

St. Andrew Worship

July 23, 2023

Sunday at 10:30 AM

Service Online

Join Zoom Meeting:

Dial: 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 831 688 4211

Password: 9850

Live Streaming on YouTube:

@standrewpresbyterianchurch4863

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)

Come, children of God, rejoice in your Maker!

We sing songs and hymns, old and new;

We celebrate with voices and instruments, with praise and prayers!

Open your eyes to the life-giving presence of Jesus Christ.

For God is already here,

among us and within us,

bringing new life to all who believe.

LET US PRAISE GOD TOGETHER!

*Hymn 367

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.

God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.

Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield,

wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.

First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.

Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;

from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away;

Give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,

but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.

Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,

There forever purified, in thy presence to abide:

come, with all thine angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home!

Prayer of Confession (Unison) (by Teri McDowell Ott)

Master Gardener, weeds and wheat fill the fields of our lives, grow entangled, and are difficult to distinguish. We have not spent the time we should in prayer and study of your Word to help us discern what is evil and against your will. We excuse our complacency and justify our passive faith. Yet we need your truth. We hunger for your harvest. Jesus, forgive us. Deliver us from evil. Clear our path to you. Amen.

(Time for silent reflection)

Assurance of Grace (Responsive)

We know in faith that God restores and renews,
and that our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

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 714

"God of the Fertile Fields"

*God of the fertile fields, shaper of
earth that yields our daily bread: Forth from your
bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land be clothed and fed.*

*We would be stewards true, holding in
trust from you all that you give; Help us in
love to share, teach us like you to care
for people everywhere, that all may live.*

*As grows the hidden seed to fruit that
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.*

*God of the countryside, dear to the
Christ who died to make us one: We pledge our
lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.*

Prayer of Illumination

Illumine us, O God. Bless us with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your call. Guide us and inspire us in this moment of proclamation. Amen.

First Lesson: Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, I we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Second Lesson: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-42

²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ . . .

The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Sermon

"Pulling Weeds"

Rev. Anne McAnelly

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison) - (by Tim Tate)

I believe in a God who created all things and seeks for all to be in communion as God's people.

I believe in Jesus Christ who showed us how to share love, and who commissioned us to go out into the highways and byways inviting all to be a part of God's work in the world.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us into the world, then touches the lives of those around us in ways that make them receptive to love.

I believe in the harvest and the call for laborers to receive and respond, sharing light and life with the world. Amen.

Offertory

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Grateful for your radical hospitality and steadfast love we present these gifts to you, God.

Use them to further your will and transform our world into your new, redeemed creation. Amen.

*Hymn 318

"In Christ There Is No East of West"

*In Christ there is no east or west, in
him no south or north, but one great fellow-
ship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their
high communion find; his service is the
golden cord close-binding humankind.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith, what-
e'er your race may be. All children of the
living God are surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west; in
him meet south and north. All Christly souls are
one in him through-out the whole wide earth.*

Benediction