

A Minute for Stewardship and Litany

Leader: The voice of God is calling:

Come to me, dear servants. Open your hands.

People: We can't, Lord.

Our hands are clenched tight with guilt, fear, and worry.

Leader: Trust that my cleansing grace can transform you.

Come to me, dear ones. Open your hands.

People: We can't, Lord.

Our hands are aching, bruised, and sore.

Leader: I will touch your hurts and heal them.

Come to me, dear children. Open your hands.

People: We can't, Lord.

Our hands are empty.

We have nothing to offer.

Leader: Open your eyes and then open your hands.

I have given you gifts and talents and resources—
everything you need to accomplish everything I ask.

**People: Thank you, dear Lord, for loving us so much,
for calling us to your work, for claiming us as your own.**

Leader: Open your hands, my beloved.

and then go into the world to share my grace,
knowing that you are ever and always
in the palm of my hand.

The Church Goes Forth to Serve

The Closing Hymn #711

“Lord of All Good”

(Glory to God)

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
use them your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
that our whole life is offered to your will.

We give our minds to understand your ways;
hands, eyes, and voice to serve your great design;
heart with the flame of your own love ablaze,
till for your glory all our powers combine.

Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
to you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

The Benediction and Postlude

Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

November 15, 2020

24th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

The Church in Preparation

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Introit and Time of Centering #710

“We Lift Our Voices”

(Glory to God)

We lift our voices; we lift our hands;
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands;

Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices; we lift our hands;

we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

The Call to Worship

Leader: We lift our eyes to the Lord,
who created the heavens and the earth.

**People: We praise God who gives us a place in God's heart,
a part in God's work.**

Leader: God gives each person
talents to nurture and gifts to share.

**People: Let us worship God who entrusts us with so much.
Let us lift our hearts in praise and prayer.**

The Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

**Gracious and generous God, you are always with us. In times of joy and
times of trouble, you are there, strengthening, comforting, guiding. Continue
to show us your way, O Lord. Help us to move forward, even though the path
is unclear and the way uncertain. Open our minds to your will, our hearts to
your love, and our hands to your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Opening Hymn #612

“We Praise You, O God”

(Glory to God)

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;

We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

The Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Loving God, we confess that we are not always faithful stewards of your many blessings. We fail to see your gifts in ourselves or each other. We fail to invest the talents and treasure you have entrusted to our care. We hide them and hoard them, living by fear rather than faith. Forgive us, Lord. Empower us to invest our gifts in the tasks to which you call us. Give us the courage to risk ourselves in service to you, our loving Lord and Savior. Amen.

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

Matthew 25: 14 – 30

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

Special Music

“Because of Thy Great Bounty”

Vocalist: Deanna Golden

Pianist: Melinda Ripper

The Micro Message

Musical Response #410 “When I Had Not Yet Learned of Jesus” *(Presby Hymnal)*

When I had not yet learned of Jesus Christ,
When I refused to listen to God's call,
I was defiant then, till God broke through;
Now by God's grace Christ is my all in all.

Whatever talent God has given me
I pledge to use in service and in love.
Joined with my God to lift my neighbor's load,
New strength and hope are given from above.

To be God's servant in this earthly life,
No matter if the task is great or small,
This is my charge to witness faithfully,
Strengthened by Christ who is my all in all.

The Sermon

Rev. Merry Meloy

The Hymn #716 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” *(Glory to God)*

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.

Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.

Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

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.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25: 14 – 30

¹⁴ “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents,^[a] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’

²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’

²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’



Happy Birthday to:

November 15

Mary Agnes McKay

November 16

Dawn Grossman

A Note of Thanks

Patty Walters would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, cards and prayers following her recent surgery. She loves and dearly misses seeing her church family!

