

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 #770 "I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table" *(Glory to God)*

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table;
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Alleluia.
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table;
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Alleluia.

I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus;
I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus, Alleluia.
I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus;
I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus, Alleluia.

I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers;
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers, Alleluia.
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers;
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers, Alleluia.

Here all the world will find a welcome;
here all the world will find a welcome, Alleluia.
Here all the world will find a welcome;
here all the world will find a welcome, Alleluia.

The Benediction and the Postlude

Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

October 11, 2020

19th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

The Church in Preparation

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Introit and Time of Centering #468

"In My Life"

(Glory to God)

In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In your world, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

The Call to Worship

Leader 1: Come away from the rush and worry of the world to worship God.

Leader 2: Come—because you are invited.

Leader 1: Come—because you are hungry

People: For mercy.

For peace.

For hope.

For new life.

Leader 2: Come. God's banquet of grace is ready.

Leader 1: Come. Christ has flung open the door and his arms to welcome you.

Leader 2: "Come," Jesus says. Just come!

People: Let us worship God.

The Opening Prayer *(Responsively)*

Leader: Loving God, incline our minds to things that are true and just,

People: to things that are pure and pleasing,

Leader: to things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

People: Dear Lord, incline our hearts to you!

***The Opening Hymn #628** “Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord” (Glory to God)

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name.
Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name.
Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name.
Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

The Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

Merciful God, in Jesus Christ you have shown us that the secret to joy is a heart fully focused on you. Yet we struggle to focus on anything beyond ourselves. We turn away from our neighbors and ignore those in need. We turn away from your presence, and ignore your truth and grace. Forgive us, Lord. Open our minds to your will. Open our hearts to your love. Open our lives to your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Scripture Readings

The Church in Proclamation

Exodus 32: 1 – 14

Philippians 4: 1 – 9

Matthew 22: 1 - 14

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Special Music

“Day by Day”

Vocalist: Deanna Golden

Pianist: Melinda Ripper

The Micro Message

Musical Response #739 “O for a Closer Walk with God” (Glory to God)

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy Dove, return, sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known, what e'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy throne, and worship only thee.

The Sermon

Rev. Merry Meloy

The Hymn #593

“Come and Dine”

(Sing to the Lord)

Jesus has a table spread Where the saints of God are fed;
He invites His chosen people, “Come and dine.”
With His manna He doth feed And supplies our ev'ry need.
O 'tis sweet to sup with Jesus all the time!

Refrain:

“Come and dine,” the Master calleth, “come and dine.”
You may feast at Jesus' table all the time.
He who fed the multitude, turned the water into wine,
To the hungry calleth now, “Come and dine.”

The disciples came to land, Thus obeying Christ's command;
For the Master called to them, “O come and dine.”
There they found their hearts' desire—Bread and fish upon the fire;
Thus He satisfies the hungry ev'ry time.

Refrain

Soon the Lamb will take His bride To be ever at His side;
All the hosts of heaven will assembled be.
O 'twill be a glorious sight—All the saints in spotless white;
And with Jesus they will feast eternally.

Refrain:



Update on PCUSA Mission Co-Workers Jim and Jodi McGill

Our October First Sunday Mission Offering goes to the McKee Memorial Fund to help support the work of PCUSA mission co-workers Jim and Jodi McGill. A geological engineer, Jim works with the Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger (EERN) and the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan to provide clean water and sanitation to communities in rural Niger and South Sudan. Jim's wife Jodi is a nurse and public health educator. She is helping the EERN develop church-run health clinics and train students in its new nursing school. That work has been disrupted by Covid-19. Below are portions of several letters:

"In the middle of March, PCUSA requested all mission personnel, if possible, to return to the U.S., but by the time we got the news, land and air borders in Niger were closed. The capital, Niamey, was suddenly locked down. . . . In April, the Niger U.S. Embassy organized one final repatriation flight. We had 24 hours to inform the Embassy if we planned to take the flight, and two days to prepare to leave. After many hours of prayer and conversations, our family, minus Jim, put our names on the list. Although we knew it was the right decision, we wish we could say we felt at peace. We didn't. The feelings were horrible—leaving work, school, friends, and colleagues without saying goodbye because of time and COVID restrictions—leaving Jim behind for an indeterminate amount of time so he could continue his COVID-19 prevention work, and feeling like we were abandoning everyone and everything we had been working towards. Following God doesn't always mean you like what you are being guided to do."

As for Jim's work, while the pandemic disrupted all aspects of life, it provided opportunities to share Christ's presence with many Nigerians who normally would not interact with the church. Jim and the EERN trained community leaders in how to prevent the spread of the virus, produced and distributed water filters and hand washing stations, and distributed maize and rice to the most vulnerable members of communities, including families of day laborers who could not work during the crisis.

Stateside, Jodi continued her work virtually as a nurse educator at the nursing school in Niamey by preparing the curriculum for her courses. In August, the airport reopened and Jim was able to rejoin the family in Atlanta. They write, *"While it is wonderful to be together as a family again, it is difficult to be away from our brothers and sisters with whom we partner."*

To help ensure that partnership continues, please prayerfully consider making a donation to the McKee Memorial Fund. Thank you!

Scripture Readings

Exodus 32: 1 - 14

32 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."² Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."³ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron.⁴ He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold,^[a] and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD."⁶ They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely;⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are.¹⁰ Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'"¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Philippians 4:1 - 9

4¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion,^[b] help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice^[c] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.^[d] ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved,^[e] whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about^[f] these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 22: 1 - 14

22 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The flowers today are given by Jeanne Wilson in memory of Merle Wilson and in honor of Wilson LeCount.



Clothes-a-Palooza and More! Sale

Saturday, October 17th

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

in the Bethany Room

Please help us spread the word. We have an amazing variety of items for sale! Customers will be limited to 18 people at a time. Masks and physical distancing will be required. See you there!



Scottish Sunday Service October 25, 2020 at Alameda Park



This year, we'll be celebrating Scottish Sunday with an outdoor service at Alameda Park. Join us at the Pine Shelter at 10:30 am on Sunday, October 25th. The service will include special music by our faithful piper Lars Morrison. Please dress for the weather and come!