

# St. Andrew Worship

September 3, 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](http://www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org)

Welcome and Announcement

\*Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

We are standing on holy ground.

*All those who have gone before us have witnessed to the love of God.*

We are challenged to be people of loving service

*Lord, open our hearts and spirits to accept the call to serve you by helping others.*

**AMEN.**

\*Hymn 405

*"Praise God for This Holy Ground"*

*Praise God for this holy ground,  
place and people, sight and sound.*

Refrain { *Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
God's goodness is eternal.* }

*Praise God in whose word we find  
food for body, soul, and mind.*

*Refrain*

*Praise God who through Christ makes known  
all are loved and called God's own.*

*Refrain*

*Praise God's Spirit who befriends,  
raises, humbles, breaks, and mends.*

*Refrain*

*Though praise ends, praise is begun  
where God's will is gladly done.*

*Refrain*

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

*God of love and mercy, be with us this day. We have faltered in our service to you. We create divisions between various people; we judge before we listen; we condemn before we make any attempt to understand. We confess that we have turned away from you. . . .*

## Service Online

Join on Zoom:

Dial: 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 831 688 4211

Password: 9850

Use \*6 to unmute your phone

Live Streaming on YouTube:

@standrewpresbyterianchurch4863

*It is fear and anger that too often surrounds us and our actions become based on those fears and anger. Slow us down, Lord. Give us hearts overflowing with grace and compassion. Help us to mirror Jesus who loved and healed others who were rejected by "polite" society. Remind us that we are called to be strong voices of hope for those who feel alienated and lost; we are called to be a home to strangers; to quench thirst and to give nourishment; to welcome and bring words of hope. Forgive us when we have forgotten these things. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.*

Assurance of Grace

God calls each of us into lives of service and hope. We are equipped for these ministries and placed us on the pathways of peace. Rejoice! You are called by God and blessed by the Great I Am. AMEN.

Response: Gloria Patri (Unison)

Call to 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.

Prayers of the People

Lord of hope, we come to you this day. We have followed many paths and the one of hope leads to this doorway. Enter our hearts this day as we share our joys and concerns in prayer and in the actions and service that follows. We lift before you situations and people who are in need of your healing mercies and your peace. Help us to be those who would bring this peace to them. Let us be in prayer, lifting our concerns to God. Please share with us your concerns this morning.

*[Sharing of concerns]*

Congregational Response: (Unison)

***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.***

As our lives have encountered difficulties and concerns, so, too, are we blessed with great joys. We celebrate these moments of happiness and wonder with each other, lifting up joys and celebrations in this congregation this morning. Please share with us your joys and celebrations.

*[Sharing of joys and celebrations]*

Congregational Response: (Unison)

***Lord, in your love, hear our praise.***

Lord, bless all those whom we have named before you in our hearts and with our voices. Touch each life with the blessings and peace and mercy. Give us strength and empower us for the ministries of reconciliation, for it is in your name that we pray. **AMEN.**

\*Hymn 63

*"The Lord is God"*

*The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise  
to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.*

*With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,  
O people, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.*

*At night or day, at home, away, together and apart,  
O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.*

*The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise  
to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.*

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination *(Responsive)*

Holy God, we call upon you to open our eyes and hearts to your Word and your Spirit today, so we may be able to discern your guiding voice and to seek to be your faithful servants. Stir our imaginations and help us to be your creative stewards in sharing your Good News in word and in deed. **Amen.**

First Lesson:

Psalm 105

*(Responsive)*

\*Hymn 59

*"The Steadfast Love of the Lord"*

*Refrain*

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's  
mercies never come to an end. They are  
new every morning, new every morning; great is your  
faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness.*

*¹ Give thanks to the LORD  
and call upon God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD  
among the peoples.*

*² Sing to the LORD, sing praises,  
and speak of all God's  
marvelous works.*

*³ Glory in God's holy name;  
let the hearts of those  
who seek the LORD rejoice.*

*⁴ Search for the LORD  
and the strength of the LORD;  
continually seek the face of God.*

...

*Remember the marvels God has done,  
the wonders and the judgments  
of God's mouth,*

*O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,  
O children of Jacob, God's chosen.*

*Refrain*

*The LORD is our God,  
whose judgments prevail  
in all the world.*

*The LORD has always been mindful  
of the covenant,  
the promise made  
for a thousand generations:*

*The covenant made with Abraham,  
the oath sworn to Isaac,*

*Which God established  
as a statute for Jacob,  
an everlasting covenant for Israel. . . .*

*For God remembered  
the holy promise  
and Abraham, chosen to serve.*

*So God led forth the people  
with gladness,  
the chosen ones with shouts of joy.*

*Refrain*

Second Lesson:

Exodus 3:1-15

<sup>1</sup>Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup>When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup>Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup>He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. <sup>7</sup>Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I

have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup>He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” <sup>13</sup>But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, “I Am Who I Am.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I Am has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

Sermon

“What’s in a Name?”

Karla Kress

## WE RESPOND IN FAITH

Communion

INVITATION

Jesus invites us to the table, freely and without condition. We cannot earn a seat at the table and yet we are here. We came together as individuals but now have formed a community of believers. Just as the grapes and the grains of wheat are transformed, we also are transformed by your grace and your love.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of Burning Bushes be with you.

*And also with you.*

People of God, offer up your hearts to God, who calls you from the mystery of grace

*We turn aside from our worries to open ourselves to the One who calls us to new life.*

Children of God, remember all the joy and wonder which has been done for you.

*We will lift our voices in praise to the One who is beyond all imagining.*

It is indeed right, for you made us, and before us you made the world we inhabit, and before the world you made the eternal home in which, through Christ, we have a place. All that is spectacular and all that is plain have their origin in you; all that is lovely and all who are loving, point to you as their fulfillment. And grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond our knowing, we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For his life, which informs our living, for his compassion, which changes our hearts, for his clear speaking, which contradicts our generalities, for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering, his fearless dying, his rising to life and breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship him. Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even yet, even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness. Therefore, we gladly join our voices to the song of the church on earth and in heaven.

# 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.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that our sharing of the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Following Christ's example let us join in praying his prayer (The Lord's prayer)

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*Please come forward at the appropriate time to partake, by dipping your bread in the cup. You are invited to sing the refrain, "I Am the Bread of Life", printed on your pew song sheets.*

### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, in gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Offertory

Don Adkins, Piano

#### Call to Offering

As God has blessed our lives with abundant love and gifts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to this place, seeking to help others, to offer comfort and hope. Let us receive our morning offering.

#### Doxology

#### Prayer of Dedication (*Responsive*)

Lord of all mercy and compassion, bless these gifts lovingly offered and all the people here. Help us to use these gifts for ministries of hope through our church and into our community, nation and world. **AMEN.**

### \*Hymn 69

*"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"*

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who  
made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you  
Calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you  
lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. . . .*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will  
break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest  
bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?*

Sending *(Responsive)*

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***