

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Please note that all text in **bold** is spoken in unison.

† Worshipers are asked to stand in body or spirit.

September 24, 2023

10:30AM

WELCOME! What a delight that you are here! We hope you will experience the love of Jesus and the joy of community in this time of worship. If we can be of help to you, please let us know. We would love to assist you in finding ways to get involved and grow in your faith.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (*You are invited to pray this prayer in silence.*)

St. Augustine of Hippo

You, God, are the light of the minds that know You, the joy of the hearts that love You, and the strength of the wills that serve You; grant us so to know You, that we may truly love You, and so to love You, that we may fully serve You, whom to serve is perfect freedom, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

PRELUDE

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

MORECAMBE

LIFE AT ST. ANDREW'S

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Psalm 22

One: We will tell of Your name, O God.

Many: In the midst of the congregation, we will praise You!

One: Praise God, all who stand in awe of God's grace.

Many: We will honor and glorify God's name.

All: We will rejoice forever because God's love abides in us!

† **HYMN 522**

Lord, When I Came into This Life

LAND OF REST

Lord, when I came into this life You called me by my name;
Today I come, commit myself, responding to Your claim.

Within the circle of the faith as member of Your cast,
I take my place with all the saints, of future, present, past.

In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt,
Let Your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.

So, help me in my unbelief and let my life be true:
Feet firmly planted on the earth, my sights set high on You.

† INVITATION TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful One, You know when we are afraid to love; You know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with Your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of Your love.

† ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Receive the promise given to you!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

ANTHEM

Come to the Water

MORECAMBE

Come to the water, come refresh your spirit; Come, find the righteousness of God.
Come, Holy Spirit, come work within us, Renew our hearts forevermore.

Gracious Redeemer, how we long for grace divine; Come, wash us with Your renewing power.
We long for Your touch, we long for Your peace. Empower us, O Holy Lord.

Born through the water and the Holy Spirit, We come in faith to proclaim Your Word.
Gracious Redeemer, strengthen our being, Make us disciples of Your grace.

Thank You, O Father; guide us to Your will divine. Help us to be the hands of Christ.
Guide us, O Father, give us the courage To walk the way that leads to You. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

Pew Bible p. 943
Large Print p. 1669-1670

SERMON

The Holy Spirit Empowers Mission

† HYMN STF 2146

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

SPARROW

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home, When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Chorus: I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears; Though by the path He leadeth but one step I may see:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. (Chorus)

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies, I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. (Chorus)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

[GIVE ONLINE](#)

† HYMN 592

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† HYMN 343

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving, hope and confidence and peace.

† BENEDICTION

† SENDING SONG

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

ASSAM

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.

You are encouraged to sit and enjoy the postlude after the sending song.

POSTLUDE

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

RANDOLPH

The red rose on the communion table today was given to the glory of God and in celebration of the birth of Penelope Bailey Johnson, on September 15, to Callie and Andrew Johnson.

Please use the **C O N N E C T** cards in the pews to let us know about prayer requests or areas of interest. If you are a visitor, please also include your contact information and help us get to know you better! You can place completed cards in the offering baskets.

The nursery is located near the sanctuary and is available for children ages 0-5. Children's activity bulletins and large print bulletins, Bibles, and hymnals are available on the sanctuary tables.

ST. ANDREW'S T-SHIRTS are available for order! Pick up an order form from one of the sanctuary tables or from the Church Office. Tomorrow (September 25) is the deadline to turn in your orders!

We will collect the **PCUSA PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING** on World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2023. 25% of the offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community; 25% goes to the mid-council to join other congregations in supporting regional peacemaking work; and 50% supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

St. Andrew's Prayer List

MEMBERS: Mike Dove, Pat Caywood, Bill McIlrath, Bob Fisher, Lee and Shelley Plunkett, Barbara and Dalton Abel, Kay Long

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Lindy Cummings, Val Rayzor, Mary Ellen Myers, Karen Thompson Butler, Mary Kennedy, Mickey Shuffield, Thomas Fisher, Jack Dillard, Erin Lenhart, Jerry Linn, Janie Niederstadt Verderame, Rachel Lawrence, Esmee Foster

St. Andrew's Calendar

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

- 9:15AM Sunday School
- 10:30AM Worship
- 11:30AM Meet and Greet
- 11:45AM Choir Rehearsal
- 12:00PM Deacons' Meeting
- 3:00PM Boy Scouts
- 5:00PM Youth Group

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

- 10:00AM Monday Group
- 5:30PM Strings After School
- 6:30PM La Hacienda

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

- 10:00AM PW Bible Study
- 5:30PM Strings After School
- 6:30PM Tuesday Group

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

- 9:30AM Dayschool Chapel
- 5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

- 8:30AM MOW Cooks
- 10:00AM MOW Delivers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

- 9:15AM Sunday School
- 10:30AM Worship
- 11:30AM Meet and Greet
- 11:45AM Choir Rehearsal
- 3:00PM Boy Scouts
- 5:00PM Youth Group

CHURCH STAFF

Tara Thompson, Pastor
Thomas Furlow, Music Director
Rachel Stiles, Admin Assistant/Organist
Patricia Williamson, Pianist

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30AM - 4:30PM
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