

Welcome to the worship service of  
St. Andrew's United Church, 40 Joseph St., Chalk River, ON  
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
10:30 am October 18, 2020

Welcome & Greeting

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Algonquin and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

Introit "Holy Holy Holy" VU #315 1<sup>st</sup> verse

Christ Candle lighting

Call to Worship

**We gather as a community of seekers. We seek ways to come closer to the Great Mystery. We seek ways to make peace, to receive and use wisdom. We seek ways to bolster one another during these difficult times. We seek ways to share the love of our Creator with others. With the warmth of us gathering as Sisters and Brothers and love in our hearts— let us seek together and worship the One in whose image we are created!** (Doug Tennant)

Opening Prayer

**Open our eyes and ears O Mysterious One that we may experience the wonders of this time together as a community of saints. Calm our hearts and minds so we may find the beautiful peace and joy that lives in this holy place. Amen** (Doug Tennant)

Hymn "Come and find the quiet centre" VU #374

Prayer of Hope

**Loving Creator, we confess that we cling to the comfortable, and fall back on the familiar, we allow apathy to dull our hearts and our commitment. We shrug our shoulders and say that poverty is inevitable even as it deprives the vulnerable of the fullness of life that you intend. We throw up our hands when the going gets tough and accept what is unacceptable. Forgive us, for callousness instead of compassion, for discouragement instead of determination, for selfishness instead of service. With your love, grace and divine hope, help us find favour in your sight. Amen** (Adapted from the United Church of Christ - USA)

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" VU #375

Scripture 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

Gospel Reading Matthew 22:15–22

Message Chief Wendy Jocko – The Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

Hymn "Here I Am, Lord" VU #509

Life and Work of the Congregation

Offering of time, talents and money VU #543

**Ministry of Music from Kurt Zhou**

Remembrance of others VU #400

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer VU #959

Hymn "Take my life and let it be" VU #506

Threefold Amen

Commissioning and Blessing

Benediction Go Now in Peace VU #964

## World Food Day – October 18, 2020

It was Thanksgiving dinner at the homeless shelter. The tables were draped with tablecloths; well wishes from donors were written on the placemats. Cheerful fall leaves formed centerpieces. The smell of turkey and pumpkin pie wafted from the kitchen. My job was to gather soundbites for a newsletter to thank donors for their gifts that made the event possible. I struck up a conversation with one of our guests waiting in line for dinner and asked what her favourite part of the feast was. I expected to hear about the food. But the food, as it turns out, wasn't her favourite aspect. Instead, she responded: "The tablecloths and that I get to sit down and be served."

I paused and inwardly registered a deep learning: Food isn't just about the food – it's so very often connected to dignity.

Tablecloths aren't unique to my experience. Nor is dining out. Sure, I appreciate a well-dressed table and going out for dinner from time to time. But I don't consider either of these things a great treat unless I'm enjoying a five-star dinner conjured up by the best chef in the city. My daily experience certainly doesn't involve standing in line for every single meal with a tray in hand.

I am privileged. Not only do I expect to eat every day, I expect the ritualistic, dignified gestures that go along with it.

Another day at the shelter, some guests had cuts on their hands. I asked what was up with that. "Our guests are getting canned goods from the Food Bank but don't have can openers. So they are trying to open the cans by jamming a knife in the top and missing," she said.

Shortly thereafter, I published "can openers" on our Christmas wishlist and fielded a few calls from donors asking why. Toiletries and boots were understandable – but can openers? When we think about food accessibility, we often assume that providing food is enough. But other barriers often lurk in the background. Things that many of us wouldn't give a whiff of thought to.

As we contemplate [World Food Sunday](#), I share these two experiences as a reminder that our conversation this week should be about more than the food itself.

Dialogue about safety and dignity are desperately needed. I dream of a world where the table of abundance flows for everyone. A world where there isn't just abundant food, but also abundant safety and dignity around food. A world where everyone has their daily bread and are able to experience it with equal pleasure. By - Trisha Elliott

*Rev. Trisha Elliott works in The United Church of Canada's Philanthropy Unit*



## St. Andrew's United Church

40 Joseph Street Chalk River, ON

Welcome!