

St. Andrew Worship

Dial: 669 900 9128
Zoom Meeting ID: 831 688 4211
Password: 9850

June 11, 2023
Sunday at 10:30 AM

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

*Call to Worship (Responsive) by Beth Merrill Neel

When I think of God's presence in the world, I am grateful:

Grateful for the presence of hope; grateful for the gift of life.

And when I think of God's presence in my life, I am humbled:

Humbled by the gift of grace; humbled by the invitation to begin again.

And when I think of God's presence in this community, I am glad:

Glad to be surrounded by holy people worshipping our Holy God.

Thank you all; thank you, God.

*Hymn 157

"I Danced in the Morning"

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I
danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At
Bethlehem I had my birth.*

Refrain { *Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the
Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.* }

*I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but
they would not dance and they would not follow me. I
danced for the fishermen, for James and John. They
came with me and the dance went on.*

Refrain

*I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame. The
holy people said it was a shame. They
whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
left me there on a cross to die.*

Refrain

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black. It's
hard to dance with the devil on your back. They
buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but
I am the dance and I still go on.*

Refrain

*They cut me down and I leapt up high.
I am the life that will never, never die. I'll
live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.*

Refrain

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, you are always drawing the circle of your love wider, but often we resist. You tell us that all people are your beloved, and we ask, "Why?" "Why them?" "Even them?!" We are quick to judge others rather than being grateful that we, too, are included in the fold. We prioritize the privileged, the powerful and the people who look and act right, but you extend grace first to the sinner, the outcast and the marginalized. Forgive us, O God. Transform us, that we may show mercy as you show mercy. Amen.

(Time for silent reflection)

Assurance of Grace (Responsive)

Our prayers of confession come close to God's heart because God is merciful and gracious and eager to say: "I forgive you." Let us receive God's forgiveness with a resounding "Amen!" **Amen!**

Gloria Patri

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

"Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"

*Hymn 161

"Woman in the Night"

*Woman in the night, spent from giving birth,
guard our precious light; peace is on the earth.*

*Woman in the crowd, creeping up behind,
touching is allowed: seek and you will find!*

Refrain { *Come and join the song, women, children, men.
Jesus makes us free to live again!* }

*Woman at the well, question the Messiah;
find your friends and tell: drink your heart's desire!*

*Woman at the feast, let the righteous stare;
come and go in peace; love him with your hair!*

Refrain

*Woman in the house, nurtured to be meek,
leave your second place, listen, think, and speak!
Woman on the road, from your sickness freed,
witness and provide, joining word and deed:*

Refrain

*Women on the hill, stand when men have fled;
Christ needs loving still, though your hope is dead.*

*Women in the dawn, care and spices bring,
earliest to mourn, earliest to sing!*

Refrain

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

God beyond all knowing, you are shrouded in wonder and mystery and yet as close to us as our very breath. By your Spirit, illuminate our hearts and minds through your Word, that we may follow you more faithfully. Amen

First Lesson:

Hosea 5:15-6:6

¹⁵ I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor:

“Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. ² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. ³ Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.” ⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. ⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. ⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Second Lesson:

Matthew 9:9-13

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹² But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

Sermon

“Tax Collectors and Sinners”

Rev. Anne McAnelly

*Affirmation (Unison) (Adapted from the Confession of 1967)

We believe in Jesus Christ, the realization of true humanity.

*Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people,
sharing their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows.*

Expressing God’s love in word and deed,

he became a friend to sinners, and a refuge for those cast aside.

Many rejected him and demanded his death,

but he gave himself freely, with mercy and love.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

vindicating him as Messiah and Lord.

The victim of sin became the victor,

conquering death for all people.

In Christ Jesus, love gets the final word.

Offertory

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Gracious God, you are the giver of all good gifts. Receive these offerings and use them for your work in the world until “thy kingdom come.” Amen.

*Hymn 177

“I Will Come to You”

“I will come to you in the silence;

I will lift you from all your fear.

You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.

“I am hope for all who are hopeless;

I am eyes for all who long to see. In the

shadows of the night, I will be your light.

Come and rest in me.

Refrain { ***Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.”*** }

“I am strength for all the despairing,

healing for the ones who dwell in shame.

All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and

all will know my name.

Refrain

“I am the Word that leads all to freedom;

I am the peace the world cannot give.

I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand

up, now walk and live!

Refrain

Benediction