

St. Andrew Worship

Sunday, December 31, 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

Welcome and Announcements

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Service Online</i></p> <p>Join on Zoom: Dial: 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 831 688 4211 Password: 9850 Use *6 to unmute your phone</p> <p>Live Streaming on YouTube: @standrewpresbyterianchurch4863</p>
--

*Call to Worship *(Responsive) (Steve Garnaas-Holmes)*

Holy One, you gather your people in peace, according to your word;

for our eyes have seen your salvation,

which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.

a light for revelation to the people of the world.

and glory to those who bear your light.

Bless us as we worship, that we may see the light of your glory,

wonder at the mystery of your presence.

and bear your light faithfully into the world.

Eternal God, Living Word, and Spirit of Life,

we rejoice at your birth among us.

Holy child, come to us now, and make us holy by your presence.

*Hymn 119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;

with the angelic host proclaim,

"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain { *Hark! The herald angels sing,*
"Glory to the newborn king!" }

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,

late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,

pleased in flesh with us to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Refrain

...

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.*

Refrain

Prayer of Confession *(Responsive)*

Oh, God you search us out and know us,
And all that we are is open to you.
We confess that we have sinned.

In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.

...

In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.

...

In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.

...

In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.

...

In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.

...

In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.

We turn to you, O Christ,
perfect union of Spirit and flesh;

We renounce evil;

We claim your love;

We choose to be made whole. AMEN

(Time for silent reflection)

Assurance of Grace *(Responsive)*

Sisters and brothers in Christ, your sins are forgiven and receive the abundant life.
In God you may receive the grace, mercy and peace which make renewal undeniable.
Through Christ Jesus our Savior.

Thanks be to God!

Response: *Gloria Patri* (Unison)

Special Music "A Festival of Carols" Duet: Eileen Mihm, Piano & Don Adkins, Organ

Prayers of the People and the Lord's 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.

*Hymn 186

"Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table" (alt. tune Slane)
"Come now, you blessed, eat at my table,"
said Jesus Christ to the righteous above.
"When I was hungry, thirsty, and homeless,
sick and in prison, you showed me your love."
When did we see you hungry or thirsty?
When were you homeless, a stranger alone?
When did we see you sick or in prison?
What have we done that you call us your own?
"When you gave bread to earth's hungry children,
when you gave shelter to war's refugees,
When you remembered those most forgotten,
you cared for me in the smallest of these."
Christ, when we see you out on life's roadways,
looking to us in the faces of need,
Then may we know you, welcome, and show you
love that is faithful in word and in deed.

Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

Lord God, my Way-maker, I know you have a destiny for me to achieve in this life. I want to follow the plan that you have laid out. Help me to understand and follow your call. Show me your will for my life and what I need to do right now to get started. Enable me to know who I am in Christ, and the special gifts and abilities you have given me. Give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation as I seek to know you more intimately. Amen.

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! ² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! ³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, ⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together! ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson

Matthew 25:31-40

(P. 29 NT)

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

“Papa Panov's Special Christmas” by Leo Tolstoy

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

(Steve Garnaas-Holmes)

We believe in God, Creator of all that is and all that is to come, whose promises are sure and whose will is love and blessing.

We follow Christ: born of Mary, fully human and fully divine, our brother and our Savior, God's presence among us, our salvation, which God has prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the world and for glory to God's people. In his human life we see all of God's promises fulfilled, all of God's love embodied, and all of God's power hidden. He loved and served; he was crucified and raised from the dead; he is with us still, if we open our hearts to see him.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, who leads us; the church, the body of Christ, who accompanies us; the communion of saints, who surround us, the forgiveness of sin, which frees us; the resurrection, which gives us courage; and the mystery of eternal life, which is God's life hidden in this world. Amen.

Offertory

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology

Offering Prayer (*Unison*)

Holy God, we marvel at your love and faithfulness! At the right time, your Son Jesus lived among us and invited us to call you our heavenly Father. Because of his obedience, you have adopted us into your beloved family. We are grateful that you have brought us through challenging times in the past. As we look forward to the new year, send your Spirit to help us trust that you will continue to guide us. Let our gifts and offerings be pleasing in your sight, for this we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Hymn 726

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

*"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"*

*"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"*

*"Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"*

*"Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

Benediction