

# St. Andrew Worship

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March 26, 2023  
*5th 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](http://www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org)

## Welcome and Announcement

### Minute 4 Mission

“One Great Hour of Sharing” Special Offering

Marian Langdon

### Threshold Moment

#### Hymn 618

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High” (v. 1 & 4)

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

### \*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Fear had gripped the friends and family of Lazarus.

***But Jesus released the bonds of fear when he released the bonds of death from Lazarus.***

We fear death and tremble at the thought of it.

***Jesus conquers our fears and releases the bonds of death.***

Lord, help us hear your words of hope and courage.

***Lord, give us open hearts and spirits to receive your healing love. AMEN.***

### \*Hymn 796

“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

*We come to you for healing, Lord,  
of body, mind, and soul,  
and pray that by your Spirit's touch  
we may again be whole.*

*As once you walked through ancient streets  
and reached toward those in pain,  
we know you come among us still  
with power to heal again.*

*You touch us through physicians' skills,  
through nurses' gifts of care,  
and through the love of faithful friends  
who lift our lives in prayer.*

*Through nights of pain and wakefulness,  
through days when strength runs low,  
grant us your gift of patience, Lord,  
your calming peace to know.*

*We come to you, O loving Lord,  
in our distress and pain,  
in trust that through our nights and days  
your grace will heal, sustain.*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

***God, we confess that we are frightened by death. We have experienced the loss of loved ones and have heard, all too often, of the horrible losses sustained by the young people who live in lands of warfare and strife. Today we encounter Lazarus and his family. They, too, long for Lazarus to be alive again. Jesus' power to resurrect Lazarus confuses us. We long for that type of healing for our loved ones. And so, when their bodies cannot be healed and they die, we slip away from our faith, proclaiming that it is a nice story. Give us courage to face our fear. Give us awareness that you have offered to all those who have gone before us, a place in your kingdom. Help us move away from the prison of death to the light of eternal life and hope. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.***

*Time for silent reflection.*

Assurance of Grace

Though darkness and death appear all around, there is the comforting healing light of God's love shining on you and in you. Feel the warmth of the presence of God and let go of your fear, for God is with you. AMEN.

Gloria Patri

Anthem

*"The Staff of Faith"*

St. Andrew Choir

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

\*Hymn (See Insert)

*"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"*

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:

Ezekiel 37:1-6, 11-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Second Lesson:

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

Sermon

"Death within the Family of Faith"

Rev. Anne McAnelly

\*Affirmation (Unison)

***We believe in God, Father, Creator and Creating;  
who gives us steadfast love, and shares with us our joy,  
and sustains us in our suffering. God's power is open to us; we trust him.***

***We follow Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Man.  
His death is our victory, his resurrection is our hope;  
in him the Word became flesh; in him we are offered  
forgiveness from sin, renewal from failure, reconciliation  
from brokenness, release from despair.***

***We are guided by the Holy Spirit, God's presence in the world.***

***By the Spirit we are called into Christ's Church,  
to celebrate his love, to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
to share with him in Baptism and to eat at his Table.***

***Because we are his disciples, his pilgrim people,  
we joyfully covenant with each other to walk together in love,  
to pray for one another, to care for one another,  
to live in Koinonia, in life, in death, in life beyond death.***

***God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.***

Doxology

Offering Prayer (*Unison*)

*Almighty and restoring God, we have been living through some difficult days, as churches and as individuals. We experience days when we rise, wondering if we will make it through one more day, whether the church will survive for another generation; and we feel like those dry bones in the valley. As we offer our tithes and offerings, help us to hear the word of hope the prophet shares, not just with our ears but with our hearts. May it call us back to life and service, out of the graves of despair in which we have buried ourselves. In Christ's holy name. Amen.*

\*Hymn 53

*"O God, Who Gives Us Life" (alt. tune Kingsfold)*

*O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:*

*Deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.*

*O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,  
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:*

*When we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,  
refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.*

*O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,  
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.*

*Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,  
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.*

Benediction