

St. Andrew Worship
Sunday June 9, 2024
Rev. Julianne Porras-Center

**Stand in Body or Spirit*

Welcome and Announcement

*Call to Worship *(Responsive)*

Praise God! We are called together in body and spirit this morning to worship our Lord.

Let us open our eyes that we might see God at work in the world!

Let us open our ears that we might hear God's still small voice!

Let us open our hearts that we might know God's great love for us!

And let us open our mouths to sing and to tell the story!

*Hymn 756

"O God of Every Nation"

*O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.*

*From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
From pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.*

*Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase;
When hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter, your servants under-gird.*

*Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
Till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.*

Prayer of Confession *(Unison)*

Lord, we come to You humbly, asking You to remove our pride. Though You should guide us, we inform ourselves; though Your love should reign, we seek control; though You should fulfill us, we console ourselves. We think Your truth too high, Your will too hard, Your power too remote, Your love too free. But they are not! Though we wander as exiles through wildernesses of our own making, you call us home. Though we construct false altars to the idols of security, individualism, and success, You invite us into a space of faith, community, and grace. We are the materials with which you build the Kingdom of Heaven, and we confess that we have done a shoddy job. Heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your own, heal our troubled consciences with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence. All for the sake of your Kingdom come. In Christ's name, Amen.

Assurance of Grace *(Responsive)*

Let us hear the words of the Romero Prayer, as an assurance of God's grace:

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

Response: ***Gloria Patri*** *(Unison)*

No. 581

Anthem

"I Must Tell Jesus"

St. Andrew Chior

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")

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Creator God, who moves over the waters, move in our hearts and minds this morning that we may be open to Your word for us. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

First Lesson:

Genesis 3:22

(p. 3 OT)

Then the LORD God said, "See, the humans have become like one of us, knowing good and evil, and now they might reach out their hands and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever"—²³ therefore the LORD God sent them forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which they were taken.²⁴ He drove out the humans, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

Hold Fast

David Robinson

Lively

A D A D A E A E

He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Sermon

“Longing for Home”

Rev. Julianne Porras-Center

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith *(Responsive)*

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

The Worship of God Through Giving

Offertory Music

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology *(Unison)*

No. 606

Offering Prayer *(Unison)*

Just as we love because God loved us first, so we give because you, Lord, gave to us first. All that we have comes from you. Please receive these gifts back into your loving hands as testaments of our faith and commitment to bringing the New Jerusalem to our here and now. Amen.

WE LIVE TO SERVE

*Hymn 825

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Refrain { *Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.*
Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home. }

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see coming for to carry me home?

A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home. O,

Refrain

*If you get there before I do, coming for to carry me home,
tell all my friends I'm coming too, coming for to carry me home. O,*

Refrain

*The brightest day that ever I saw, coming for to carry me home,
when Jesus washed my sins away, coming for to carry me home. O,*

Refrain

*I'm sometimes up and sometimes down, coming for to carry me home,
but still my soul feels heavenly bound, coming for to carry me home. O,*

Refrain

*Benediction

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