

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 21, 2024

10:00 AM



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY *The Gift to Be Simple* Setting by Dale Wood

†CALL TO WORSHIP

From God comes my salvation.

For God alone my soul waits in silence.

God alone is my rock and my salvation.

God is my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

†HYMN 14 *For the Beauty of the Earth* DIX

CONFESSING OUR SIN

God of mercy, we confess that we have settled down in Nineveh.

We have gotten comfortable in our categories:

haves and have-nots, makers and takers,

bigots and bystanders, self-starters and subordinates,

law-abiders and illegals, the perpetrators and the innocent.

We confess that we are comfortable living under systems of injustice and exploitation. We confess our discomfort in speaking truths that unmask idolatries. Make us ready to follow Jesus, ready to repent, and eager to change our hearts and lives. Call to us again, and show us your mercy.

Let us hear your good news again. *(Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.)*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

†JOYFUL RESPONSE 695 *Change My Heart O God* CHANGE MY HEART

†SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION LaVerne Byas-Smith

SCRIPTURE READINGS Joshua 24:14-18 Pew Bible p. 206(OT)
1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Pew Bible p. 161(NT)

MUSICAL OFFERING *O, Jesus, I have Promised* Howard Helvey

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:1-13 Pew Bible p. 26(NT)

WELCOME

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

† When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit, as able.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

The service begins with the first note of the Opening Voluntary, which is based on Hymn 830.

SILENCE

The time of silence allows you to speak or listen to God as you best need this morning.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Because we have been forgiven in Christ, we can forgive one another. We demonstrate this by sharing Christ's peace with one another.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

After each scripture reading the reader will say, "The Word of the Lord." All are invited to respond, "Thanks be to God."

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

A Choice That Matters

Rev. Arch Baker

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN 410

God is Calling Through the Whisper

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In forming his people and sending them into the world,
Jesus called individuals to be disciples.

They were to share the joy of his companionship, to understand and obey
his teachings, and to follow him in life and death.

We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship. Life shared with
Christ and shaped by Christ is God's undeserved gift to each of us.

It is also God's demand upon every one of us, never perfectly
fulfilled by any of us.

Forgiven by God and supported by our siblings in Christ, we strive to
become more faithful and effective in our daily practice
of the Christian life.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS OF GOD'S CHURCH, COMMUNITY & WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

†Response *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

PRAISE GOD

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.

†Prayer of Dedication

GOING TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

†HYMN 463

How Firm A Foundation

FOUNDATION

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†BENEDICTION IN MUSIC *Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren*

Praise the Lord the King of Heaven Johann Gottfried Walther

GOD IS CALLING THROUGH THE WHISPER

Asked to write a hymn on the theme of "calling", Mary Louise Bringle responded with this text that points out how God's call may not come to us in literal words but may appear in the beauties of art and nature or in recognizing a need we are especially well equipped to address.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"A Declaration of Faith" was written by a predecessor denomination to the PC (USA) and adopted in 1977 as a contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration. While this declaration was not included in our Book of Confessions, it still gives us language for saying what we believe.

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

Three years after this hymn was written, it made its way across the Atlantic to Philadelphia in 1790. Since then, it has been beloved by many. It has been reported that the words were a comfort to both Union and Confederate soldiers on Civil War battlefields.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Camille LeBron Powell, Pastor
LaVerne Byas-Smith, Coordinator of Congregational Vitality
David Lukens, Director of Music
Edward Weaver, Associate Director of Music and Organist
Pat Baker, Director of Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries
Lonnelle Bruce, Director, St. Andrews School
Gretchen Perkins, Office Manager
Helen Hoang, Financial Administrator

Notes on Today's Music:

The **Opening Voluntary** is based on a traditional Shaker tune composed on June 28, 1848 by Joseph Brackett, Jr. (1797-1882), an elder of the Shaker community in Alfred, Maine. It was not widely known until being included in *The Gift to be Simple: Songs, Dances, and Rituals of the American Shakers*, published by Edward Deming Andrews (1894-1964) New York, 1940). Andrews was a leading scholar and expert on the Shakers. The tune rose to wide recognition when Aaron Copland used it in his ballet *Appalachian Spring* (1944).

The text for the **Musical Offering** was written by John Ernest Bode (1816-1874), an Anglican clergyman serving a small parish near Cambridge, England when his three children, a daughter and two sons, were ready for confirmation. Bode not only presided over their confirmation, but also wrote this hymn especially for the occasion—telling the children that the hymn included “all the important truths I want you to remember.”

