

9th Anniversary of Affirming Ministry Designation 2013 – 2022

Growing in Awareness – What does Affirming Look Like?

It looks like...

Spring flowers, bursting with life, sprouting out of dark rich soil...

It looks like... **ropes** untied and chains released...

It looks like **binoculars**... lift them up, peer through them, and suddenly vivid details appear we never picked up on before!

Affirming looks like... **a bird – flying** high, flying free, floating in the air.

Affirming looks like... **affection, caring, protection, connection**... celebrating the strong invisible bonds between us. (*two bears*)

Affirming looks like... **a church**, where light pours through the windows, where there is room in the pews for others to gather with us, and where there is a friendly welcome at the door.

Affirming... looks like **our regular, ordinary lives** – with a generous swirl of love and consideration deliberately swirled in. Thank you for all you have done to bring the richness and diversity of God's love alive here, in this church, in our time and place – and to share that into the world.

MV #1, Let Us Build a House (Verses 1, 5)

Prayers of the People **Leader: Donna Sinclair**

***Hymn: VU# 646 Siyahamba (Choir: Verse 1, All: Verse 1,2,3)**

***Sending Forth**

***Choral Benediction**

As our path wanders onward to the rising of the sun, may the wind that moves among us, help us travel through all harm, 'til the evening of life shines forth into dawn, may God be with us as we go, as we go, in peace. (© 1990 Ralph Johnston)

Postlude



Sunday, May 15, 2022 – Easter 5

9th Anniversary of Affirming Ministry Designation



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St. Andrew's United Church is an Affirming congregation within the United Church of Canada. We are committed to creating a safe, inclusive and nurturing community where all are welcome. We delight in the goodness and grace of God as expressed through the diversity of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, family configuration, ability or economic circumstance. We give thanks for the richness of the Spirit among us and in the work we are called to do in the world.

May 15, 2022 – Easter 5

*indicates where to stand as you are able

The Church gathers - we come together as people of the Spirit

Words of Welcome

Recognition of Traditional Territory

Lighting Christ Candle

Call to Worship (Revelation 21:1-6)

A new heaven, a new earth;

a new way of thinking, a new way of being.

We sing praise to the Creator who is making all things new.

The way of death and mourning, is no more,

for the ways of the past have passed away,

and God makes a home with humanity.

We worship the Redeemer who is making all things new.

A new commandment to love one another, a new badge of faithfulness, and a renewed heart. God is making all things new!

We pray to the Holy Spirit who is making all things new.

Gathering Prayer (unison)

God who makes all things new, in this time of worship, make of us a new thing. Even as the buds of spring push their way into the landscape, so let us bud with the promise of a new heaven and new earth. May we live into the newness of your commandment, to love as we are loved, and in so doing to glorify your name and call to discipleship. Amen

*Hymn: VU 373 As Comes the Breath of Spring

Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, in love you make all things new, and yet we often cling to the things of the past. When we hold on to barriers that separate us from others, forgive us.

When we live as though death, and mourning, and tears are all that life offers, forgive us. When we fail to love others, as you have loved us, forgive us. And make of us a new creation in the name of the risen Christ. Amen Lord's Prayer (spoken)

Sung Assurance - MV# 115 Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New

the Story - we listen for the wisdom of God's spirit

Scripture in Story: Acts 11: 1- 18 (Peter moves beyond barriers)

Scripture Reading: John 13:31-35 Reader: Kim Delarsobel

These words are offered as wisdom for our journey.

Let us walk together in their truth.

Choir: The Greatest of These is Love

Reflection: What does new look like?

*Music for Reflection: VU #713 I See a New Heaven

To Be the Story - we respond with spirit-filled faith and service

Offering

*Offertory MV 191

What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy, I'll say a prayer, I'll bring my love, I'll do my share. (x2)

Prayer of Dedication

Generous, life-giving God,
we bring our prayers, asking for blessings upon others;
we bring our love, asking we touch the lives of others;
we bring our joyful song, offering our gratitude.
Receive what we bring and make of our offering
a gift of grace. Amen.