

St. Andrew Worship

January 8, 2023

Dial: 669 900 9128

Zoom Meeting ID: 831 688 4211

Password: 9850

Use *6 to unmute your phone

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)

God's voice speaks to our chaos, echoing in our empty hearts.

gathering us together to remember our baptism.

God's voice flows like the living waters of grace,

our new name, 'Beloved,' resounding in our souls.

God's voice stirs the waters of baptismal hope,

calling us to be bearers of peace to a world of broken hopes.

*Hymn 475

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

***Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.***

***Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!***

***Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.***

***Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.***

***O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.***

***Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.***

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

by Scott Bullock

God of all creation, who hovered over the deep at the beginning, who spoke light into darkness, who split the heavens open and descended upon the Son of God in the waters of the Jordan, who created us in his image, who declared that each one of us is fearfully and wonderfully made; we have forgotten. We have forgotten who we are and whose we are. Our identity as beloved children has been obscured by a wealth of wrong-doing and wrong-thinking. Nevertheless, you have not forgotten us. You have cued up in the baptismal line yourself and entered into the waters with us, to show us our true humanity, our true identity. Forgive us, we pray for our forgetfulness of who we are. Let us not forget our own baptism and what it signifies. Cleanse us by the power of your Spirit so that we may once again walk in the understanding of that truth.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

Hear the good news: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ lives in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is of the New Creation. The old life is finished, gone. Behold, new life has begun. Brothers and Sisters, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer "Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"

*Hymn 486

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

*Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits; into joy and laughter lead.*

*Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.*

*Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to listen for God's call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; trust and love God more than all.*

Prayer of Illumination (Responsive)

Creator Spirit, who hovered over the waters at creation's birth, who descended in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism, who was poured out under the signs of fire and wind at Pentecost: Come to us, open our hearts and minds, so that we may hear the Word of life and be renewed by your power, for you live and reign with God and Christ now and forevermore. *Amen.*

First Lesson:

Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
⁵ Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶ I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Second Lesson:

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Sermon

"At the Jordan River"

Rev. Anne McAnelly

Reaffirmation of Baptism

Sisters and brothers in Christ:
through the sacrament of baptism
God's Spirit has been poured out upon water,
water poured over and immersing us,
water that flows freely for all who will receive it,
water from the streams of God's saving power and justice,
water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,
water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.
Today we come to the waters,
to renew our commitments in each other's presence
to Christ who has raised us,
the Spirit who has birthed us,
and the Creator who is making all things new.

Pour the water from the Jordan River

Through baptism God gave us a gracious sign of love and hope in Christ.
Hear again the promises God has made to us in Christ.

Baptism is the sign and seal of God's promises to this covenant people.

In baptism God promises by grace alone to forgive our sins, to adopt us into the body of Christ, the church, to send the Holy Spirit daily to renew and cleanse us, and to resurrect us to eternal life.

This promise is made visible in the water of baptism. Water cleanses, purifies, refreshes, sustains; Jesus Christ is living water.

Through baptism Christ calls us to new obedience: to love and trust God completely, to forsake the evil of the world, and to live a new and holy life.

Let us pray: Spirit of the Living God, hover once more over us as you did at creation, energizing us with your life, that as we remember our baptism in Christ, we may be an open conduit of your Holy Spirit flooding all of creation with blessings of your abundant, redeemed life. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus, the living water, to your glory we pray. Amen.

You are invited to come forward reaffirming your baptism in water from the Jordan. Pause at the water, feel the water, take a baptismal stone from the water. And when you are ready make a sign of the cross on your forehead before receiving an olive wood cross from Bethlehem. May the cross and the stone help you recall the power of this moment, your reaffirmation of your baptism in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Offertory

Piano, Don Adkins

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Unison)

O Lord, we give you thanks with all we are for all you have done for us. In your divinity you have come to dwell with us in the muddy waters of humanity, and comingled your glory with our sin so that the ribbon of corrupting time is becoming a sparkling River of Life flowing through our days. Take all we are, Lord, and use it for your purpose. Bless the gifts we give this day that the church might stand as shining witnesses to your glory, planted by your living water to bring healing to all peoples. Use us as you will to the praise of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn 488

“I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”

*“I was there to hear your boring cry; I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.*

*I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.”*

*“When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong.*

*If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.”*

*“In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I’ll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I’ve begun.*

*When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I’ll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.”*

*“I was there to hear your boring cry; I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.”*

Benediction