

Worshiping God at
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
4th Sunday After Pentecost
June 25, 2023



Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teddie McConnell

Prelude

Seung-mee Oh

Opening Prayer

Pastor Teddie

Sovereign God, your kingdom is not of this world. You sent Jesus into this world to proclaim the coming of your holy realm of justice, equality, and dignity for all. Strengthen us to serve you, bringing good news to people who are poor and liberty to those who are oppressed, until your will is done on earth as in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Mary Fuhlendorf

L: O Lord, remember the hardships of David: how he swore, "I will not enter into my house until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."

P: Rise up, O Lord, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.

L: The Lord swore a sure oath to David, from which God will not turn back.

P: "This is my resting place forever," says the Lord. "Here I will reside, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless its provisions; I will satisfy with bread those who are poor."

Service parts in bold: Everyone speaks in unison.

Parts with an asterisk: * Please stand in body or in spirit.

Offering Our Praise



* Hymn

Abraham Journeyed to a New Country

(Sung to the tune of "Morning Has Broken")

Abraham journeyed to a new country; Sarah went with him journeying too. Slaves down in Egypt fled Pharaoh's army; Ruth left the home and people she knew.

Mary and Joseph feared Herod's order; soldiers were coming! They had to flee. Taking young Jesus, they crossed the border; so was our Lord a young refugee.

Some heard the promise – God's hand would bless them! Some fled from hunger, famine and pain. Some left a place where others oppressed them; all trusted God and started again.

Did they know hardship? Did they know danger? Who shared a home or gave them some bread? Who reached a hand to welcome the stranger? Who saw their fear and gave hope instead?

God, our own families came here from far lands; we have been strangers, "aliens" too. May we reach out and offer a welcome as we have all been welcomed by you.

* 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



Call to Confession

Mary

Grace and peace to you from the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, who loves us and sets us free from sin.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Mary

Holy and eternal one, God of all mercy and might, we confess that we have not been faithful servants in your realm of righteousness, justice, and peace.

You scatter the proud in the thoughts of their hearts while we cling to prejudice and privilege. You bring down the powerful from their thrones while we perpetuate patterns of oppression. You fill the hungry with good things while we turn away neighbors in need.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Set us free from our captivity and corruption, strengthen us to seek your will in the world, and teach us to worship and serve you alone; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior.

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

Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)

Pastor Teddie

L: Grace and peace to you from the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God!

* Gloria Patri

Special Music

Seung-mee

Offering our Gifts



Call for the Offering

Pastor Teddie

Remember the generosity of the Lord Jesus Christ, who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor. Therefore, God has called us to seek a fair balance between abundance and need, in order that "The one who has much does not have too much, and the one who has little does not have too little." Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offering/ Offertory

Seung-mee

* Doxology

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Pastor Teddie

Ancient and eternal God, we give you thanks and praise for your creative purpose, your redeeming work, and your unending love. Receive the offering of our lives. Use us and use these gifts to establish your everlasting reign— a new creation of abundant life for all that shall never be destroyed. All honor and glory are yours, now and always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Pastor Teddie

Musical Reflection

Seung-mee Oh

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Mary

O Lord our God, guide us by your Word and Spirit, that we may listen to your voice and testify to the truth of good news for all; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson

Deuteronomy 15:4-5

Pastor Teddie

There will, however, be no one in need among you, because the Lord is sure to bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you as a possession to occupy⁵ if only you will obey the Lord your God by diligently observing this entire commandment that I command you today. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 26:10-12

Pastor Teddie

But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. ¹¹ For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Third Scripture Lesson

Luke 4:18-19

Pastor Teddie

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

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

Message

"Bringing Matthew 25 into Focus - Part Three"

Pastor Teddie

Eradicate Systemic Poverty

* Hymn #372

O for a World (Verses 1, 2, 4 and 5)

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace, where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

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.