

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.

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 #418 "God, Bless Your Church with Strength!" (Presby Hymnal)

God, bless Your church with strength! Wherever we may be,
Upbuild Your servants as we work in common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith to venture and to soar
Through open skies, to sing the praise of Christ whom we adore.

God, bless Your Church with life! May all our branches thrive,
Unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit, abundantly alive.
From You, one holy vine, in freedom may we grow;
Sustain us in our mission, Lord, Your love and peace to show.

God, bless Your Church with hope! Despite chaotic days,
May we in chaos shine to light a pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim, and kindness ours to share,
In humbleness O may we walk, assured our God is there!

***The Benediction**

***The Postlude** ~~~~~

Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

May 2, 2021

5th Sunday of Easter

10:30 AM

The Church in Preparation

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Introit and Time of Centering #285 "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

The Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another,
Because love is from God;

People: Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Leader: Whoever does not love does not know God,
For God is love.

People: Let us worship God who loves us completely;

Leader: Let us open our hearts in joy and praise.

(Based on 1 John 4:7 – 8)

The Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Loving God, in the gift of this time, in the stillness of this place, slow us and refocus us. By your Spirit, nurture and strengthen our connection to Christ and to one another. Help us to grow. Help us to love. Help us to bear good fruit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Opening Hymn #366 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” *(Glory to God)*

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe, thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, never-more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

The Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Loving God, we confess that we have failed to produce the fruits of discipleship. Like withered branches, we have cut ourselves off from your life-giving power. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Prune and cultivate our lives so that our words and actions may give expression to your love and glory to your holy name, through the grace of Christ. Amen.

A Time of Silent Confession

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

The Scripture Reading

1 John 4: 7 - 21

John 15: 1 - 8

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Special Music

“Abide with Me”

Vocalist: Deanna Golden

Pianist: Melinda Ripper

The Micro Message

Musical Response #2076

“O Blessed Spring”

(Sing the Faith)

O blessed spring, where Word and sign embrace us into Christ the Vine:
here Christ enjoins each one to be a branch of this life-giving Tree.

Through summer heat and youthful years, uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
sustained by Christ’s infusing rain, the boughs will shout for joy again.

When autumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their heavy harvest hold,
then through us warm, the Christ will move with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.

As winter comes, as winters must, we breathe our last, return to dust;
still held in Christ, our souls take wing and trust the promise of the spring.

Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, be praised for this blest mystery:
that Word and water thus revive and join us to your Tree of Life.

The Sermon

Rev. Merry Meloy

The Hymn #703

“Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

(Glory to God)

Jesus, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I’d live; myself to thee entirely give.

O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone;
O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.

O Love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies;
care, anguish, sorrow melt away where’er thy healing beams arise.

O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire or seek, but thee.

Scripture Reading

1 John 4: 7 - 21

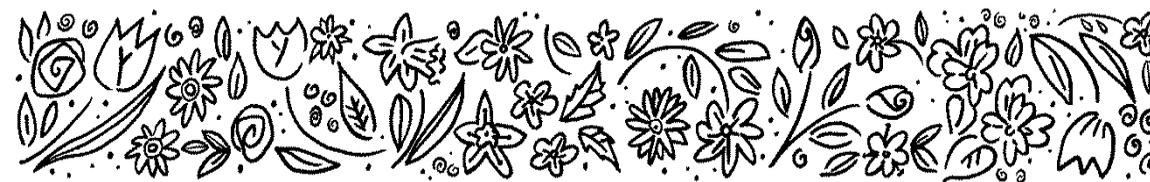
⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love^[a] because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters,^[b] are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister^[c] whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters^[d] also.

John 15:1 - 8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes^[a] to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed^[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[c] my disciples.



All in the Family

The sympathy and resurrection faith of the congregation go out to Caroline Mahood's family and loved ones. Caroline died on Friday, April 23, 2021.

The flowers today are given by Deanna Golden in memory of Don Roberts.



Flower Calendar for 2021

Would you like to donate the chancel flowers for one or more worship services?

The Flower Calendar for 2021 is in the Narthex.

Please sign up for a Sunday or two. Don't forget to tell us if the flowers are in honor or in memory of someone, or if they are to commemorate an important date. The flowers you donate are yours to take home after the worship service, or you may leave them and a Deacon will take them to one of our homebound members. The cost is \$40. Thank you!

