

St. Andrew Worship

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March 12, 2023
3rd 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

Threshold Moment

Hymn 618

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High” (v. 1-2)

*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.*

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Jesus bids us welcome. He brings peace and forgiveness.

Yet we dwell in the midst of doubt and fear.

Jesus bids us welcome. He brings hope and healing.

But we persist in our ways of stubbornness and greed.

Jesus, come among us once more and bring us your word of Peace.

Open our hearts, our spirits, our souls to receive your healing Word. AMEN.

*Hymn 386

“Come. Worship God”

***Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;
enter God's presence with thanks and a song!***

***You are the rock of your people's salvation
to whom our jubilant praises belong.***

***Ruled by your might are the heights of the mountains;
held in your hands are the depths of the earth.***

***Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,
God above all gods, who gave us our birth.***

***We are your people, the sheep of your pasture;
you are our Maker, and to you we pray.***

***Gladly we kneel in obedience before you;
great is the one whom we worship this day!***

***Now let us listen, for you speak among us;
open our hearts to receive what you say.***

***Peace be to all who remember your goodness,
trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!***

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of living waters, we confess that we have often turned from you and wandered in our own wildernesses of fear and doubt. Our thirst mounts daily, seeking to be quenched by your redeeming love. Yet, when that love is offered to us, we again turn away, unable to truly believe that you would actually heal and love us. We have behaved in unloving ways. We have chosen to ignore those in need or to deal only passively with them. Our hearts are not placed in service to others, but rather in self-serving motives. Heal us, merciful God. Wash us again in the living water. Help us be faithful servants. AMEN

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

The waters of mercy and healing are poured over you.
God is loving and faithful to those who come to God.
Come, seek the loving presence and be healed. AMEN.

Gloria Patri

Anthem

"Standing On the Promises"

St. Andrew Choir

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer "O' Lord, Hear My Prayer"

*Hymn 479

"Ho, All Who Thirst"

Refrain:

*Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water, and
all whose souls are parched and weary, come and drink!*

*Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water, and
from your heart will flow a never-failing spring!*

End Refrain

*Why forsake the Lord, the fount of living water,
choosing broken cups that cannot be filled?*

Refrain

*For the Lamb will be our shepherd and will guide us
to the wellsprings of the water of life.*

Refrain

*All who come may take this gift of living water.
They will thirst no more, for they shall be filled.*

Refrain

Prayer of Illumination (Responsive)

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace. *Amen.*

First Lesson:

Psalm 95

¹ O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ³ For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. ⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice! ⁸ Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, ⁹ when your ancestors tested me and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. ¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways." ¹¹ Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."

Second Lesson:

John 4:5-42

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Sermon

"Don't Ask Questions, You Don't Want the Answer To"

Rev. Anne McAnelly

*Affirmation (Unison)

***We believe in God, maker of all things, provider of all things, who loves all people.
We follow Jesus, in whom salvation has come to us: he sees us for who we are,
heals the wounds of our hearts, and makes us new.***

***In his death and resurrection we see the deepest truth of life.
We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us for self-giving love.
We give thanks for the Church, the Body of Christ, and for the gift of forgiveness,
the power of resurrection and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.***

Offertory

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology

Offering Prayer (*Unison*)

Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer, at your table we present this money, symbol of the work you have given us to do; use it, use us, in the service of your world to the glory of your name. Amen.

*Hymn 182

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."*

*I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad; I
found him in a resting place, and he has made me glad.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."*

*I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my
thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."*

*I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and
in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.*

Benediction