

Sunday, June 14, 2026
Pentecost 3

Call to Worship *Loosely based on Psalm 116.1-2, 12-19 by Rev. Darryl Macdonald*

Awake my body, awake my soul!

Love has awakened in me!

Love has heard my voice and my supplications.

**I vow to live in love, to be freed by love, to give myself over to love
and dwell in the house of love my whole life long.**

Awake my sacred being.

Candle Lighting

Song

Love Knocks And Waits **MV94**

A Time of Centring

Take this moment to centre yourself deeply in the love of God
and prepare yourself for an encounter with the Holy.

Begin with your breath.

Feel the air pass your nostrils and glide down your throat to fill your lungs.

Drop your diaphragm and let your belly and back expand.

Notice the rhythm of your breathing, and the spaces between your breath.

The air you breathe is sacred for it is the breath of God.

Your body is sacred for it manifests the Holy One in substance and form.

Be aware of your body and how you are sitting.

Let your hands fall open and your feet feel grounded.

Ask of God what you need at this moment and give space for the response.

Take some time to reflect on your relationship with God, the world, your sacred centre.

Honour your connection to God's creation.

Offer something of yourself.

Be open to receiving God's gift to you this day.

Now, return to your body.

Imagine there is a light that softly glows from your heart, through your limbs and head,
and radiates out into the world, connecting with people, animals, fish and birds,
with water, soil and even rock, and give thanks to God for the experience of life.

Song

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours **MV171**

Scripture

Romans 5.1-8 New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.

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Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Another Voice

by *John O'Donohue* from Anam Cara

One of the great powers of love is balance; it helps us move toward transfiguration. When two people come together, an ancient circle closes between them. They also come to each other not with empty hands, but with hands full of gifts for each other. Often these are wounded gifts; this awakens the dimension of healing within love. When you really love someone, you shine the light of your soul on the beloved.

A person should always offer a prayer of graciousness for the love that has awakened in them. When you feel love for your beloved and the beloved's love for you, now and again you should offer the warmth of your love as a blessing for those who are damaged and unloved. Send that love out into the world to people who are desperate, to those who are starving, to those who are trapped in prison, in hospitals, and into all the brutal terrains of bleak and tormented lives. When you send out that love from the bountifulness of your own love, it reaches other people. This love is the deepest power of prayer.

Song

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling **VU333**

Reflection

Love Awareness

Offering Time

Mission and Service Story

Making A Joyful Noise

Throughout scripture, music is part of how people express joy, hope, grief, and praise. From the Psalms to songs of celebration and courage, music has long helped people connect with God, one another, and themselves.

At First-St. Andrew's United Church in London, Ontario, two music programs, the "Treblemakers" and "Reverberations" programs, help children and youth discover that same gift today.

For many young people, music is more than something to listen to. It can build confidence, reduce stress, strengthen learning skills, and create a sense of belonging. But as the cost of living continues to rise, many families are finding it harder to afford opportunities like music lessons, instruments, or arts programs for their children.

First-St. Andrew's music programs help to ensure young people do not miss out.

Open to children and youth aged 3 to 17, the weekly programs offer a welcoming space where participants can explore music, creativity, and community together for a low fee. Each gathering begins with a shared meal, providing nourishment before children move into activities like singing, handbells, chimes, and drama.

The impact goes far beyond learning notes or rhythms.

Programs like Treblemakers and Reverberations help young people develop confidence by trying new things and performing together. They encourage teamwork, creativity, and self-expression while offering a safe place and a reliable meal. Music also supports cognitive development, memory, focus, and emotional well-being—benefits that can shape a child's growth.

For some families, programs like this may be among the few accessible extracurricular opportunities available to their children. By lowering financial barriers and creating an inclusive environment, First-St. Andrew's aims to ensure every child has the chance to grow and shine.

In a world where many young people are carrying stress, isolation, or uncertainty, spaces of creativity and belonging matter deeply. Through music, meals, laughter, and shared experiences, children and youth are discovering not only new skills, but also confidence, friendship, and joy.

Through Mission and Service, we support communities and ministries that nurture young people in body, mind, and spirit. Together, we are helping create spaces where children and youth can discover their gifts, build confidence, and know they belong.

Offering Song

God Of Freedom, God Of Justice **VU700**

Prayer of Intercession

by Wild Goose Resource Group from A Wee Worship Book

Sacred Soul Friend,

though this world depends on your grace, it is governed and tended by mortals.

So we pray for those who walk the corridors of power

in the parliaments of this and other lands, whose judgements we value or fear.

May they always consider those they represent,

make decisions with courage and integrity,

and resist any temptation to abuse the trust placed in them.

Chant

Send Me, Lord **VU572**

We pray for those who hold key positions in the worlds of finance, business and industry, whose decisions may profit some or impoverish many.

May they always value people higher than profit;

may they never impose burdens on the poor which they would not carry themselves; and may they never divorce money from morality or ownership from stewardship.

Chant

Send Me, Lord **VU572**

We pray for those in the caring professions,

who look after and listen to kind, cruel and cantankerous folk,

and for those who make decisions regarding the nation's health and welfare.

May they always sense the sanctity of life and every person's uniqueness;

may they help and heal by their interest as well as their skill;

and may they be saved from tiredness and an excess of demands.

Chant

Send Me, Lord **VU572**

And let us remember those for whom we are responsible

and to whom we are accountable in what we do today.

May we show to them the thoughtfulness, tolerance and kindness of Jesus.

Prayer Circle

Free prayers for those who need our prayers

Alan, Angela, April, Barbara, Bev, David, Deb, Dot, Ericka, George, Jim, Judy, Karen, Levi, Linda, Lisa, Loidi, Mark, Maria, Monique, Nancy, Paul, Rona, Ronda, Rudy, Russell, Sarah, Shannon, Shawn, Valerie

Lord, hear our prayers,

and if today we might be the means by which you answer the prayers of others,

then may you find us neither deaf nor defiant,

but keen to fulfil your purpose, for Jesus' sake.

The Lord's Prayer (A Paraphrase) VU916

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In time of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Song

Spirit, Open My Heart **MV79**

Blessing

by Wild Goose Resource Group from A Wee Worship Book

For all that God can do within us,
For all that God can do without us,

Thanks be to God.

For all in whom Christ lived before us,
For all in whom Christ lives beside us,

Thanks be to God.

For all the Spirit wants to bring us,
For where the Spirit wants to send us,

Thanks be to God.

Listen,

Our Sacred Soul Friend has promised to be with us in the world as in our worship.

Amen.

We go and serve him.

Music to Send Us On Our Way

Lord, You Are So Precious To Me by Graham Kendrick
performed by The Band