

St. Andrew Worship Program

Join Service on Zoom

Dial: 669 900 9128

Zoom Meeting ID: 831 688 4211

Password: 9850

July 16, 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)

God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits....

So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won't take root....

God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits....

Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live.

God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits....

These are the places of deep growth where the seed will cast down strong roots.

Welcome this day to a seed-scattering station!

May our hearts be the rich soil in which God's love takes root. AMEN.

*Hymn 32

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

*I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty
skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them
good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!*

*There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy
throne, while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Seed-scattering God, we come to you this day with so many things on our hearts and minds. Some of the events this week have been very positive and have caused us to celebrate; but we are constantly besieged by worries, doubts and fears. These negative things crowd out your word and we become like the useless soil, unable to receive and grow. Slow us down. Continue to pour your love on us because we really hunger and thirst for it. Forgive us when we allow all the negativity to drown out your word. Scatter again the seeds of peace, love, hope and joy that we may be better disciples for you in this world which is in so much pain. (Silent confession)

Assurance of Grace (Responsive)

Here's the Good News! God is never going to stop showering us with God's love..... all the time, everywhere.....always for us. Hallelujah!

Gloria Patri (Unison)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, _____ Lord, send your
Spir - it in this place; _____ Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren
pray - ing, _____ send us love, send us power, send us grace. _____

*Hymn

"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

(Insert, Nyland)

*We plow the fields and scatter The good seed on the land,
But if is fed and watered By God's almighty hand;
God sends the snow in winter, The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine And soft, refreshing rain.*

*You only are the Maker Of all things near and far;
You paint the wayside flower, You light the evening star;
The winds and waves obey You, By You the birds are fed;
Much more to us, Your children, You give our daily bread.*

*We thank You, then, Creator, For all things bright and good,
The seed-time and the harvest, Our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer, For all Your love imparts,
And what You most would welcome, Our humble, thankful hearts.*

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

Send your Spirit among us, O God, as we meditate on your love.

*Prepare our minds to hear your Word, move our hearts to embrace what we hear,
and strengthen our will to follow your way. This we pray through Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

First Lesson:

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹² For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Second Lesson:

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison) - by Rev. David Inglis

We are God's work of art—each one of us a precious gem, a marvelous melody, a potter's delight.

We are God's handiwork—woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.

We are the church of Jesus Christ—diverse in human qualities, but united in our call to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

We are the Body of Christ—living in his truth, sharing his peace, carrying his hope, embodying his love, throughout the world he loved so much.

We are here to be reminded once more who we are, whose we are and what our lives are about.

We are here to be uplifted, renewed and empowered to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working in and among us. We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new.

Offertory

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Gardener God, thank you for all the blessings you have poured into our lives. Receive these gifts that they may become seeds of hope and love. AMEN.

*Hymn 171

"A Sower Came from Ancient Hills"

A Sower came from ancient hills and cast good seed abroad: his field, ten thousand human hearts; his seed, the word of God. And some who listened would not hear, and some who heard forgot. But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower taught.

A Sower walked throughout the land and, everywhere he trod, he sowed his life because he was himself the Seed of God. But then, atop a barren hill, beneath a darkening sky, they threw God's Seed on stony ground and left it there to die.

The Seed was buried deep in death beneath a blood-red sky, and deeper still was buried hope for those who watched him die. But then, in Joseph's garden fair, as dawn broke o'er the land, the Seed, from three days' silent sleep, awoke at God's command!

O Christ, you come among us still, the Sower and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in glowing word and deed, Implant your Word in waiting hearts, and let it there take hold, until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundredfold.

Benediction