

Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

July 12, 2020

6th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

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

The Church Goes Forth to Serve

*The Closing Hymn #714 "God of the Fertile Fields" *(Glory to God)*

God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
for people everywhere, that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.

God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

The Benediction

The Postlude

The Church in Preparation

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Introit and Time of Centering "As the Deer"

Vocalist Deanna Golden and Pianist Melinda Ripper

The Call to Worship

Leader: As we wait upon the Lord, let us open our eyes,

People: That we might see and perceive the word of the Lord.

Leader: As we wait upon the Lord, let us open our ears,

People: That we might hear and heed the will of the Lord.

Leader: As we wait upon the Lord, let us open our hearts,

**People: That Christ's grace might take root and bear much fruit.
Let us worship God!**

The Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, be with us in this hour of worship. Give us hearts to see the things our eyes overlook. Open our hearts to feel the things our hands cannot touch. Tune our hearts to hear the still, small voice our ears ignore. Teach us to seek your will and to sense your presence, through the grace of Christ. Amen.

*The Opening Hymn #11 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?" *(Presby Hymnal)*

O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, A lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.

Love caused Your incarnation, Love brought You down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace
In love all loves excelling Our lost and fallen race.

A glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high,
That will not fail nor leave me As earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever For You with praises new,
And from Your name shall never Withhold the honor due.

The Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Loving God, we come to you with preoccupied minds and weary hearts. At times, we feel besieged with worries, doubts, and fears. Our cares can be like vining weeds in a garden. They crowd out our sense of your presence and choke off the new life you are nurturing within us. Have patience with us, dear Lord. Keep clearing and loosening the soil of our hearts. Keep scattering the seeds of peace, love, hope and joy so that we grow in grace and bloom to your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Time of Silent Confession and the Assurance of Pardon

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

Genesis 25: 19 – 34
Matthew 13:1 – 9, 18 - 23
Leader: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God

Special Music

“He Touched Me”

Vocalist Deanna Golden and Pianist Melinda Ripper

The Micro Message

Musical Response #324

“Open My Eyes That I May See” *(Presby Hymnal)*

Open my eyes, that I may see Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, Everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare Love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

The Sermon

“Being Good Dirt”

Rev. Merry Meloy

The Hymn #171

“A Sower Came from Ancient Hills”

(Glory to God)

A Sower came from ancient hills and cast good seed abroad:
his field, ten thousand human hearts; his seed, the word of God.
And some who listened would not hear, and some who heard forgot.
But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower taught.

A Sower walked throughout the land and, everywhere he trod,
he sowed his life because he was himself the Seed of God.
But then, atop a barren hill, beneath a darkening sky,
they threw God’s Seed on stony ground and left it there to die.

The Seed was buried deep in death beneath a blood-red sky,
and deeper still was buried hope for those who watched him die.
But then in Joseph’s garden fair, as dawn broke o’er the land,
the Seed, from three days’ silent sleep, awoke at God’s command!

O Christ, you come among us still, the Sower and the Seed.
As once you sowed the truth of God in glowing word and deed,
implant your Word in waiting hearts, and let it there take hold,
until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundredfold.

The Church Responds

The Affirmation of Faith - Apostles' Creed *(In Unison)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Genesis 25: 19 – 34

¹⁹ These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²² The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?"^[c] So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ And the LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger."

²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob.^[c] Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸ Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.^[e]) ³¹ Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." ³² Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" ³³ Jacob said, "Swear to me first."^[f] So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Matthew 13: 1 - 9, 18 - 23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil

and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears^[a] listen!"

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.^[c] ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

All in the Family



The sympathy and resurrection faith of the congregation go out to Marcia Bennett's family and loved ones. Marcia died on Wednesday, July 1, 2020.



Happy Birthday to:
July 13 Alyssa Ripper

Congregational Meeting



We will be electing new officers at a Congregational Meeting next Sunday, July 19, immediately after worship. Please plan on staying. Thanks!