



Rev. Geoff Ross

Geoff's Journal

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"... to give you a future with hope."

Throughout history God's people have put their hope, faith, and lives in the promises of God; promises of redemption, restoration, and resurrection: of provision, prosperity, protection. And the Good News is that our God is a steadfast God of promises kept. In times both good and bad generations of faithful have enjoyed God's grace and divine protection because God not only loves us but also longs for us to live in right relationship with Him. This is why God's promise through Jeremiah is one of the most powerful passages of the Bible:

"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

As Christians, this promise – the promise of 'plans' for us, our welfare, our future – seen through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, has been fulfilled. This is the Gospel: God's plan for our salvation has been won for us through God's grace. This was the Good News that moved the 'saints' before us who knew God's love to witness to God's glory by worshipping together: this too was God's plan.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Brampton, formerly known as Brampton Presbyterian Church, was established in 1877 with the amalgamation of First Presbyterian Church (Brampton) and Knox Presbyterian Church (Brampton). Both the original Brampton congregations, First and Knox, were branches of rural congregations. First Presbyterian began as a branch of the Derry West, United Presbyterian congregation, in 1847. They worshiped in a school house on Queen Street, then built a church in 1848 on Church Street. Their first Minister was Rev. James Pringle.

(Historical Sketch: PCC Archives)

In 1847, one of three congregations started out of a missionary zeal to boldly bring God's Word to a newly settled area of Southern Ontario, what was then known as First Presbyterian Church was founded. Blessed by God's grace, in the 1870's the 'new congregation' now named Brampton Presbyterian Church had grown and new lands were found and plans for a new, grander, Church were formed. In 1880 the cornerstone was laid, and by 1881 the new Church that we inherited and enjoy was opened. By God's plan it was from these missionary beginnings that the congregation we know as St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Brampton grew. According to that plan for 170 years our founding sisters and brothers in Christ – and those who followed – witnessed to God's love by loving their neighbours by inviting generations of our neighbours to come to know and follow Christ.



Since our beginnings, St. Andrew's has labored to witness to God's glory: it has struggled, its people sacrificed, but it – and they – also prospered: together through faith they built up a heritage of faith and a legacy of witness that has, for over 170 years, transformed our community and countless lives. Now, it is our time to take up the joy of carrying out God's plan for Brampton and St. Andrew's.

This month we will be celebrating what God has done through the faithful who have worshipped in this place for 170 years but we will also be looking forward with expectation and faith to what God's plan hold for St. Andrew's future. I hope you will join us for our Anniversary celebrations and worship as we give thanks for God's favour over the past 170 years and for God's continued plan for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Brampton. May all that we say and do in His name be to God's glory!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. J. Ly'.