



# St. Andrews-Covenant

Presbyterian Church | PC (USA)

**Welcome to Worship! | September 25, 2022**

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

## GATHERING

**Prelude** *Andante Tranquillo*

Percy W. Whitlock

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship: Psalm 150**

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

**People: Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!**

**All: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!**

**\*Unison Gathering Prayer**

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have won for us, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us. O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.

**Amen.**

Richard, 1197-1253, Bishop of Chichester, England

**\*Hymn No. 610** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

**Anthem** *Be Still*

arr. Mary McDonald

**Prayer of Confession**

O blessed Spirit of Truth, you search the heart and test the inmost thoughts, help me remember my sins, and let me see them in your light. Strengthen me also with courage to confess them truly, hiding nothing, excusing nothing, keeping back nothing in my heart. In your mercy, pardon and absolve, and thus heal me, that I may arise and sin no more, through the merits and for the sake of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

The Mozarabic Sacramentary, 7th Century

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**\*Sung Response No. 581** *Glory Be to the Father*

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

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

**People: And also with you.**

## WORD

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 2:13-17; Romans 14:14-19

**Sermon:** *"Pursuing Peace by Understanding Others"*

Rev. Dr. Gary Smith

**\*Hymn No. 310** *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

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

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

## THANKSGIVING

### Offering and Passing of Friendship Pads

Offertory *Celebration of "Azmon"*

Brian Childers

\*Doxology No. 606

\*Prayer of Dedication

## SENDING

\*Hymn No. 450 *Be Thou My Vision*

\*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 *Prelude in E Major (BWV566)*

J. S. Bach

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### Worship Leaders

Interim Head Pastor, Rev. Dr. Robert Bayley  
Parish Associate, Rev. Dr. Gary Smith  
Director of Music, Cindy Litzinger

Choir Director, Angela Burns  
Organist/Pianist, Sara Bryant  
Adult Choir and Adult Handbells

### The flowers in the Sanctuary

Are given to the glory of God and in memory of Cliff Hester, who died September 17, 2022.

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## **"Pursuing Peace Through Understanding Others"**

**Rev. Dr. Gary Smith, Parish Associate**

**Mark 2:13-17; Romans 14:14-19**

In the first century AD, tax collectors were despised as traitors and extortioners; Jewish tax collectors were regarded as social outcasts.

Understanding how almost all Jews hated tax collectors, it is remarkable that Jesus called Matthew to be one of His twelve disciples.

Why did Matthew give up his profession, his livelihood, and his wealth to follow Jesus?

The Pharisees objected to Jesus keeping company with sinners.

Jesus' answer is both simple and profound: Those who are well have no need of a physician.

Only those who acknowledge that they are sick go to a doctor; only those who acknowledge their sin can receive Jesus' healing.

Throughout the Old Testament, God often dispensed grace to sinners.

We live in contentious times.

A recent Pew Research study found that more societal conflict exists in the United States than in any of the other 16 advanced nations surveyed. Conflict also sadly exists in the church.

Romans 14:19 declares: “Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.”

The Greek word translated “pursue” means to diligently seek something, to press toward a goal, to run swiftly to achieve something that is important.

We must not compromise the essentials of the Gospel, especially the deity, substitutionary atonement, and bodily resurrection of Christ. However, we often argue about matters that are nonessential.

Much discord in society and the church stems from us making critical judgments without carefully considering the context or other people’s perspectives.

In both Christian living and in the non-essential of Christian doctrine, we need to be gracious and uncritical and live harmoniously together.

Jesus declared, “Blessed are the peacemakers.” II Timothy 2:22 states: “pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.” I Peter 3: 11 tell us to “seek peace and pursue it.” Romans 12:16, 18 proclaims, “Live in harmony with one another . . . as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

Ephesians 4:2-3 states, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” Ephesians 4: 15 admonishes us to speak “the truth in love” and “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

The Golden Result: “Other people will usually treat you the way you treat them.”

Many conflicts in the church are triggered or made worse by poor communication.

“the Three Ps of Satisfaction”

- process satisfaction—a fair, orderly, and even-handed process
- personal satisfaction—treating everyone with respect, courtesy, and equality
- product satisfaction—devising a solution to a dispute that is as reasonable, just, and equitable as possible

Making a charitable judgment means that out of love for God, we strive to believe the best about others.

Jesus teaches us “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged (Matt, 7:1).

In any conflict, consider three types of awareness: self-awareness, other-awareness, and God-awareness.