

Welcome to St. Andrew's United Church
Chalk River, Ontario
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Nov. 15, 2020

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

MUSICAL PRELUDE

SCRIPTURAL GREETING/WELCOME

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory: For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We meet 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 verse)

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP: based on Psalm 123

One: Open your eyes to God, enthroned in the heavens!

All: We look to God. God's love surrounds us here today. We are called to be children of the light.

One: We belong to this day when our faith brings new hope and a new way of being.

All: We seek to be faithful, investing the talents God gives us.

One: Faithfulness gives us a sense of greater abundance. Doing justice adds to our sense of worth and dignity.

All: We are here to build each other up. May this service encourage each of us today.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: What is your favorite talent or skill to share? What talent or skill has it taken longer for you to share?

OPENING PRAYER: Fill us, gracious God, with a sense of your abiding presence. Awaken us to realities unseen. Turn us from fear-filled grasping for security and help us to live with trust in you. Expand our mutual regard and encouragement as we build community and lead all of us to live in light. May faith and love dominate all our relationships as we enter the joy of living in the name of Jesus. Amen

Opening Hymn: "Here I Am, Lord" VU 509

Threads of Hope: We are reluctant to face judgement, all knowing God. We know we have not fully invested the talents you have given us. We hide them and hoard them, retreating into a false sense of security. We live in a state of self-protection rather than in the light of full participation in loving, faithful service. We shrink from life rather than investing ourselves in the tasks to which we are called. Have mercy on us, O God. We want to be children of the light of your day. Help us! Amen.

ASSURANCE:

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Old Testament: **Judges 4:1-7**

Gospel: **Matthew 25:14-30**

MESSAGE: "Use It or Lose It"

HYMN: "In the Bulb There is a Flower" VU 703

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

COLLECTION AND DEDICATION

OFFERTORY PRAYER: God of Abundance, we thank you for countless blessings and ask that our time, talents and monetary donations be accepted as humble gifts which we gladly give for the work of your church here, and around the world. Use them to build a new heaven on earth and may they be a blessing to all they touch. This we ask, in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" VU 400

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER:

CLOSING HYMN: "Go Make a Difference" VU 209

BLESSING/SENDING