

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 12, 2021

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

3228 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland, Oregon

<https://zoom.us/j/738059997> or <http://www.facebook.com/standrewspdx/live>



GATHERING

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Time to Center

Call to Worship

We come in awe of the sculptor,
the architect,
the artist,
the designer,
the potter,
the Lord, our God.

Let us worship the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

Opening Hymn *Heavens are Telling* Poetry by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

*Morning has broken all through Creation;
God has now spoken, "Let there be light."
Each living thing is God's word of mercy;
all creatures sing and shine with your light.*

*God, your love flows in every direction,
filling and blessing every dark place.
Even the shadows shine with your blessing,
even the darkness hums with your grace.*

*Everything moving moves by your Spirit:
flight of the birds and dance of the stars,
migrating whales and flow of the river;*

breath of the wind is breath that is ours.

Bless every creature, bright with God's glory;

bless every feature, fin, fur and wing.

Each is completing God's wondrous story;

each is God's greeting; praises they sing.

Call to Confession

We have been gifted with life and all the good gifts of creation.

We were born of love for love.

And yet we were born into a tangle of disordered love.

We are prone to forget that we are bearers of your image
and wound our relationships with you, neighbor, and self.

Let us return to the giver of life with spoken and silent prayers of confession,
as we continue to untangle and seek order, and rest in love.

Prayer of Confession

Incarnate God

For the times we've hurt you

Forgive us

For the times we've hurt others

Forgive us

For the times we've hurt ourselves

Forgive us

***For we are made in your image
and it is very good.***

Silent Prayers of Confession

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Friends, in life and in death we belong to God.

Nothing, **nothing** at all, can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord who is working steadfastly by the Spirit to help to
untangle us and free us for joyous life and love.

Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen.

***Sung Response of Praise**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me Glory to God #582

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

We are once again gathered only virtually.

Hearts may be heavy as we still live with pandemic threat

18 months after it all began,

and the progress we were enjoying now eludes us.

So... we need peace.

And friends, we have it;

we have peace that passes understanding.

And that peace grows when we find ways

to share it with one another.

Please do so now, using chat, and comments, and calling out your greetings.

Please do so in the week ahead through phone calls, cards,

and even outdoor visits.

Let us be peace bearers to one another and to our world.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD

Sung Prayer of Illumination

Thy Word is a Lamp unto my Feet

Glory to God #458

A Reading from the Gospel According to John

John 1:1-5

Conversation with the Younger Church

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Genesis 1:1-2:4

Video Presentation from the Work of the People

Sermon

Pastor Sarah Sanderson-Doughty

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Silent Reflection on the Word Preached

Worshipping God with our Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to Generosity

At St. Andrew's we are connecting with Christ and each other to serve our neighbors. We are living out our mission of serving our neighbors by worshipping from home today, and wearing masks in public, and by making offerings to make life easier for others. When we practice generosity, we grow in gratitude, and we use the abundance with which we have been blessed to bless others. You are encouraged to take this time to make an offering to St. A's online or prepare a check to drop in the mail. You may also may want to make a special offering for

peacemaking and global witness, one of our four national offerings, which we will dedicate early next month. Let us continue our worship of God through acts of generous giving.

Offertory

Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Glory to God #609

Prayer of Dedication

***Generous one,
receive our gifts of money;
may they be used for the benefit of all creation,
in helping your kingdom to come, here and now.
This money is only part of all that we offer you,
receive too our commitment to serve you
in our congregation as well as further afield.
Lord, accept all that we offer today and always. Amen.***

Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer

SENDING

Our Ministry in Christ

Announcements

***Sung Sending Song** *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*
Glory to God #541

***Sung Blessing**

***And All God's People Say**

Postlude

Source of Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication- Spill the Beans Curriculum, Issue 24.

Source of Prayer of Confession- Copyright © Clare McBeath & Tim Presswood, 2007, and posted on **Dancing Scarecrow**.

http://www.dancingscarecrow.org.uk/ Found at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/03/prayer-of-confession-forgive-us.html>

Thanks to Amy Houchen for sharing the new text for the opening hymn.