

Worshiping God at
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
5th Sunday after Epiphany
February 5, 2023



Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teddie McConnell

Prelude

Seung-mee Oh

Opening Prayer

Pastor Teddie

Reveal yourself, Gracious God, within this time of worship. Speak to us through songs we sing, prayers we speak, words we hear.

Reveal yourself Gracious God, within your family here. In our speaking and listening, tears and laughter, love that's shared.

Reveal yourself, Gracious God, within these coming days. In the places we live, the lives we live, people we meet. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Lynne Abbey-Lee

L: We are called to the work of Israel, to the work of Jesus.

P: We are called to spread God's love in this world.

L: We can do this work, as we are, because of the Holy Spirit.

P: By God's grace, we are salt.

Service parts in bold: Everyone speaks in unison.
Parts with an asterisk: * Please stand in body or in spirit.

L: We purify, we cleanse, we bind, we bring out the best in people.

P: By God's grace, we are light.

L: We allow things to be seen as they are. We point to holiness.

P: By God's grace, we follow the commandments and the law.

L: We love the Lord our God and our neighbors as ourselves.

P: By God's grace, we are salt. We are light. God transforms us and uses us.

L: Let us worship our God, so full of transformative grace.

* Hymn #700 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!

* *Passing of the Peace*

Pastor Teddie

Let us share the peace of God with each other, as we greet one another in the name of Christ.

Call to Confession

Lynne

In worship, everyone is welcome as they are. We invite each other to set our burdens down, including the burden of false pretenses. Let us be honest with God and with our selves about the ways that we fail so that we can hear the good news of Jesus' redemption anew. Let us confess our sins together and individually.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lynne

Almighty God, you have called us to bring out the best in the world around us, to be bold in our faith, to share your love with those around us. We have failed your command. We choose conflict. We choose laziness. We choose excuses. Forgive us for rejecting the identity that you offer us freely, for rejecting the work of your Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Please take time now for your own silent prayers. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor Teddie

L: Even when we fail, even when we are not perfect, God still claims us. God still calls us by name. God still places God's Spirit upon us.

P: We are known and loved and forgiven. Amen.

* Gloria Patri

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Call for the Offering

Pastor Teddie

Friends, we have confessed our sins; we have reminded each other of our forgiveness; we have heard the Word of God proclaimed. Let us respond by offering God what we hold as precious, whether that is our money, time or talents.

Offering/ Offertory

Seung-mee

* Doxology

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Pastor Teddie

Heavenly Parent, we offer you these gifts. Please bless them, just as you bless those who gave them and those who will receive them. May the sharing of these gifts remind us of the connection that holds us all together and the beloved community you call us to form. Amen.

* Affirmation of Faith (unison) (The Confession of Belhar)

Pastor Teddie

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells; that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

Sharing of Joys & Concerns / Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

Greg Lee

Musical Reflection

Seung-mee

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Lynne

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Lynne

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 5:13-20

Pastor Teddie

¹³"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

"God's Priorities"

Pastor Teddie

* Hymn #753

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)

Pastor Teddie

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Alleluia! **Amen.**

Sung Benediction

All

May the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you forever;
grant you peace, perfect peace,
courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see God's face,
full of grace forever;
may the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you forever.

Fellowship Time

Come! Join us in the Fellowship Room for refreshments, snacks, and conversation following the worship service.