

St. Andrew Worship

September 4, 2022

Labor Day

Meeting Time

Sunday at 10:30 AM Worship

Dial: 669 900 9128

Zoom Meeting ID: 831 688 4211

Password: 9850

Use *6 to unmute your phone

We are glad that you are worshipping online with us this morning and pray that your experience here is a blessing to you. If you are a visitor and want to know more about the church, please visit our website for more information and to contact us: www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org

Welcome and Announcement

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands-- O prosper the work of our hands! (Ps. 90:17)

Our God, in the glory of late summer we come to worship reveling in the beauty of your handiwork. Give us insight this morning into how the work of our hands is part of the work of your hands. We join with you in lifting the heavyhearted, comforting the sorrowful, and calming the anxious. Fill us with the joy of service this morning. We pray all these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn 340

“This is My Song”

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is;

Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine. But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,

And skies are everywhere as blue as mine. So hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms: thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done. Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,

And hearts united learn to live as one. So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations: myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Fierce and Tender God, whose work is justice and whose delight is mercy: forgive us for ignoring the cries of the workers who labor under the tyranny of harassment and poverty. Free us from the system of greed that comforts our bodies and cresses our souls. Free us for a life of joyful resistance to evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves; through Jesus Christ our only Lord. Amen.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace (Responsive)

Hear the Good News: Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we have been forgiven and freed from sin.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Response: **Gloria Patri**

*Hymn 754

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

*Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.*

*Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.*

*Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.*

*Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;*

*To practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.*

*Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,*

*We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!*

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

*Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.*

First Lesson:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

Second Lesson:

Philemon 1:1-25

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own

heart, back to you.¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel,¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced.¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term,¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me.¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self.²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ.²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.²² One thing more: prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you,²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers.²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Sermon

“Going Back”

Rev. Anne McAnelly

*Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*)

We believe in the one God, Creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love. We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example and Redeemer, the Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength. We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need. We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice. We believe in the church, those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service. We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters. We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory

St. Andrew Virtual Choir

Doxology

Offering Prayer

Father, truly, we are your servants. In you, we live and move and have our being. We offer you our thanksgiving and call on your name. We love you, Lord, for you hear us and respond in graciousness and compassion and righteousness. You deliver our souls from death, our feet from stumbling, and our eyes from tears. Now receive our tithes and offerings, we pray. Multiply them so that your work and word can go forth. Amen.

Communion

INVITATION

As we come to Christ’s table this Labor Day weekend let us reflect as we hear these words from Jesus, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.” (from John 6:35)

Communion is a time to reflect on ourselves; that includes our priorities. What are you working for? Does your lifestyle say, “I’m working to get ahead (of what?); to keep up (with whom?); to have more (and why?)” Or does it say, “I work to provide for my family; other than that, my ambition is not for wealth but for Jesus Christ?” Words are not heard in the presence of action. As you take the Lord’s Supper, ask yourself: “Just who am I working for?”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

*Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.*

*May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.*

*Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work
and worth, let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.*

*Men and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.*

*Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life that surround
each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.*

*Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.*

Benediction