

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 #468 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" *(Sing to the Lord)*

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me; The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me; No turning back, no turning back.

Tho' none go with me, still I will follow; Tho' none go with me, still I will follow;
Tho' none go with me, still I will follow; No turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus? No turning back, no turning back.

The Benediction

The Postlude

Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

September 13, 2020

15th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

The Church in Preparation

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Introit and Time of Centering

#233

"The Old Rugged Cross"

(Sing to the Lord)

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down.
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.

O the old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

Refrain

The Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved in Christ, let love be genuine;
hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.

People: **Love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honor.**

Leader: For in this way God's glory will be made known
and all people will praise God.

(Based on Romans 12:9 – 10)

The Opening Prayer *(Responsively)*

Leader 1: God of surprises, when we think you are not present in our lives,
you reveal yourself in the love of friends and family
and nurture us in your never-ending care.

People: **God of surprises, when we think you are not present
in our community, you labor to make us of one heart
and inspire us to share gladly and generously.**

Leader 2: God of surprises, when people think you are not present
in our world, you bring hope out of despair
and growth out of difficulty.

**All: God of surprises, you are ever with us.
When the days go by and our vision fades, keep surprising us.
When our hope dims and our patience wears thin,
keep coming to us.
Teach us to keep our lamps lit and our hearts open,
that we may see your loving presence among us. Amen.**

(Francis Brienen, adapted)

***The Opening Hymn #720** Jesus Calls Us" *(Glory to God)*

Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult of our life's wild restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us: by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

The Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, we confess that we are not the people you call us to be. We fail in our love for you, forgetting your gracious acts. We fail in our love for one another, forsaking our neighbors' needs. Forgive us and liberate us, Lord. Release us from the shackles of our sin and heal our brokenness so that we may worship and serve you fully and freely, 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.

The Church in Proclamation

Scripture Readings

Romans 12: 9 - 21

Matthew 16:21 - 28

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Special Music

"Lord, Here Am I"

Vocalist Deanna Golden and Pianist Melinda Ripper

The Micro Message

Musical Response #718 "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said" *(Glory to God)*

Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and calmly every danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life and leads to victory o'er the grave.

The Sermon

Rev. Merry Meloy

The Hymn #216

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

(Glory to God)

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Scripture Readings

Romans 12: 9 - 21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.^[e] ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;^[i] do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God;^[a] for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16: 21 - 28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

All in the Family



The sympathy and resurrection faith of the congregation go out to the Stevens Family. Bob's sister, Lynda, died on August 21, 2020.

Happy Birthday to:



September 13

Zoann Weckerly

September 18

Kate Busa

September 19

Travis Mowery

