

St. Andrew Worship

Sunday April 21, 2024

*Stand in Body or Spirit

Welcome and Announcement

*Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

The call of Christ is this:

Love one another.

The law and the prophets teach this:

Love one another.

The world calls us to fulfill our desires;

Christ commands us to love one another.

We do this best not in word or speech,

But in truth and action.

Beloved, let us love one another,

For Christ first loved us.

Come, worship God, who is Love.

*Hymn 353

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

*My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Refrain { *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.* }

*When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his un-changing grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.*

Refrain

*His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.*

Refrain

*When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
fault-less to stand before the throne.*

Refrain

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

We grumble and complain about our daily lot in life. We read the newspapers, watch the broadcast news and moan about the evil which flourishes in the world. And we wonder, "Where are you, O God?" We turn our backs on the needs of the poor or give only a cursory acknowledgment of their plight. We throw our hands up in the air and act as though we are defeated. And we cry, "Why isn't God taking care of all this?" Forgive us, patient Lord. Forgive our arrogance, our ignorance, our pettiness. Forgive us when we could have done something to help someone else, but chose instead to turn away. Forgive us when we, by our attitudes and language, our thoughts and actions, have gone against your will. You are with us, Lord. You lead us daily in right paths and offer to us the bread of life. You stand with us in times of trial and in the presence of those whom we fear, giving us your abundant love. And then you offer to us a place in your eternal home. How can we doubt your presence? Help us to trust you. Help us to praise you and remember that you have called us to be your witnesses and workers in this world. Give us strength and courage, joy and peace for all the work that you have for us to do. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for us, his sheep, we pray.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

In the midst of all that you fear, God is with you. God will not abandon you. Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, laid down his life for you and offers you hope and peace. AMEN.

Response: *Gloria Patri* (*Unison*)

Anthem

St. Andrew Choir

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Song of Prayer

Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Lord, lis-ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, _____ Lord, send your". The second staff contains: "Spir-it in this place; _____ Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren". The third staff contains: "pray - ing, _____ send us love, send us power, send us grace. _____".

Prayers Lifted to God

(Lord's Prayer p. 35 in Hymnal, using "debts/debtors")

*Hymn 801

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

*The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want; he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.*

*My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness, e’en for his own name’s sake.*

*Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.*

*My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.*

*Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,
and in God’s house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.*

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Illumination (*Responsive*)

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Lesson:

1 John 3:16-24

(p. 240 NT)

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Second Lesson:

John 10:11-18

(p. 103 NT)

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Sermon

Laying Down One's Life

Rev. Anne McAnelly

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*) Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22

New life in Christ takes shape in a community

in which people know

that God loves and accepts them

in spite of what they are.

They therefore accept themselves

and love others,

knowing that no one has any ground

on which to stand,

except God's grace.

The Worship of God Through Giving

Offertory Music

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology

Offering Prayer (*Unison*)

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to Christ's ministry. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*Hymn 542

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

*God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you;
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

Benediction