

St. Andrew Worship

July 30, 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) (by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

We come to worship the Triune God who creates, redeems, and sustains us all.

We come to worship God who never leaves us and yet whose purposes often seem hidden.

As the bulb hides the flower, as the seed hides the tree, as the cocoon hides the butterfly, so too does God bring forth life even when we cannot see it.

We gather today to learn how to watch, wait, and anticipate the season when God's unrevealed work will come into the open.

As silence gives way to song, as night gives way to dawn, as the past flows through the present into the future, so too does God tirelessly persist in bringing about the abundant life of the kingdom of heaven.

We gather today to learn how to join in God's dance as partners who prepare for the season when God's unrevealed work comes into the open.

As our end meets our beginning, as our time meets infinity, as our doubt meets our believing, so too does God meet our brokenness with persevering love, unfolding a new reality of flourishing for all creation.

We gather today to learn how to love as God loves so that we may be part of bringing God's unrevealed work into the open. Amen.

*Hymn 450

"Be Thou My Vision"

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power. . . .*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

Prayer of Confession (Unison) (by Beth Merrill Neel)

Holy God, remind us that we are loved when we find ourselves unlovable. Remind us that there is hope when all we see around us makes us despair. Remind us that you sent the Prince of Peace when war and violence overwhelm. Remind us that you are the merciful judge when injustice seems to prevail. Remind us that you give us all we need to do your work in the world. Remind us that you give us grace so that we can be your people. We confess our doubt, and trust in your love. Amen.

(Time for silent reflection)

Assurance of Grace (Responsive)

Lord you are the path of life, fullness of joy and pleasure forevermore, so we can be confident of the truth:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Gloria Patri (Unison)

Special Music

"Psalm 23"

by Carolyn Crocker

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

(Zoom Viewers: Please unmute to signal you want to share a prayer request)

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. _____

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom, she who danced when earth was new. Follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true. Wisdom clears the path to justice, showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom, crying in the marketplace. Hear the Word made flesh among us, full of glory, truth, and grace. When the word takes root and ripens, peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth. Spirit-guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth. Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and earth.

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

Holy and gracious God, may your Holy Spirit give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know the hope to which Christ has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance among us, and the greatness of his power for those who believe. Amen.

First Lesson:

1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

This is the word of the lord

Thanks be to God

Hold Fast

David Robinson

Lively

Hold fast to the word, the life, the teach-ing, the ho-ly Gos-pel of God. Hold fast to the word, the life, the teach-ing, the ho-ly Gos-pel of God.

Second Lesson:

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

This is the word of the lord

Thanks be to God

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

*We believe in God, maker of all things, provider of all things, who loves all people.
We follow Jesus, in whom salvation has come to us: he sees us for who we are,
heals the wounds of our hearts, and makes us new.*

In his death and resurrection we see the deepest truth of life.

We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us for self-giving love.

*We give thanks for the Church, the Body of Christ, and for the gift of forgiveness,
the power of resurrection and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.*

Offertory

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Unison)

*Lord, receive our gifts and our lives. Cause all of these blessings to work for you in this
world which you have loaned to us for safekeeping. In Christ's Name, we pray. AMEN.*

*Hymn 462

"I Love to Tell the Story"

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.*

*I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.*

*Refrain { I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory }
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love. }*

*I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!*

*I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.*

Refrain

*I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.*

Refrain

Benediction