

St. Andrew Worship

Dial: 669 900 9128
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January 29, 2023
Annual Congregational Meeting
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 (*Responsive*)

People of God, who do you come to worship?

We come to worship the one true God.

How will you worship?

***Not with words alone, but by living lives
of justice and love.***

Come, you who belong to God.

Come, you who are blessed.

***Come and abide in God's tent and in God's heart,
now and forever.***

*Hymn 172

"Blest Are They"

Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.

Refrain:

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.

Refrain

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God.

Refrain

Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.

Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.

Refrain

Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.

Rejoice, be glad; yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.

Refrain

Prayer of Confession (*Responsive*)

The grace of God is with you.

And also with you.

Trusting in God's tender mercy, let us confess our sin to God with one another.

God of love, we confess we are broken, and for that we mourn.

We are in need of grace.

We are brokenhearted, hungry and thirsting for righteousness.

We have not always been merciful, but we ask your mercy.

We are not whole by ourselves, but only in you.

*Receive us with grace, heal our wounds
and forgive the sin that rises out of them.*

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

God has called us and blesses us when we live God's ways and not the world's. God's love embraces us even when we fall short of what God desires for our lives and actions. Know that the God of blessing loves and forgives us with a fierce tenderness. And in so knowing, may our lives and souls be transformed.

Response: Gloria Patri

Anthem

"I Thank You, Lord" by Joseph M. Martin

St. Andrew Choir

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

"Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"

*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*)

*Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may
receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. Amen.*

First Lesson:

Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Second Lesson:

Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon

“Humbled and Blessed”

Rev. Anne McAnelly

*Affirmation (Unison)

We believe in God, creator of all things, ruler of all that is and all that is to come; whose reign is one of grace, mystery and loveliness; and who is transforming the world into a realm of justice and mercy. We follow Jesus, who trusted God, who taught and healed, who died and rose, revealing God’s abundant grace. He reigns in love over all Creation, and sends disciples to embody God’s grace and to participate in the Reign of God in all that we do. We rely upon the unfailing grace of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit, the community of the church as the Body of Christ, the unity of all believers, the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection and the alluring blessing of eternal life. Therefore, by the grace of God, we devote ourselves to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God, in the name and the Spirit of Christ, for the glory of God and the transformation of the world. Amen.

Offertory

Piano, Don Adkins

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Gracious God, we give you our lives, symbolized in these gifts. Receive them with love, bless them with grace and use them according to your will. Strengthen our hearts to trust your grace, to be your peacemakers, to do justice, practice kindness, and walk humbly with you, for the sake of the healing of the world, in the name of Christ. Amen.

*Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!*

*We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.*

*We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.*

*Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!*

*We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence will be no more.*

*We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.*

*Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!*

*God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.*

*We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.*

Benediction