The music was composed by Howard Helvey (b 1958), an American composer, arranger and pianist who also serves as organist and choirmaster of historic Calvary Episcopal Church in Cincinnati, Ohio He is also co-founder (2013) and conductor of the Cincinnati Fusion Ensemble, a professional chamber choir. Nationally and internationally Helvey is in frequent demand as a composer, conductor, and speaker.

The text for the **Benediction in Music** was written by Joachim Neander (1650-1680), a German Reformed Church teacher, theologian and hymn writer. Neander wrote more than 60 hymns and provided tunes for many of them. He is considered by many to be the first important German hymnist after the Reformation and is regarded as the outstanding hymn writer of the German Reformed Church.

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748) was a German organist and composer. As the city organist of Weimar, he composed 132 organ preludes based on Lutheran chorale melodies and was famous for his organ transcriptions of orchestral concertos by contemporary Italian and German masters.

As one part of the church of Jesus Christ, we are inspired and guided by Christ's vision of God's realm – one that includes all who seek to love God and neighbor.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church welcomes all people, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic situation, family status, mental or physical abilities to become part of the membership and ministry of the church.

We welcome all of each of you.

Approved and adopted by the Session of St. Andrews, August 2019

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 21st

8:45 AM Sunday School - All Ages
10:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Chancel Bells
11:30 AM Session
2:00 PM Revelation Bible Study

Monday, January 22nd

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, January 23rd

Wednesday, January 24th

7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 25th

5:00 PM Light of Grace

Friday, January 26th

9:00 AM Church at Prayer
8:00 PM AA Meeting

Saturday, January 27th

Sunday, January 28th

8:45 AM Sunday School - All Ages
10:00 AM Worship &
Congregational Meeting
11:00 AM Chancel Bells
Lay Reader Training
Lunches for Clifton
2:00 PM Revelation Bible Study
4:00 PM Dinner, Clifton Sanctuary

PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

If you have a prayer concern, please complete a Prayer Request Card, and place it in the offering plate, or contact the office. Please update the office about any changes in the condition of your loved ones.

Tom Evans

Jimmie Artley

The Snarey Family, on the death of their grandson, Michael Campbell

The Powell Family, on the death of Jonathan's father, Ron Powell

In the Nursing Home, Home Care, or Assisted Living:

Milly Ball The Atria

Peggy Benedict at home

Henry Tribble The Villages

Ron Weber at home, **Betty Weber** Manor Lake

Linda Weaver at home

Ted & Peggy Heffner Blueridge Assisted Living

WELCOME

We invite you to join St Andrews, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), in ministry and in worship.

Please note your presence on the list in the narthex so that members of our church family may welcome you. Your presence is a joy for us.

The Nursery, located in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Heffner Hall, has two dedicated childcare helpers who will stay with young children during worship. For school-age children, the PRAYground is available, near the front of the sanctuary, offering educational and interactive materials, and the Parlor is available for anyone needing a quiet moment outside of the sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers Today are given by Deborah Chambers.

Please Welcome Rev. Arch Baker as our guest preacher this Sunday.

Heritage Exhibit As we prepare in Vital Congregations Initiative to turn our focus to St. Andrews' present, we thank all who contributed to our Heritage Exhibit, and invite you to now retrieve your items from the work room in the office.

Revelation Bible Study An ongoing study of the Bible book of Revelation is being held at St. Andrews, Sundays at 2:00 PM in the Youth Lounge, The recorded instruction by Bruce Gore lasts for about an hour with discussion, moderated by Arch Baker, to follow.

Lay Reader Training Want to be more involved in Sunday worship? SAPC's Worship Ministry is looking to add lay readers. Lay readers participate by reading a prayer for illumination and an assigned scripture passage on a rotating basis. For more information or to join our group of readers, please contact Carol Gordon at carol.gordon587@gmail.com or call (770) 564-0900 or text (404) 316-8675. An upcoming training session is being planned for next Sunday, January 28th after worship, so please do not hesitate if you feel uncertain. You would be so welcome.

Out of Office Pastor Camille will be out of the office for her father-in-law's funeral Sunday through Wednesday this week.

Lunch and Learn will not meet next week on Wednesday, January 24th.

Lampighter Deadline Articles and information for the February *Lampighter* are due to the office on January 25th.

Congregational Meeting Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be during Worship on Sunday, January 28th.

CONNECT AT ST. ANDREWS

Facebook- facebook.com/sapctucker/ *Like and follow us – for photos and announcements.*

Website- sapctucker.org *Church Calendar, Sunday School Page, Youth News, Sermon Archive*

Instagram- st.andrewspresbyterianatucker *Follow us- pictures and updates*

Weekly Email and Monthly Newsletter- office@sapctucker.org *to be added to our list,*

Contact Us- 770-938-2833 office@sapctucker.org