

# St. Andrew Worship

February 12, 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](http://www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org)

## Welcome and Announcement

### \*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Children of God: welcome!

***Welcome to this place of love and grace,***

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

***God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,***

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

***We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.***

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

### \*Hymn 410

*“God Is Calling through the Whisper”*

***God is calling through the whisper  
of the Spirit’s deepest sighs,  
through the thrill of sudden beauties  
that can catch us by surprise.***

***Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;  
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:***

***Refrain:***

***God is calling—can you hear?***

***God is calling—can you hear?***

***God is calling through the voices  
of our neighbors’ urgent prayers,  
through their longing for redemption  
and for rescue from despair.***

***Place of hurt or face of needing;  
strident cry or silent pleading:***

***Refrain***

***God is calling through the music of  
sublime and human arts,  
through the hymns of earth and angels,  
and the carols of our hearts.***

***Lift of joy and gift of singing;  
days and nights our praises bringing:***

***God is calling—and we hear!***

***God is calling—and we hear!***

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

*We pause this morning to confess our sin to You. We enter into confession with both gratitude and reluctance. We're grateful we have a gracious God to whom we can confess, but we're reluctant that a deep confession might push the limits of that grace. So we confess, but not too deeply. We admit our wrongdoing but omit the specifics. Yet You know our hearts, O Lord. You see what is done in secret. You hear our anxious thoughts and know our evil deeds. Forgive us for our deceptiveness even in our confession. Lead us into the depths of our brokenness, that we may experience the heights of Your love. And then teach us how to exhibit Your love to a world that is broken. In the Name Jesus Christ, Amen.*

*Time for silent reflection.*

Assurance of Grace (Responsive)

The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

*In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!*

Gloria Patri

Anthem

*"Oh Peter, Go Ring Dem Bells"*

St. Andrew Choir

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*"Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"*

\*Hymn 688

*"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"*

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;*

*Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,  
and make me love thee as I ought to love.*

*I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,  
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,*

*No angel visitant, no opening skies;  
but take the dimness of my soul away.*

*Hast thou not bid us love thee,  
God and King; all, all thine own,  
soul, heart, and strength, and mind?*

*I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!*

*Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh.  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,*

*To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh.  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.*

*Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,  
one holy passion filling all my frame;*

*The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,  
my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.*

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

*Everlasting God, whose tenacious love holds us: make our hearts the house of your truth, and make our minds the realm of your wisdom so that our fellowship will become your dwelling place, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### First Lesson:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If 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. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I 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. <sup>19</sup>I 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, <sup>20</sup>loving 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:

Matthew 5:21-37

<sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder,’ and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

<sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

<sup>31</sup>“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup>“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ <sup>34</sup>But I say to you: Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

### Sermon

“Murder, Adultery and Divorce”

Rev. Anne McAnelly

### \*Affirmation

***In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

Offertory

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Unison)

*Gracious God, accept these gifts, and with them our lives,  
to be used in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

\*Hymn 774

*“There Is Now a New Creation”*

*There is now a new creation  
through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
peace and reconciliation with  
the God of endless life.*

*Call the lost and found together;  
tell the news to everyone:  
now the past is gone forever  
and a new life has begun.*

*Wrap the prodigal in welcome;  
run to greet the wayward child.  
All is finished and forgiven;  
let us now be reconciled.*

*Come and join the celebration;  
come and join this happy feast;  
Jesus makes an invitation to  
the greatest and the least.*

*There is now a new creation  
through the grace of Jesus Christ.  
Sing, with thanks and adoration,  
to the God of endless life!*

Benediction