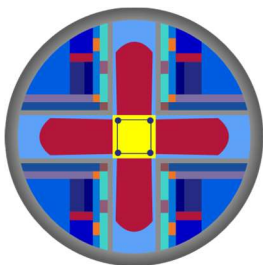


We are imperfect believers, passionate  
about sharing the love of Christ:  
by **Connecting**, **Growing**, and **Serving**.



**St. Andrews**  
Presbyterian Church

# **A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day**

## **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 10, 2023**

### **We Gather to Worship God**

Welcome to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church! If you are visiting, please complete a Visitor's Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Prayer cards are also available, and we invite you to list your concerns and place them in the offering plate as well. Our Minister and our Prayer Team will pray for your concerns.

#### **Chiming of the Hour and Introit**

#### **Call to Worship**

Leader: Welcome to this community of faith.

**People: We come seeking hope and courage for the future.**

Leader: Here you will find peace, hope, love and joy.

**People: We come weighed down by difficulties in our lives.**

Leader: Here you will find Jesus who will take your burdens on himself.

**People: Lord, we come to you this day in need of your mercy and love. AMEN.**

#### **Invocation**

**\*Opening Hymn #23**

**"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"**

### **We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek Reconciliation with God**

**Preparing Our Hearts for Confession - "Confession"**  
(front cover of hymnal)

**Words/Music by Kenneth Jones**

Lord, I come before you, asking your forgiveness. I am broken, I have faltered. I have turned from you.  
Create in me a new heart. Fill me with your love. Grant that I receive your grace, I pray.  
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

#### **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Forgiving and loving God, our hearts are filled today with pain and concern for the future of humankind. Words of anger assail our airways, we cannot escape from the threats being thrown about. In our fear, we cry "Where are you, O Lord?" We wander around in the darkness of the spirit, seeking light and hope. Forgive us when we forget that you are always with us, through times of peace and times of war. Heal our souls. Help us to reach out to others with the assurance of your love and presence, for we ask this in Jesus' name.

#### **Time of Silent Reflection and Personal Prayer of Confession**

Leader: And all the people of Christ say,

**People: Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: God hears our prayers and our cries. God leads us out of the darkness of the past into the bright promise of today. We are called to stand strong and confident in God's Love. Rejoice, dear friends, for that love which began before creation flows in and through you this day!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**\*Thanks for God's Forgiveness (#647; no repeats)**

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give Thanks! Give Thanks!

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Grace to you, and peace from God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**We Respond to God's Faithfulness in Our Life**

Offering Our Lives to Jesus through Our Time, Gifts, and Resources

Offertory

**\*Doxology (#606)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

(Children that have not yet finished 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are dismissed at this time for Children's Church)

**God's Word Is Read and Proclaimed**

Special Music

"At the River"  
arr. Aaron Copeland

Kellen Jones

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:15-20

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Proclamation of God's Word

Jeff Gilstrap

**Responding to God's Word**

**\* Affirmation of Our Faith (Apostle's Creed – Unison)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

Responsive Hymn #306

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Preparing Our Hearts for Prayer (#471)

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Time of Reflection, Meditation, Personal Prayer

Ann Paschall

## Sending Out Into the World

\*Sending Hymn #767

“Together We Serve”

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Congregational Benediction #313 (v.2)

“Lord, Make Us More Holy”

\*Postlude

\* Congregation Standing

Sanctuary Flowers – The flowers were placed in the sanctuary by Sandee Cribbs in loving memory of Pam and Kalie Cribbs.

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We hope you were blessed so you can go and be a witness to Christ’s love in the world. May your spirits be renewed for the days ahead.



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Jeff Gilstrap, Pastor

Kenneth Jones, Director of Music

Millie Shiflett, Accompanist

Karlee Tate, Director of Youth & Communications

Joyce Johnson, CDC Director

Richard Balentine, Elder of Administration

Margaret Borry, Elder of Congregational Care

Dana Tate, Elder of Christian Formation

Russell Truluck, Elder of Facilities Management

Lisa Gilstrap, Lay Leader