

# St. Andrew Worship

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**March 5, 2023**  
**2nd 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

### Threshold Moment

#### Hymn 618

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

### \*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Do we dare place our trust in God?

***God has promised to be with us to guide us.***

Are we willing to continue on the journey when we don't know the dangers and are not sure of the destination?

***No matter what, God is with us. That's the promise and the hope.***

Let us step forward boldly, listening for God's call in our lives.

***Let us place our trust in God always. Amen.***

### \*Hymn 366

*“Love Divine, All Love Excelling”*

***Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown.***

***Jesus, thou art all compassion;  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.***

***Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find the promised rest.***

***Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.***

***Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.***

*Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above, pray,  
and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:*

*Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

*Lord, we are such stubborn people. We want to know all the answers. We find it hard to place our trust even in your Son. When Jesus proclaims that we can have a new life, we want to know how that is possible. How can we get rid of the old burdens and difficulties and start over again? Wouldn't it be just like climbing back into the womb to make a fresh start? How we have misunderstood what Jesus said. New life is possible. We can place our trust in God's healing care. Forgive us and help us, gracious Lord. For we ask this in Jesus' name.*

*Time for silent reflection.*

Assurance of Grace

New life is given to you.  
You can place your trust in God and follow God's way.  
God is with you. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Prayers of the People

“Come and Fill”

\*Hymn 496

“Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed” (alt tune Toplady, 438)

*Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,  
for thou art our food indeed.  
Ever may our souls be fed with  
this true and living bread,  
day by day with strength supplied  
through the life of Christ who died.*

*Vine of heaven, thy love supplies  
this blest cup of sacrifice.  
'Tisthy wounds our healing give;  
to thy cross we look and live.  
Thou our life! O let us be rooted,  
grafted, built on thee.*

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

*God who is with us, guide us by your Word.  
Help us to again receive you in the flesh.  
May the Promised One lead us in wisdom and truth  
and may we be sustained by Christ who is the Bread of Life.  
AMEN*

First Lesson:

Psalm 121

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.  
<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
<sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.  
<sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day  
nor the moon by night.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.  
<sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

Second Lesson:

John 3:1-17

<sup>3</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Sermon

“The Cradle God Keeps”

Rev. Anne McAnelly

Offertory

*“Bread of Sorrows”*

St. Andrew Choir

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Responsive)

God of the wilderness, We give these offerings in gratitude,  
***rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.***

We give these offerings in faith,  
***trusting that you will provide for our needs.***

We give these offerings in hope,  
***knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.***

And with these offerings, we give ourselves;

***May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen***

## Communion

### Invitation

....Come, then, for all is ready.

*We come not because we ought, but because we may,  
not because we are righteous, but because we are penitent,  
not because we are strong, but because we are weak,  
not because we are whole, but because we are broken.*

### Thanksgiving Prayer

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

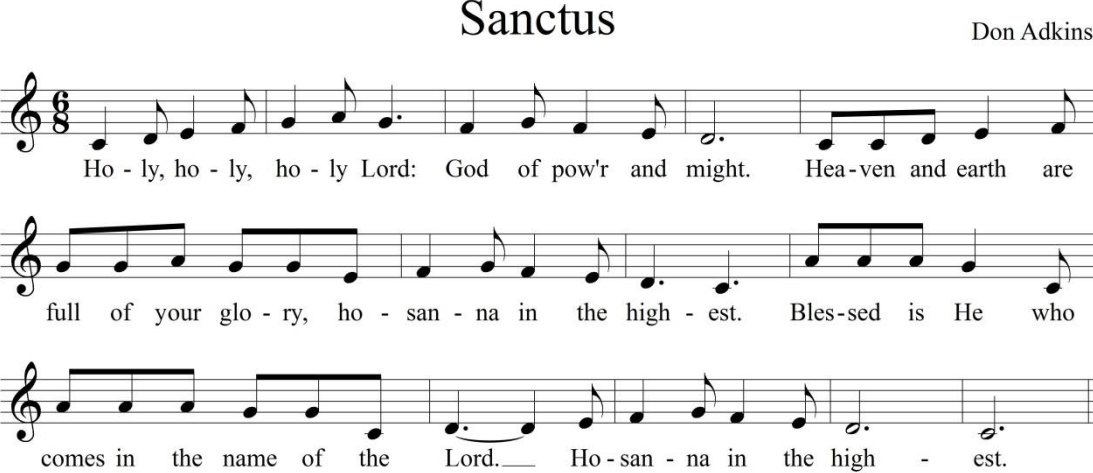
Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them up to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right for us to give thanks and praise.*

**Sanctus** Don Adkins



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord: God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are  
full of your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bles-sed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### \*Hymn 215

#### *“What Wondrous Love Is This”*

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

*What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord  
of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul,  
for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down,*

*When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!*

*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;*

*To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and through eternity I'll sing on.*

## Benediction