

St. Andrew Worship

October 29, 2023

Sunday at 10:30 AM

In Celebration of All Saints Day

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

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

Welcome and Announcement

*Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

There are many who have walked the path toward God before us, showing us the way with their lives.

We come to give thanks for them, and for the examples they have been for us.

As they were called, so are we called to live as Jesus did, saying “yes” to his invitation to follow him.

We come to ask for courage and guidance in the living of our lives.

Like those who have gone before us, we are each of us, a strange mixture of sinner and saint. But God accepts us that way, and fills us with the Spirit, who empowers us to act.

O God, continue with us on our journey as we remember those who have gone before us; and as we give thanks for the opportunity to be saints to and for all whom we encounter. Amen!

*Hymn 730

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

*I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and
brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and
died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a
doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess
on the green: they were all of them saints of
God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.*

*They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God's love
made them strong; and they followed the right, for Jesus'
sake, the whole of their good lives long. And one was a
soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a
fierce wild beast: and there's not any reason,
no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.*

*They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of
thousands still; the world is bright with the joyous . . .*

saints who love to do Jesus' will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Jesus, lover and friend, you showed us holiness in action through the way you lived your life. You gave away your power in the service of others and turned our understanding of blessedness on its head.

We confess the difficulties we experience in living as you lived and loving as you loved

We confess how easy it is to concentrate on our own pleasures - taking note of the plight of many in the world only as the news momentarily grabs our attention.

We confess our capacity to be so consumed by our own agendas that our concern for the needs of others shrinks all too rapidly.

We confess our failure to act when we see around us weakness, pain, suffering and powerlessness.

We confess the ease with which we become conformed to the world's standards rather than facing the challenge of conforming to those of Christ.

Stir up your Spirit in us, Lord. Strengthen us to be people who sing and live your song of love; who willingly serve our neighbors—even those we don't especially like; and who seek justice and mercy for all. Reconnect us, we pray, to the great cloud of witnesses that has gone before us so we may proclaim Christ's justice and compassion in our own time. Amen.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

God welcomes us, like a mother scooping up her lost children, like a father embracing his prodigal offspring. We are encouraged to learn from such forgiveness, to offer it to ourselves and others, again and again. In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

Response: *Gloria Patri* (*Unison*)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

(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. _____

*Hymn

"This Little Light of Mine"

1. This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it shine,
2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine,
3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine,
This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it shine;
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine;
This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it shine,
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African-American spiritual
Tune: African-American spiritual; lyrics by Horace Clarence Boyer, b.1935, © 1992

Prayer of Illumination

O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is the word of the lord.

Thanks be 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 22:34-40

(P. 25 OT)

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

This is the word of the lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Mystic Sweet Communion”

Guest Pastor, Jane Grady

*Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*)

from Confession of 1967

*The church confesses its faith
when it bears a present witness
to God's grace in Jesus Christ.
The life, death, resurrection,
and promised coming of Jesus Christ. . .*

has set the pattern for the church's mission.

The church follows this pattern

in the form of its life

and in the method of its action.

So to live and serve

is to confess Christ as Lord

Offering

Doxology

Offering Prayer

Offering Prayer: Gracious God, with this offering of ourselves and these resources, we dedicate ourselves anew to you and to service in Christ's name. As of the saints of old, may we be among those making bold witness to your goodness, mercy, and truth. Amen.

*Hymn 326

"For All the Saints"

*For all the saints who from their labors rest, who
thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
name, O Jesus, be forever blest.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine; yet
all are one in thee, for all are thine.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through
gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Benediction