

Lakefield & Young's Point Pastoral Charge

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Sunday October 31, 2021 All Saints Day

Greeting

As we gather in this sacred place to remember those who have gone before us and celebrate those who walk with us now, may we remember with love the wisdom, witness, and wonder that our ancestors in the faith brought to this time and place. Welcome to worship.

We Light the Candle

Call to Worship

**We gather today to worship the One who created us,
The One who calls us,
The One who equips us,
The One who loves us without end.
With joyful hearts, let us worship God.**

Opening Prayer

They are gathered around you,
God of Forever and Ever.
Some are well known, like
Peter or Paul,
John and Charles Wesley,
Brigid,
Elizabeth Hesselblad,
and so many more.
Some have been forgotten, like
Agnes and Cadoc,
Tuda, Mary of Egypt,
and Ebba,
while others have days named after them.

But many are ordinary folk,
such as the teacher from second grade
who guided our fingers under the words;
the student nurse called into duty during COVID-19;

the volunteers who served for hours at vaccination clinics;
the coach who trusted us with the ball,
not the end of the bench.

There is an old man who left retirement behind,
and a barren woman who laughed at your promise;
there are popes, princes, and power-brokers
who are taught heaven's hymns
by the paupers and pretenders;
there are those who moved mountains
and those who murmured in the wilderness;
there are those who founded the church,
and those who floundered on the waves of Galilee.

All saints,
just like us,
singing your praise forever and ever,
and we join in their anthem
and seek our own verse.

Thom M Shuman

Hymn VU 710 Shall We Gather at the River

Remembering the Saints **Brenda, Kerrie**

Introduction

Act of Remembering

As each name is read out, a candle is lit.

Pictures will line the narthex tables and the front of the church.

Solo: ***Gospel train is a comin '*** By H. T Burleigh, sung by Carrie Gray

Scripture Readings

Marilyn Riel

Ruth 1:1-18

Ruth chooses to go with Naomi.

MK12:28-34

The greatest commandment.

Hymn VU 589 Lord, Speak to Me

Reflection

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls **(responsive)**

Without even knowing who would receive it, this shawl was made specifically for the person who will receive it.

May they see the intricate love and care given to this shawl, mirroring the intricate love and care that God gives all people.

This shawl was made to bring warmth to someone who feels a chill.

May they feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they wrap themselves with it.

This shawl was made to bring comfort to someone who feels alone.

May they feel comfort in knowing that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.

This shawl was made to bring peace to someone in need of prayer.

May they feel the power of our prayers as they feel the yarn winding through their fingers.

This shawl was made to wrap someone in celebration and joy.

May they know there is nothing and nowhere they can go that will separate them from the one delighted in their creation.

This shawl was made to connect someone to this place, this church.

May it remind them that they are held in love by this community.

PRAYER OF BLESSING (Unison)

Let us pray.

Creator God, source of all inspiration and beauty,
we thank you for the gift of these prayer shawls.

They have been created in love by members of Lakefield, Bridgenorth and Grace United Churches
to bring comfort,
to bring healing,
to celebrate joy.

May these shawls enfold all those

who are cold ,

who are hurting

who need to snuggle

**who need a reminder that God is always near
and they are never alone.**

This shawl was made

With love,

With Blessings,

With Prayers.

**We dedicate these shawls in hope and love as a means of fulfilling your call to love and care for others.
Amen.**

Welcoming New Members

The church is a community of people with varied gifts,
united by the Holy Spirit.

We gather to celebrate God's presence,
to discern God's truth,
and to follow the way of Jesus.

By our baptism, we are made members of Christ's church.

We exercise this membership

within a local congregation and

in the denomination to which we belong,

which for us is The United Church of Canada.

We now welcome into this congregation by profession of faith and transfer of membership the following people: (please stand where you are when your name is called)

Brenda:

On behalf of Lakefield United Church,
I present:

whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith along Holly Gibson who professed her faith earlier this year.

Kerrie:

Friends,

we have witnessed your faith in God through your service to this church, your faithful attendance in worship, and the stewardship of your gifts. We are delighted to welcome you into this community of faith where we celebrate God, Holy Mystery, Wholly love, beyond complete knowledge, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, God, Christ and Spirit? who created the universe and seeks relationship with us.

Brenda:

Where we celebrate God made known in Jesus of Nazareth, whose witness to love was threatening, who suffered abandonment and betrayal, and was crucified and raised Jesus from death, turning sorrow into joy, despair into hope.

