



St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church | PC (USA)

Welcome to Worship! | July 24, 2022

It is good you are here! Please silence all electronic devices.

GATHERING

Prelude *Rhosymedre*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

**Welcome
Moment for Mission**

Jeff Denlinger

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

People: You shall love the Lord our God, and your neighbor as yourself.

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it;

People: the world, and those who live in it.

Leader: O praise the Lord with me,

People: let us exalt God's name together.

Gathering Prayer

***Hymn** *Here I Am to Worship (lyrics on screen)*

Hughes

WORD

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Sermon: *"Life Together: 'They devoted themselves...to fellowship...'"*

Rev. Dr. Robert Bayley

***Hymn No. 837** *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*

***Affirmation of Faith:** Apostle's Creed (hymnal, p. 35)

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

THANKSGIVING

Offering

Offertory *Be Thou My Vision*

arr. Tedd Smith and Don Hustad

***Doxology No. 606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING

***Hymn** *Glorious Day (lyrics on screen)*

Passion

***Blessing**

***Dismissal**

*We stand while the bell is rung three times, remembering that God,
Creator, Redeemer and Renewer of Life goes with us. Go in Peace!*

Postlude *Allegro maestoso from Sonata in C minor (Op. 65, no. 2)*

Felix Mendelssohn

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Worship Leaders

Interim Head Pastor, Rev. Dr. Robert Bayley
Parish Associate, Rev. Dr. Gary Smith
Director of Music, Cindy Litzinger
Organist, Sara Bryant
Pianist, Steve Lowry

Praise Band Leader, Chelsea Kimbrough
Praise Band
Lay Reader, Virginia Hager

LIFE TOGETHER

“They devoted themselves...to fellowship...”

St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, North Carolina

Sunday 24 July 2022

Rev. Dr. Robert Bayley, Interim Pastor

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to **fellowship, (life together** – The Message), to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42*

Devoted: to be steadfast, to attend to constantly, to persevere.

Fellowship: koinonia, to share something in common with someone else.

“SACPC needs for now to focus not on getting bigger but on getting better, getting well.”

Holy Cow congregational survey facilitator Emily Swanson.

Q: What will help us get better, get well at SACPC? **A:** Focus on fellowship.

THE BROWN FELLOWSHIP HALL (Dedication Plaque)

*“That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have **fellowship (koinonian) with us and our fellowship (koinonia) is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.**” 1 John 1:3 RSV*

The basis of this fellowship is forgiveness, which helps us get better, get well, and relate.

“Because God has already laid the foundation for our **fellowship**, because God has bound us together in one body with other Christians in Jesus Christ, long before we entered into common life with them, we enter into that common life not as demanders but as thankful recipients. We thank God for what he has done for us. We thank God for giving us brothers and sisters who live by His call, by His forgiveness, and by His promise, We do not complain of what God does not give us; we rather thank God for what He does give us daily. And is not what has been given us enough: brothers who will go on living with us through sin and need under the blessing of His grace? Is the divine gift of Christian **fellowship** anything less than this, any day, even the most difficult and distressing day? Even when sin and misunderstanding burden the communal life, is not the sinning brother still a brother with whom I, too, stand under the Word of Christ? Will not his sin be a constant occasion for me to give thanks that both of us may live in the forgiving love of God in Jesus Christ? Thus the very hour of disillusionment with my brother becomes incomparably salutary, because it so thoroughly teaches me that neither of us can ever live by our own words and deeds, but only by that one Word and Deed which really binds us together – the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ.”

Life Together: A Discussion of Christian **Fellowship**, Dietrich Bonhoeffer 1906-1945

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we

cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ the Light of the world.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE - 1 John 1:5-9

*"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have **fellowship (koinonian)** with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have **fellowship koinonian)** with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

*GLORIA PATRI

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE – An expression of Christian Fellowship

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

How does this 'life together' as a forgiven people look as we grow into a healthy church?

1. "Global Ends Policy: People are in a relationship with Jesus Christ, worth no less than 100% of total church resources." Session Governance Policies, SACPC

*"God, who has called you into **fellowship (koinonian)** with his Son Jesus our Lord, is faithful."*
1 Corinthians 1:9

2. "Global Ends Policy: People in this church are engaged and in relationship with one another, worth no less than 60% of total church resources." Session Governance Policies, SACPC

*"And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of **sharing (koinonian)** in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will." 2 Corinthians 8:1-5*

3. "Global Ends Policy: Partners, worth no more than 10% of total church resources. Local Partners. Global Partners." Session Governance Policies, SACPC

*"I thank my God every time I remember you in all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your **partnership (koinonia)** in the Gospel from the first day until now."*
Philippians 1:3-5

*Sermon Response Hymn #837: "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"