

DRAWN to the CROSS

"When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem." Luke 9:51

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrew's:

Just over one third of the way into the Gospel of Luke, the focus of both Jesus and Luke's Gospel turns toward Jerusalem – and the Cross. The above quote indicates that not only did Jesus have a plan, but that He knew how it would end. The phrase "set his face" is used twice in three verses to emphasize Jesus' determination and resolve to face what was coming – and what He came to be-with us to do. In our Good Friday reading, Jesus tells Pilot that "for this

I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth."(John 18:37) This Lent – our third Lent in COVID! – we will follow Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem as He is drawn to the Cross. Along the way – as we too are drawn to the Cross – we will examine how Jesus' testimony to God's "truth" calls us to be faithful and to place our lives in God's hands. A very welcomed reminder as we slowly emerge from the difficulties of the past two years!

As I write this, the Session has voted to resume our In-Person/In-Church worship services! This will happen on Sunday, February 13th and we invite you – as you are comfortable – to join us for worship. This is a timely announcement as the season of Lent starts with a return of our **Pre-Lent All Ages Event on Wednesday, March 2**nd at 6:30pm. This year's event – **Drawn to the Cross** – will include our annual **Ash Wednesday service at 7:30pm. The first Sunday of Lent will be on Sunday, March 6**th – **this will be Communion Sunday (please have your Communion elements ready before the service).** The next event of note will be the **Annual General Meeting on Sunday, March 27**th. This meeting will **be both In-Person/In-Church and via Zoom at 11:45am.** (The Zoom information can be found on the back of this letter.) Not to be forgotten is our annual **Lenten Bible Study** which begins on March 1st; **this year's focus is on the Places of the Passion**. For more information about our upcoming services and events, and for our **Eventbrite Registration page** – on which you can **register for all In-Person/In-Church worship services and other events** – go to our St. Andrew's website by using this link: https://standrewsbrampton.ca/. We hope to see you in Church and in person!

Once again, with this letter you will also find an Easter 2022 Offering envelope and a stamped Return envelope. This year the Session is dedicating the Easter Offering toward the much-needed replacing of the outdoor parking lot lights. Beyond this, though, St. Andrew's depends upon your generosity! With our "return to Church" your weekly offerings will enable us to resume our services, programs, and ministries. As they have over the past two years, your donations will make it possible for us to keep going! To help make it easier for you to support St. Andrew's, several options on how to give have been set up; you can read about them on the back of this letter.

In closing, I pray that God will keep you safe as we are Drawn to the Cross this Lent.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Geoffrey Ross

For registration for all of our In-Person/In-Church worships services and events:

All registration must take place either through our Eventbrite registration page or, if you cannot access the internet, by contacting Jean Bradshaw (Clerk of Session) or Kim Shepherd (Past Clerk). **To access the Eventbrite Registration page**, go to our website (https://standrewsbrampton.ca) and click on the **Eventbrite tab** and follow the instructions.

Zoom information for the Annual General Meeting: Sunday, March 27th - 11:45am

Three ways to join the St. Andrew's Annual General Meeting on Zoom

To join by computer, laptop, or tablet, click this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3752656843?pwd=ZnJtb3VGZkgxZjNxWGQvaUVseDJpUT09

<u>Meeting ID</u>: 375 265 6843 <u>Passcode</u>: 489011

To join by mobile telephone, use the numbers below:

One tap mobile: +17789072071,, 3752656843#,,,,,,0#,, 489011# Canada

+12042727920,,3752656843#,,,,,0#,,489011# Canada

To join the meeting by landline telephone:

<u>Dial by your location</u>: +1 778 907 2071; +1 204 272 7920; +1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099; +1 647 374 4685; +1 647 558 0588 Canada

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdMqxnPnvr

For the 2022 St. Andrew's Annual General Meeting Material:

When the material is available it will be posted on the St. Andrew's website; click on this link: https://standrewsbrampton.ca. Once there, click on the Session tab on the menu, and look for the links to the material.

Four Ways to Give to St. Andrew's in 2022 Including Giving Online

- **1. Give Online.** We recommend one of two **online Electronic Giving options** as the most immediate way of giving to St. Andrew's:
- 1a. First Option: Give by Interac e-Transfers. Go to your banking website, select Interac e-Transfer, use the email: treasurer@standrewsbrampton.ca as the designation for your donation, and enter the amount you wish to donate. It is very important that in the message area you indicate your name, envelope number and how you want the donation distributed.
- **1b. Second Option: Use the Online Donation page** on our website: https://standrewsbrampton.ca/donate/. For those donating this way, you will receive your tax receipt from Canada Helps, not from the Church. Please print and keep your own receipts.

PAR - Pre Authorized Remittance Plan

2. Join PAR: You can sign up for PAR – our Pre Authorized Remittance plan that enables you to give in pre-arranged, monthly amounts. The PAR registration form is located on our website – click here: https://standrewsbrampton.ca/donate/.

Want Your Offering Picked Up?

3. Give Us a Call. Another way to give is to call us to have your Envelope picked up, or to set up a time to drop it off at the Church. Contact Rev. Geoff Ross (647-524-1870) or Jean Bradshaw, Clerk of Session (905-872-0272), or your Elder.

Or, Put It In the Mail

4. Mail It In. Cheques (no cash please) can be mailed to the Church at 44 Church Street East, Brampton, ON L6V 1G3. The mail for St. Andrew's is being forwarded to our Clerk of Session, Jean Bradshaw. **NOTE: Please do NOT drop off cheques in the mailbox outside the Church at the entrance off Church Street.** Thank you for your generosity!