

St. Andrew Worship

Sunday, November 19, 2023 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

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*)

We are God's work of art,

Each one a precious gem, a marvelous tapestry, a potter's delight.

We are God's handiwork,

*Every one of us, woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted
with incredible beauty.*

We are God's creation,

All of us touched by grace, saved by faith and beckoned to praise.

Together, let us worship the Living God!

*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!

Call to Confession

Let us ask God to cleanse our hearts, to redeem our memories and to renew our confidence in the goodness of our Creator.

Together, let us pray...

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Patient God, your love for us is everlasting and gentle. We need reminders of your grace because so often we stumble. We hold on to old patterns even when they weave tension and disagreement. We blindly push our own way and wonder why others lag behind. The short-term good we try to do can create long-term problems.

O Lord, let your patient and persistent love hold us tenderly so we may learn to wait for your whisper and follow your way. Ease our white-knuckled grip on having to be in charge, and take our hand and lead us in the way of peace. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)

The wonder of our faith is this: God cares for us; God still believes in us; God empowers the spark of divine goodness within us and forgives us. Therefore, be confident in God's love and live without fear, for the light of Christ overcomes all darkness and God's mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Response: Gloria Patri (Unison)

Commissioning the Delegation to El Salvador

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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

*Hymn 37

"Let All Things Now Living"

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.*

*God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.*

*By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.*

*We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!*

Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge and truth. Open now our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your love; through Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

First Lesson:

Psalm 150

(*Responsive*) (P. 583 OT)

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty firmament!

Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

Praise him with clanging cymbals;

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

This is the word of the lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson:

Luke 16:1-13

(P. 79 NT)

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and

love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

This is the word of the lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Holy Extrication”

Jim Bender

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

We believe in God, who places joy in our souls, dancing in our toes and songs in our hearts. We believe God wanted gladness to flow like a river and so created a bountiful earth with plenty for all to share. We believe in Jesus, who turned water into wine, partied with outcasts and sinners, and touched the broken so they could leap and dance. We believe Jesus opened the doors and set an extra place so we could all feast. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who prompts us to smile, who sends us invitations to come and dine, who nudges us to openness and tenderness. We believe the Spirit is present every time we gather to worship and is always urging us to live joyfully and walk hopefully. Forever, we will live in the embrace of God and be a witness to Resurrection joy! Amen.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Most giving and forgiving God, you provide for our every need. You open our lips to offer praise. You strengthen our hands to respond to Christ's call. With hearts, hands and voices renewed by your Spirit, we bring now to you our commitment to serve. Use us in ways that will benefit others, and accept what we offer as a sign of our faith. In Christ we pray. Amen.

*Hymn 643

“Now Thank We All Our God”

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful heart and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill sin this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.*

Benediction