

Worshiping God at  
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 14, 2023



Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teddie McConnell

Flowers today are gifted by Vickie and Ron Thomas.  
They are in memory of Vickie's mother, Virginia, and Ron's mother, Ethel.

Prelude

Seung-mee Oh

Opening Prayer

Pastor Teddie

Faithful God, in Christ, your beloved Son, you have never abandoned us. You are a father to the fatherless, and a mother to the motherless.

Come and live in us, through Christ, so that we may live forever in him, keeping his commandments of love. We pray this in Christ's holy name, by the power of the Spirit of truth. **Amen.**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Mary Fuhlendorf

**L:** As a hen gathers her brood under her wings, God desires to gather us together.

**P: Gather us, O God. We are here to worship and sing your praise!**

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

## Offering Our Praise

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\* Hymn #824

*There is a Place of Quiet Rest  
(Near to the Heart of God)*

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God, a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

(Refrain): O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God, hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God, a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. (Refrain).

There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God, a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. (Refrain).

\* *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.

## Receiving God's Grace

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*Call to Confession*

Mary

No one is lost to God. All are welcome to witness and receive God's saving grace. Let us confess our sins before our Savior.

*Prayer of Confession (unison)*

Mary

**Holy God, we are quick to criticize, quick to judge, quick to blame. We fail to offer others the same grace we receive from you. We hold ourselves up as superior and fail to address the patterns of dominance we perpetuate. Forgive us. Help us seek understanding and compassion. Help us accept the love you offer us and share your love with others.**

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

## Assurance of Pardon

Pastor Teddie

Christ transforms, redeems, and renews. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

## \* Gloria Patri

## Anthem

*To Come*

Chancel Choir

## Offering our Gifts



## Call for the Offering

Pastor Teddie

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

## Offering/ Offertory

Seung-mee

## \* Doxology

## \* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Pastor Teddie

**Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the Good News of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads. Amen.**

*\* Affirmation of Faith (unison) (From a Brief Statement of Faith)*

Pastor Teddie

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

**We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.**

**In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

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

Greg Lee

*Musical Reflection*

Seung-mee Oh

*Hearing God's Word*



*Prayer for Illumination (unison)*

Mary

**Savior God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Walk with us. Guide us with your wisdom and grace. Open us to discerning your will and your way. Amen.**

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

Message

*"Sharing Jesus Gently"*

Pastor Teddie

\* Hymn #804

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

(Refrain): Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise, send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the psalms of ancient days. (Refrain).

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go, from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe. (Refrain).

At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest; the pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. (Refrain).

Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your festal banner wave on high the cross of Christ your King. (Refrain).

Taking God's Word into the World



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.