

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH (Williams Lake)

February 5, 2023

10:00 am

**Sunday Worship – 5th after Epiphany
Worship followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting**

Ministers of the Gospel: Everyone!

Minister of Word, Sacrament & Pastoral Care: Rev Nancy Colton

Music Director: Rocco Catalano

Pianist: Michael Bruce

Stand Up Bass: Hal Giles

Order of Service

Welcome

The Peace

One: In the name of Jesus, who is alive in each of us, peace to you.

All: **And also to you.**

Centering for Worship

Centering Hymn – *Spirit of Life* VU 381

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

One: What does our God require of you?

All: **What does our God require of you?**

One: My heart.

All: **My hands.**

One: My love.

All: **My life.**

One: What does our God require of us?

All: **That we use all our gifts to do justice, to love kindness,
and to travel humbly with our God.**

One: Let us find inspiration and encouragement in God's presence.

All: **Let us worship our God.**

Hymn – *What Does the Lord Require of You* VU 701

Opening Prayer

We share God's Lament

Hymn – *God Weeps* MV 78

Prayer

Hymn – *Seek Ye First* VU 356

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 58:1-9a The fast that God chooses.

1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16) Wisdom through God's Spirit.

Matthew 5:13-20 You are salt; you are light.

Sermon

Hymn – *Be Thou My Vision* VU 642

Offering Invitation

Offering Prayer

Hymn – *Grateful* MV 182

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*) VU 959

The Life and Work of our Congregation*

Hymn – *We Are Marching (Siyhamba)* VU 646

Commissioning and Benediction

One: Jesus said that we should be just like salt and just like light. So, as we leave this time and place of worship, remembering the delight of baptism, the strength of community, and the call to live for love,

All: may you go into the world with a bold, daring, and tender love. The world is waiting for you.

One: Go from here assured of your place in the good heart of God. Go, knowing that the blessing of God holds you, strengthens you, and encourages you in all the places life calls you to be. Go to be salt and light everywhere! Thanks be to God!
And we sing our amen...

Sung Amen

VU 974

Full credits & acknowledgments are in the Presider's copy of the service.

The Life and Work of the Congregation

Thank you from Rev Nancy – Thank you for the celebration of our ministry together last Sunday. I hope you found the uncovenanting service meaningful. Thank you very much for the card and the print. The print is of Barkerville and looks great. I can't wait to see what it looks like framed!

Rev Nancy invites and encourages you to read her Minister's Report in the 2023 ACM Report Book. It's long because it's full of thanks, thanksgiving, and gratitude. Read it and Rev Nancy's sure you'll find yourself in her litany of thanks given.

Thank you for your support of St. Andrew's United Church. Your on-going financial support is very much appreciated. The gifts of your time and talent are also very much appreciated.

The **Offering Envelopes for 2023** ready for pick up on the counter in front of the church office. If you've already picked up your envelopes, please have a look to see if there is box of envelopes you could deliver to a friend or neighbour.

The Worship Committee – thank you and looking for someone to help....

Thank you to Ken Awmack who has agreed to help organize the Zoom component of the weekly worship services. The Worship Committee and Ken are looking for another person, or a couple of people, to help him look after the Zoom component of the weekly worship services. If you're interested, please speak to a member of the Worship Committee (John Christoffersen, Judy Fletcher, or Linda Sullivan) or Ken.

The Annual Congregational Meeting/Annual General Meeting reviewing 2022 and setting the budget for 2023 will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2023 in MacKinnon Hall following a shortened worship service in the sanctuary. The agenda will include a review of our ministry in 2022, and the 2023 budget. We will also address the governance structure, needs, and recruitment and the election of officers.

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

February 12 Rocco Catalano leading worship.
February 19 Heather Awmack leading worship.
February 26 Linda Hicks & Judy Fletcher leading worship.
March 5 John Christoffersen leading worship.
March 12 Judy Fletcher leading worship.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

There are many excellent resources celebrating and commemorating Black History Month on the United Church's national website, especially under "Worship Resources." Here are some links to some videos to learn more about Black History Month:

<https://youtu.be/hFkQdEQ1BxA> International Decade for People of African Descent; <https://youtu.be/MID-mFnE-D4> Black History Month - 2021: Nancy Oliver, Union United, Montreal; <https://youtu.be/ubWH9RSGGmE> An introduction to the little-known history of Black peoples in The United Church of Canada; https://youtu.be/7_-Nn5mX0QE Patricia Watson, Bedford United Church, Nova Scotia

The Pot and the Potter

It pleases me greatly to know that I am made of soil
and in the end will return to dust.

So why should I be worried
by the contempt of those who pay no heed to this truth
when they insult and discriminate against me
because of the colour of my skin?

Can the potter be ordered about by the pot,
or the clay instruct the artisan kneading it
into a chosen form?

O, my God, how can I not praise you?

I give thanks to you, my Creator,
for you have made me with intelligence and wisdom,
and I am proud to have been created Black.

I thank you, Lord, for my sister, who you made so beautiful,
her skin polished by the sun.

To paraphrase the Song of Songs,

I thank you, O God, for having made us diverse,
for giving humanity such wonderful harmony—
just as many different flowers together create a garden's beauty.

Lord, I pray for those who harbour hatred for people of colour.
Heal them of their ignorance that they might realize the vanity of
their lives.

For whatever they may be today,
we all shall return to dust.

Lord, empower us to be wise and humble
so that we may love one another as you have loved us and come to
have true LIFE. Amen!

*—Demanya Kofi Akoussah, inspired by Isaiah 45:9 and similar verses, as well as by
Genesis 3:19*