

The Church Responds

The Affirmation of Faith – from The Belhar Confession *(In Unison)*

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; We believe in the triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through the Word and Spirit. This God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. Thanks be to God!

The Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

A Minute for Stewardship

Esther Radvinski

The Church Goes Forth to Serve

The Closing Hymn #298 "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" *(Glory to God)*

Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."

Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

The Benediction and the Postlude

Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

August 16, 2020

11th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

The Church in Preparation

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Introit and Time of Centering #769 "For Everyone Born" *(Glory to God)*

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:

and God will delight when we are creators of justice
and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free,

Refrain

The Call to Worship

Leader: Come and worship, all who love and serve the Lord:

People: outsiders and insiders, old-timers and new-comers.

Leader: Come and worship, all who love and serve the Lord:

**People: young, old, and in-between;
new to faith and seasoned followers.**

Leader: Come and worship as you are, for this is God's house,

People: and God welcomes each one who comes.

Let us worship God!

The Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

O God of our hearts, you yearn to be so close to us that we can know you in every breath, in every hope, in every relationship. Meet us here today and teach us to recognize the covenant of justice, peace, and love you have written on our hearts. May our desires become your desires, our work become your work, and our community the place where you are sought and found. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***The Opening Hymn #761** “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” *(Glory to God)*

Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

The Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, your word today challenges us with its message of faith and fruitfulness, courage and commitment. As we hear the stories of the faith of people throughout the ages, we marvel at their perseverance in the face of the many trials they had to endure. We are thus confronted with questions about our own faith and fruitfulness; our own courage and commitment. Forgive us for clinging to what is known, familiar and comfortable. Forgive us for failing to speak the truth to power. Forgive us for tolerating injustice because we are afraid of losing what we have. Forgive us for words and actions which insult and demean others to bolster our own nagging insecurities. Imprint on our hearts and minds the example of Jesus so we might run with perseverance the race that is set before us. This we pray in Jesus’ name.

A Time of Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God so loved the world that he sent his only son –
not to condemn the world, but so the world through him might be saved!
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Musical Response “Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Church in Proclamation

Scripture Readings

Psalm 13
Galatians 3: 23 – 29

Leader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God**

Special Music

“The Beatitudes”
Vocalist Deanna Golden and Pianist Melinda Ripper

The Micro Message

“The Belhar Confession” Brian Graff

Musical Response #288

“Spirit of the Living God” *(Glory to God)*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

The Sermon

“Links in the Chain” Brian Graff

The Hymn #754

“Help Us Accept Each Other” *(Glory to God)*

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter’s healing art.

Lord, for today’s encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

Scripture Readings

Psalm 13

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I bear pain^[a] in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

³ Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

⁵ But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Galatians 3: 23 - 29

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring,^[a] heirs according to the promise.



The flowers today are given by Connie Steinberg and Patty Walters in memory of Bill Walters.

Congratulations and best wishes to Gary and Jeanette Nestor! They celebrated their 50 year wedding anniversary on August 1, 2020 with a dinner at Hotel Saxonburg.

Happy Birthday to:



August 17

August 18

August 18

August 22

Dennis Rodgers

Don Eyth

Travis Grossman

John Ripper

Welcome Brian Graff!

A warm Saint Andrews welcome to our guest preacher, Brian Graff! Brian has studied Congregational Leadership at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa and is in our Presbytery's Commissioned Pastor Program. He serves as chairperson of the Worship and Music Department at Covenant Presbyterian, his home church. In addition, he is the moderator of the Butler Interfaith Network, which works towards inclusion & equality for all persons in places of worship. We are blessed to have him leading us in worship this morning!

Pastor Merry is out of town to spend some time with her mother. While she is away, Rev. Mary Kitchen will be available in case of emergencies. If you have a pastoral care need or concern, please call Rev. Kitchen at 412-266-0930.

