

St. Andrew Worship

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January 1, 2023
New Year's Day
Meeting Time
Sunday at 10:30 AM Worship

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 (based on Psalm 8)

We gather here in this sacred space, O God to lift up Your glorious name. At the start of this new year, we continue to be amazed by Your Creation,

Your heavens, with the multitude of stars in the vastness of space; the secrets found in the depths of your oceans; the majesty of your tallest mountaintops and the roar of your waterfalls; the splendor of your desert in bloom after a rainfall; and the vast expanse of the African savanna.

You have set your glory above all the heavens and yet still care for us. You gave us responsibility for your creation giving us the power over the works of your hands. You shaped us in your image and filled our world with your creations, the sheep and oxen and all the beasts of the field, the birds of the air and the fish of the seas.

We lift up our hearts and our hands in praise and thanksgiving for your Creation.

*Hymn 611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.*

*Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.*

*Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.*

*Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

We come to you this day, gracious Lord, exhausted from all the activities of the season. It seems that we spend so much energy, time, and resources in preparation, and then when it is over, we collapse. We wonder what happened to all the enthusiasm we had. Lord, forgive us for placing our energies in getting and gathering. Give us peace and strength to renew our commitment to you. Remind us again to look around at the many ways in which we can be of service to you by serving others. Help us move forward in our compassion and not collapse in our witness. Heal us, merciful Lord, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Though the world swirls around you and exhaustion threatens to overtake you, rest your spirits in the great God of all creation who is with you now and forever! God will give you strength and restore your spirits. AMEN.

Prayers of the People

“Lord Listen to Your Children Praying”

*Hymn 137

“He Came Down”

*He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;*

*He came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah forevermore.*

Leader: Why did he come?

*He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;*

*He came down that we may have light;
Hallelujah forevermore.*

Leader: Why did he come?

*He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;*

*He came down that we may have peace;
Hallelujah forevermore.*

Leader: Why did he come?

*He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;*

*He came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forevermore.*

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, we call upon you to open our eyes and hearts to your Word and your Spirit today, so we may be able to discern your guiding voice and to seek to be your faithful servants. Stir our imaginations and help us to be your creative stewards in sharing your Good News in word and in deed. Amen.

First Testament Lesson:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

¹ For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born and a time to die;

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill and a time to heal;

a time to break down and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose;

a time to keep and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew;

a time to keep silent and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love and a time to hate;

a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹ What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³ moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

Sermon

“Turn, Turn, Turn”

Rev. Karla Kress

Offertory

Invitation to Offering

Let us put our trust in the Living God, who is faithful. Let us praise God for the abundance of creation in the sharing of our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. *Amen.*

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Generous Love, bless these offerings. Stir up the gifts within for your glory, show your provision through the sharing of our resources, and empower us to steward our days as precious and holy. Amen

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

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 to give thanks and praise.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, whose Spirit is working for peace among us and within us; you have called us to be your people, and have invited us to break bread in common faith. We thank you for all things that make for unity in this world: for open minds and hearts, for patient understanding, for the power of love. Above all, we thank you for your Son, who prays for us, that we may be one in charity toward each other serving him who is our head, Christ Jesus, who taught us to pray, “Our Father....

*Hymn 853

“We are Marching in the Light of God”

*We are marching in the light of God;
we are marching in the light of God.*

*We are marching in the light of God;
we are marching in the light of, the light of God.*

*We are dancing in the light of God;
we are dancing in the light of God.*

*We are dancing in the light of God;
we are dancing in the light of, the light of God.*

*We are praying in the light of God;
we are praying in the light of God.*

*We are praying in the light of God;
we are praying in the light of, the light of God.*

*We are singing in the light of God;
we are singing in the light of God.*

*We are singing in the light of God;
we are singing in the light of, the light of God.*

Benediction

You are the people of Christ, the people of the New Jerusalem. You have been claimed by God. Look bravely into the future and see the promise of the new year. See the abundance of God's gifts in the world. Feel the presence of God in the world with you and go forward in God's strength, love and grace. Amen.