



**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Stratford**

Minister: The Rev. Mark Wolfe

Music Director: Earl Clark

**Sunday, March 15, 2020 - 10:30 am**

**3rd Sunday in Lent**

**WE APPROACH GOD**

**Prelude** "Adagio in E flat" *John Stainer*

**Welcoming and Sharing** (10:25 am)

**\*Entry of The Word** (please rise)

**\*Call to Worship:**

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

**ALL: We celebrate the steadfast love of our Creator.**

Leader: The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.

**ALL: The precepts of God are righteous, rejoicing the heart.**

Leader: The Scriptures will lead us into God's eternal truth.

**ALL: God will bless us with unexpected grace.**

**\*Hymn # 416:** "Blessed Jesus, at your word "

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession:**

These things we pray through him who taught us to pray saying...

The Lord's Prayer (Trespases)

**Assurance of Pardon**

**The Passing of the Peace**

**Hymn # 674:** "In the bulb there is a flower"

**Children's Message:**

**Anthem:** "A Lenten Meditation" *Jay Althouse*

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination:**

Merciful God,  
through Jesus Christ you make all things new.  
Transform the poverty of our nature  
by the riches of your grace  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory,  
for we ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

***This Week at St. Andrew's***

Monday March 16	9:30 am Flower Guild 7:00 pm Foundation
Tuesday	9:30 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Session
Wednesday	5:30 pm Community Meals
Thursday	5:00 Messy Church 7:00 pm Choir
Friday	6:00 pm 3F's
Saturday	9:00 am Men's Breakfast
Sunday	10:25 am Announcements 10:30 am Morning Worship Coffee Time: Session

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**Come and celebrate Earth Hour** with the viewing on Wall-E (a Disney movie) on Saturday, March 28th. The viewing begins just after 6:30 pm and the evening ends with a dessert potluck until 9:30 pm. This free event just asks you to bring a dessert to share. There are many environmental messages in the movie to discuss during the potluck. Hope to see you there. All are most welcome. For information about this event, please call 519-508-1984.

**Praise Band** will be playing next week March 22.

Today is **Food Bank** Sunday.

*Thought for Today*  
*Prove your repentance by the fruit you bear.*

*St. Luke 3:8*

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Welcome, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the worship of God. May God give us a special blessing by being together to share the life-giving Word. Following worship, join in fellowship downstairs. The notices on this sheet will keep you informed of the life of the congregation from day to day, as well as offer prayers for your daily devotions. Thanks for being part of the church family!

### **Opportunity Sheet**

#### **Prayer and praise opportunities**

- For Chris, Susan, Margaret, Marilyn, Dorothy, Carol, Ernie and those known to us who are in need of prayer for any reason, that prayer lifted will be prayer heard, and that prayer heard is answered by almighty God.

**Lent III**– Pray for Rev. Jeffrey Crawford and the congregation and Session of Westmount PC, London ON, that God would bless and guide them.

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#### **Worship and Pastoral care opportunities**

**Prayer or visit request cards** are available in the narthex.

**Want to Ride the Bus to Church!** Call the Church Office, 519-271-5668 by Thursday! Arrangements will then be made for you.

#### **Mission and Stewardship Opportunities**

##### **Mission Moment:**

##### **Blessed are the peacemakers**

Shaun MacDonald was inspired to be an instrument of God's peace by the prayer of St. Francis. He decided to put that into action by serving as an Ecumenical Accompanier in Hebron, Palestine. From October 2019 to January 2020, Shaun provided a protective presence, monitored human rights violations, and supported local peace and human rights groups as he witnessed life under occupation. Most importantly, he visited Palestinian families and shop keepers to learn their stories so he could share them with Canadians upon his return. The World Council of churches created the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel in 2020. Since then, over 1,800 accompaniers from 22 countries have participated. Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing support his important ministry.

*Presbyterians Sharing promotes peace in the Middle East*

##### **Stewardship Thought for today:**

We need to help younger people recognize their own capacity to do good and help them discover the rewards of generosity.

*Bill Clinton (1946 -), 42nd President of the USA*

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**Scriptures Readings:** Genesis 17:15-19  
Psalm 19:7-14 (Refrain 1)  
John 2:13-22

**Sermon :**            **“Unexpected Grace”**  
                              *-The Rev. Mark Wolfe—*

### **WE RESPOND IN FAITH**

**\*Hymn # 462:**     “All my hope on God is founded ”

#### **Prayers of the People**

**Offertory:**        “Meditation in F”                                 *J. Lemmens*

**\*Doxology #661**    *“We give Thee but Thine own”*

We give thee but thine own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone,  
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

*Ushers come forward with offering at the beginning  
of singing this verse.*

#### **\*Offertory Prayer**

Ushers then present the offering to speaker.

**\*Hymn # 490:** “God of grace, and God of glory”

#### **\*Benediction**

**Parting Hymn:**        **“Go In Love”**

Go in love; have no fear.  
God will guide you, He is always near.  
Go in Love; take His hand.  
God will hear you, He will understand.  
May His light forever shine upon you;  
may His peace be always in your heart.  
Go in love; face each day, God will lead you,  
He will show the way, Go in love and live in faith,  
**Amen**

**Postlude:**        “Fantasia”                                 *John Stainer*