

St. Andrew Worship

Sunday April 28, 2024

*Stand in Body or Spirit

Welcome and Announcement

*Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Beloved, let us love one another,

Because love is from God;

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent the only Son into the world so that we might live through Christ.

By this we know that we abide in God and God in us,

Because God has given us the Spirit.

Let us love one another and join in worship of our God,

For God is love.

*Hymn 22

"God of the Sparrow"

God of the sparrow God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm

God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature cry Woe

How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross

God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace

How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick

God of the prodigal

How does the creature say Care

How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor God of the foe

God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love

How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand

God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy

How do your children say Home

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Awesome God, we confess that we have allowed fear to rule our lives. We have allowed fear to keep us from loving our neighbors who are different than us. We have allowed fear to close our doors, our hearts, our minds. But You are Perfect Love, and You cast out all fear. Help us to let go of what holds us back and to be open to Your Spirit, to love freely, and to love deeply. We know that our hearts may be broken but help us anyway to love those most in need, the most vulnerable, and guide us into ways of love and care that help heal our brokenness. In the name of Christ, the One who laid down his life for us because he loved us so much, we pray all things. Amen.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace (*Responsive*)

We come together with grateful hearts, remembering all that Christ has done for us, and knowing we can never repay that kind of love, except in how we love one another.

So we share God's love. Share God's peace. Share God's joy.

You are forgiven, loved, and restored. Amen.

Response: *Gloria Patri* (*Unison*)

Anthem "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. by Larry Sue St. Andrew Bells Choir

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Song of 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. _____

Prayers Lifted to God

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

*Hymn 286

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

*Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.*

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Gracious God, may your Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds to your words of love and grace this day. Amen.

First Lesson:

John 15:1-8

(p. 109 NT)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Second Lesson:

1 John 4:7-21

(p. 241 NT)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God

has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Sermon

"I AM LOVE"

Rev. Anne McAnelly

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*)

We are a community of faith. We share a vision of God:

*a God whose spirit is love,
accessible to all yet beyond our knowing,
the source of all being,
the way leading to wholeness,
the spirit which pervades everything.*

We are reborn in the Spirit,

followers of that Way shown by Jesus:

*to love God with our whole being;
to love our neighbors as ourselves;
to treat others as we would have them treat us;
to strive for justice and peace;
to have respect and compassion for every person
and for the whole of creation;
to forgive those who do us harm;
to love one another as Christ has loved us.*

We journey together on this Way

towards reconciliation with the whole creation.

We break bread together and pray together.

We reach out to one another

for strength beyond our own.

This is our community. This is our faith.

The Worship of God Through Giving

Offertory Music

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" arr. by Kristine Johaneck

St. Andrew Bells Choir

Doxology

Offering Prayer (*Unison*)

God of all good gifts, thank you for this opportunity to share the abundance you have provided for us. Receive this offering and all who have contributed. Then help us make good decisions as we put it into action. May your joy abound in us as we continue to grow as followers of Jesus the Christ, who gave life itself so we might participate in abundant life. AMEN

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*Hymn 703

"Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

Jesus, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;

O knit my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there!

Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live; myself to thee entirely give.

O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone;

O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown!

All coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.

O Love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies;

care, anguish, sorrow melt away where'er thy healing beams arise.

O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire, or seek, but thee.

Benediction