

St. Andrew Worship

Sunday June 30, 2024

**Stand in Body or Spirit*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcement

*Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Wait for the Lord, like those who hope in God's mercy.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Watch for God, like those who eagerly await the morning.

We watch for God, whose power redeems us.

Hear God's hopeful word, like those who long for pardon.

Sing praise to God and rejoice in God's love.

*Hymn 694

"Great God of Every Blessing"

*Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

Prayer of Confession (*Responsive*)

We fill our lives with the fear of scarcity,
assuming there is not enough money,
time, patience or love.

We turn away when a stranger asks for nourishment,
claiming there isn't enough even for ourselves.

*Forgive us when we doubt your abundance
and ignore the possibilities in what we have been given.*

We often sit with arms crossed and fists clenched,
crying out that you have turned away
and left us empty handed.

*Forgive us when we reject your abundance
and neglect the possibilities in what we have been given.*

. . .

We easily give thanks for the good things in life,
turning away from those
which lead us to deeper community
or second-guessing blessings as too good to be true.

Open our eyes to the wonders that surround us.

Help us surrender to the loving embrace that enfolds us.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace

Take comfort:

we, and the whole world with us,

are always embraced in Christ's love.

In Christ, there is always enough. Amen.

Response: *Gloria Patri* (Unison)

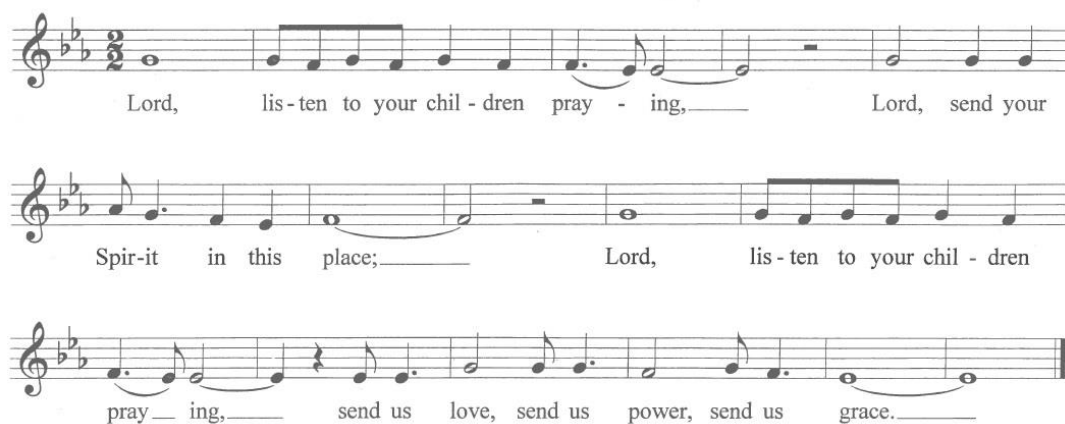
No. 581

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Song of Prayer

Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying



Prayers Lifted to God

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

*Hymn 716

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.*

Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.

Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.*

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

First Lesson:

Psalm 30

(p. 505 OT)

¹ I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. ² O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. ³ O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit. ⁴ Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. ⁵ For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. ⁶ As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." ⁷ By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. ⁸ To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: ⁹ "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? ¹⁰ Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!" ¹¹ You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, ¹² so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Second Lesson:

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

(p. 183 NT)

⁷ Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

⁸ I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰ And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—¹¹ now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹² For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³ I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴ your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵ As it is written,

"The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little."

Sermon

"Generous Undertaking"

Rev. Anne McAnelly

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*)

(from *The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968*)

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

*We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.*

The Worship of God Through Giving

Offertory Music

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology (*Unison*)

No. 606

Offering Prayer (*Unison*)

*Gracious God, we thank you for our present abundance
and for the many blessings you have bestowed upon this community.
We thank you for our faith,
for our knowledge of you,
and for the assurance of your love.
May all these gifts be a blessing to those in need. Amen.*

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*Hymn 805

"Come Sing to God"

*Come sing to God, O living saints; sing praises to God's name.
God's anger is not permanent; God's love will never wane.
Though tears may tarry for the night with sighs of deepest pain,
yet joy comes with the morning sun, a peace that is not vain.*

*In my success I felt secure; how good you've been to me.
I said that this is my own work, ascribing all to me.
But when you turned aside your face, my life was filled with fears.
I begged for help; to you I cried with loud and bitter tears.*

*What good is gained by my disgrace, what profit in defeat?
My grave cannot confess your name, nor praise for you repeat.
Now hear, O Lord, my plaintive cry; be merciful to me.
Accept my longing heart's request and from death set me free.*

*You change my grief to joy-filled dance; my sorrows you destroy.
In faithfulness you hear my cry and fill my life with joy.
And so to you my heart shall sing; my voice your goodness raise.
You are my God, forevermore. My life shall sing your praise.*

*Benediction

The service of worship ends, the service of neighbor and world begins!