Kerrie:

Where we believe in the Spirit, faithful and untameable, who is creatively and redemptively active in the world, who challenges us to celebrate the holy not only in what is familiar, but also in that which seems foreign. who speaks our prayers of deepest longing and enfolds our concerns and confessions, transforming us and the world.

Will you join with us
as together we celebrate God's presence,
live with respect in creation,
love and serve others,
seek justice and resist evil?
I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment

Dear Friends in Christ.

let us pledge to these people in our support and care:

**As beloved children of God
gathered in this time and place,
we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us.
We pledge to you our love and support.**

(Please be seated)

Affirmation of Faith – A New Creed

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**Who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh,
To reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**To celebrate God's presence,
To live with respect in Creation,
To love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
Our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Presentation of Gifts

Brenda:

In the name of Jesus Christ,
we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities
of membership in this congregation,
We give thanks for your witness among us.

As you exit the sanctuary this morning, instead of a laying on hands and presenting your certificate and shawl to you, during this time of pandemic, a package will be waiting for you with Brenda.

All:

**The grace of Christ attend you,
the love of God surround you,
the Holy Spirit keep you.**

Amen.

Hymn MV 176 Three Things I Promise

Pastoral Prayer

In gratitude for all the good and holy people
who have blessed our lives, we pray...

God we are grateful.

In gratitude for all those who have spent their lives and energy taking care of the poor and sick and dying, we pray...

God we are grateful.

In gratitude for all those who have spoken up for justice, we pray...

God we are grateful.

In gratitude for all the peacemakers in our world, we pray....

God we are grateful.

In gratitude for those who have been made to suffer or have been imprisoned for their work for what is good and just, we pray...

God we are grateful.

In gratitude for all who have given their lives as they have lived out the call to work for peace and justice, we pray...

God we are grateful.

for those dis-eased in mind body or spirit, we ask in confidence for healing for strength, courage and inspiration to love others as ourselves, we open ourselves to the Spirit our prayers

adapted from the **Center of Concern** website. <https://www.coc.org/>

We gather our prayers of our hearts with those expressed in word and deed with the ancient text that Jesus taught to his followers:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Remembering the Offering

O God, you call us to love you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We seek to focus on you as our highest priority. Help us to make decisions based on your commandments. We, your kingdom-seekers, offer you these gifts as a means of providing ministries of love and compassion to our neighbors. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Adapted from David Bell

Extinguish the Candle

Benediction

Go now to be saints of God this week.
Not to be holier-than-thou folks, but people
who keep an eye out for those the world has overlooked.
Go now to be servants of Jesus this week.
Not to be those who are better than others,
but those who humble themselves in service.
Go now to be companions of the Spirit this week.
Not those who are on the inside path,
but those who walk with all who have lost their way.
Thom M Shuman

Sung Benediction **MV 216**

What's happening at Lakefield United Church?

Church Capacity Limit & Physical Distancing: Request for Feedback

We are seeking your feedback with regard to provincial changes to indoor capacity limits. Places of worship that require proof of vaccination are now permitted to increase capacity to 100% (i.e. no physical distancing limitations). For the time being, we will continue to operate at the status quo with capacity limits governed by physical distancing requirements. Please provide your feedback about increasing capacity to 100% and removing the physical distancing requirement for in-person worship services. You can call the church office (705 652 3126) or send the feedback in an email to the office (lkflduc@nexicom.net) or Rev. Perry (minister.lkflduc@nexicom.net).

Updating Contact Information

Would you like to receive updates from the Church via regular mail, email or phone? Please make sure we have your up-to-date contact information by calling or visiting the Church office.

Lakefield Seekers Meet & Greet

Seekers are welcome to an informal meet and greet, "It's been a long while", event. It will be held on the lawn of Lakefield United Church from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday November 10, 2021. There will be hot apple cider, registration table for dues and a chance to catch up. Our talent will be a goodie bag to take away. If it rains, we will be on the sidewalk to greet you and give you a goodie bag as you drive up.

A.O.T.S. Men's Club Meeting & Call for New Members

The men's Club, AOTS will begin meeting in January 2022 and are looking for new members. Please contact Bill, John Draper or the church office.

AOTS will be selling Christmas trees this year beginning November 26th with a limited supply due to Christmas 🎄 shortage.

Birthdays: Best wishes to all who are celebrating a birthday this week.

Anniversaries: Congratulations to all who are celebrating a wedding anniversary this week.