

# St. Andrew Worship

September 17, 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*) (*from Psalm 103:1-4*)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

*Bless God's holy name.*

God forgives. God heals. Gods transforms with steadfast love.

*Bless God's holy name.*

\*Hymn 436

*"God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us"*

*God of compassion, in mercy befriend us,*

*giver of grace for our needs all-availing.*

*Wisdom and strength for each day ever send us,*

*patience untiring and courage unailing.*

*Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,*

*stilled our rude hearts with your word of consoling.*

*Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us,*

*guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.*

*How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,*

*you who the stars in their courses are guiding?*

*What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,*

*we who walk forth in your greatness confiding?*

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

*Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.*

## 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

## Assurance of Grace

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed and restored to God's path of righteousness. Amen.

Response: *Gloria Patri* (Unison)

## Special Music

## Prayers of the People

### Come and Fill

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Come and Fill'. The first staff is in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are 'Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.' The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are 'Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!'.

\*Hymn 445

*"God, How Can We Forgive"*

*God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?  
How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?  
When human loving fail and every hope is gone,  
your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.  
When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,  
how can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?  
The ocean depth of grace sur passes all our needs.  
A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.  
Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin,  
when you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?  
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.  
As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.*

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

## Prayer of Illumination

Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer. Amen.

First Lesson:

Romans 14:7-12

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Hold Fast

# Hold Fast

David Robinson

**Lively**

5 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 18:21-35

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Sermon

"Forgiveness"

Rev. Anne McAnelly

## WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*\*Affirmation of Faith (Unison) (from Book of Common Worship)*

*We believe there is no condemnation*

*for those who are in Christ Jesus;*

*for we know that all things work together*

*for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.*

*We are convinced that neither death, nor life,*

*nor angels, nor rulers,*

*nor things present, nor things to come,*

*nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,*

*will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

Offertory

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Unison)

*Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.*

Communion



All are welcome at Christ's table. Belief in Christ, not membership, offers you this loving invitation.

INVITATION

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them up to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right for us to give thanks and praise.*

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; You Satisfy the Hungry Heart 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.

\*Hymn 441

*"Hear the Good News of Salvation"*

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

*All the sins I have committed, to my Savior now I bring.  
I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing:  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

Benediction