you cannot enter the kingdom of God. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Do not be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' (John 3:5-7)

Today's baptism is an outward declaration by Will and Tash that they are raising their children with the opportunity to know God in Christ so that they may one day be reborn in the Holy Spirit.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, God claims us and calls each one of us by name. God united us to Christ by his death and resurrection and grafts us into the body of Christ as his church. God washes us clean by forgiving our sins; God commissions us to be a royal priesthood with Christ in his ministry to the world; God empowers us to live in newness of life as people of the Word; God invites us to be renewed at the Lord's table until we are with him in heaven. By grace you have been saved by faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)

"It takes a community to raise a child." The decision to baptize rests with the congregation, which is represented by the elders on session.

**Session rep:** The elders of the congregation welcome this child to receive the sacrament of baptism. On behalf of session, I present Isla Louise Brewer.

**Minister to parents:** Will and Natasha, do you promise to raise Isla in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ within your home and in the fellowship of Christ's church?

**Parents:** We do.

*Minister addresses the congregation to stand.*

**Minister:** Do you, as people united in Christ, promise to guide Isla and help her grow, in love and with prayer, encouraging her to make her own declaration of faith in Christ when she is ready?

**Congregation:** We do.

**Minister:** Let us now reaffirm our faith. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**All:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**Minister:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All:** 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.

**Minister:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All:** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church found in all people in all time who affirm the Christian faith, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Congregation is seated. Minister takes Isla into his arms*

**Minister:** Gracious God, by the gift of water and your Holy Spirit, you sustain all life. By the power of your Holy Spirit and by the sign of water, you cleanse us from our sins through the death of Jesus Christ. Our prayer is this: that you pour out your Spirit upon this child and her family and that they may have the power to do your will and continue forever as servants of

God in Christ. Ilsa Louise, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit of God dwell in you and uphold you, now and forever, Amen. Ilsa, you are received into the church, which is God's people united in Christ all over the world. This is the Good News.

*Minister shows Ilsa to the congregation and returns her to her parents*

**Minister:** Let us pray. Creator God, we thank you for these parents, for their families, friends and supporters. Embrace them with your Holy Spirit, guide them and give them wisdom, strength and patience as they raise this precious child. And we ask that you surround them as they go forth in your name. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**HYMN** – 350 To God be the glory

**BENEDICTION** –

**SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE** – 10:30 a.m.

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

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 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. Thanks from Bill, Marilyn & Melissa Clark for the love and condolences from the congregation, community and the Heather Club following the passing of their faithful dog Ike.
2. Healing for Ellen Robinson after triple bypass on Nov. 25.
3. Bruce (Cathy) Stevens tests planned by oncologist.
4. For the Childrens' Educator interviewing committee
5. For our search for a new Admin person

### **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, Ron Mason, 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.

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:**

We need help – We're decorating the church for Christmas the week of Nov. 27. Contact Cindy Brewer 519-683-4113.

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.

Weekly email – Send announcements and new info to [standrewspcdresden@gmail.com](mailto:standrewspcdresden@gmail.com)

## **DATES**

Nov. 27 – Board of managers

Nov. 29 – Final midweek discussion on Grace is Greater by Kyle Idleman. "No sin is so great, no bitterness so deep that God's grace cannot transform the heart." Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle. Co-lead by Pastor Andy and Pastor Rob Elka from Evangel.

Dec. 3 – Advent 1

Dec. 3 – Deadline to return elders ballots

Dec. 4 – Session

## **WAYS OF GIVING:**

E-transfer [st.andrewspcdresdenon@gmail.com](mailto: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 Nov. 30. Cards will be delivered to the church. 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](mailto:st.andrewspcdresdenon@gmail.com). Deadline is typically the last Monday of the month.