

St. Andrew Worship

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February 26, 2023
1st Sunday in Lent
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

Minute 4 Mission

“Santa Cruz al Salvador”

Karla Kress

Threshold Moment - *Hymn 618 “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

*O love, how deep, how broad, how high, beyond all thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.*

*For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew, for us, the tempter overthrew.*

*For us by wickedness betrayed, for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death; for us gave up his dying breath.*

*For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent the Spirit hereto guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.*

*All glory to our Lord and God, for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.*

*Call to Worship (Responsive) by Austin D. Hill

From dust you have come,
And to dust you shall return.

But about that day or hour
No one knows.

Not even the angels in heaven,
Nor the Son, but only the Father.

Lord of all, we submit ourselves to your merciful care this day.

*Hymn 166

“Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”

***Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.***

***As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.***

***And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.***

***Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.***

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Lord, Holy One, have mercy on us. We confess our sins to you. We have fallen short of your glory and without your mercy and grace, we would be dust. We repent now. From dust we might have been formed, but our bodies, our spirits, ourselves, await beautiful redemption and the restoration of all things. Lord, as we enter into this Lenten season, be near to us. Help us, by your Holy Spirit, to feel right conviction and repentance for our sin. Help us, by your Spirit, to have the strength to overcome darkness.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace (based on Joel 2:13)

Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Turn toward your God in the confidence that, through Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Gloria Patri

Anthem

“Forty Days, Forty Nights” by Don Adkins

St. Andrew Choir

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

*Hymn 783

“When We are Tested”

***When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,***

***Nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.***

***When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,***

***Lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.***

***When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the power to control,***

***Teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.***

***When we have struggled and searched through
the night, sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,***

***Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.***

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

O God, you know us better than we know ourselves. As the scriptures are read, we will listen for your voice. By your Spirit lead us out of our fears and into the knowledge of your love, through Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of our souls. Amen.

First Lesson:

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, 17a, 19

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

¹⁷ And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Second Lesson:

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Sermon

“Ash Sunday”

Rev. Anne McAnelly

Response to the Word – Releasing our Sin, Receiving our Ashes (Post It note)

Take a moment to write a sin you would like to give to God, that weight you carry around that you want God to handle. Write a word or phrase on your post it note. Then you can bring it with you give it to God, before receiving ashes.

Prayer:

Today we receive the smudges of ashes. We come forward and are marked as disciples, as those who have been called, cleansed, forgiven, and healed. We do not step foot on this journey lightly - for it will not be easy. There will be times of great joy and wonder; and there will be times of confusion and fear. But through all of this, God is with us, guiding, comforting, leading us. We have raised in prayer names of those we love who need your healing mercies, O Lord. We have lifted up situations of pain, loneliness in confidence of your amazing grace. We surrender our personal prayer at your feet, leaning into your love. Though there is much darkness in the world, we will place our trust in your Son, whom you have blessed and given to us. Help us to follow in His steps and place our trust in Him as we enter this Lenten journey; for it is in His name that we pray. AMEN.

(Come forward with your note to receive your ashes)

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

Offertory

“Prayer” by Susan Henry

Eileen Mihm, Flute

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Holy God, as we start the journey of Lent give us a will of repentance, a mind of sacrificial love, and a heart of gratitude. Indeed, you are “gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love...” We offer our gifts and our whole selves, asking that you might strengthen us for the journey, in the name of Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

*Hymn 833

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

*O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its
flow may richer, fuller be.*

*O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy that sleekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.*

*O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.*

Benediction