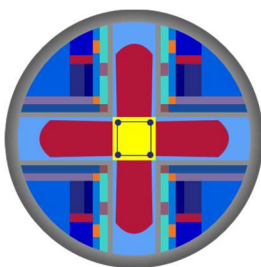


We are imperfect believers, passionate  
about sharing the love of Christ:  
by **Connecting**, **Growing**, and **Serving**.



**St. Andrews**  
Presbyterian Church

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

## **Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 22, 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: You have been invited to a special feast.

**People: We need more details, for our schedules are very busy.**

Leader: This is celebration of commitment between God and God's people.

**People: Maybe next time, we have other plans. What is God going to do if we don't come?**

Leader: Your response is noted. There are many others who would be delighted to come, even on last-minute notice. God looks forward to greeting them and celebrating with them.

**People: Will we get a second chance? God forgive us for placing our schedules and other plans before coming to your celebration. Amen.**

#### **Invocation and the 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.**

**\*Opening Hymn #305**

**"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"**

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

**Preparing Our Hearts for Confession - "Confession"**

**Words/Music by Kenneth Jones**

**(front cover of hymnal)**

**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)**

**God of infinite forgiveness, we implore you this day to forgive those many times in which we have turned our backs on you by turning away from the needs of the voiceless, the hopeless, the helpless. We let ourselves get distracted by schedules and activities which drain us of energy and enthusiasm. Light a fire under us, O God, that we may again feel the exciting challenge of being your people. Heal our wounds of indifference and apathy; bring us together in harmony and joy to serve you and your creation with peace, justice, and hope. It is in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, that we offer this prayer.**

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

Leader: And all the people of Christ say,

**People: Amen.**

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Feel the powerful warmth of God's love for you! God is with you, healing and restoring your lives and bringing you peace. This is the good news from our persistent and patient God.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Grade are dismissed at this time for Children's Church)

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

**Special Music**

**"Lead Me Home"**  
Arr. Joel Raney

**Chancel Choir**

**Scripture Reading**

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Matthew 22:1-14**

**Proclamation of God's Word**

**"Proper Attire Required"**

**Jeff Gilstrap**

## **Responding to God's Word**

### **\* Affirmation of Our Faith (Brief Statement of Faith – Unison)**

In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, And the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,

whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Responsive Hymn #503

“Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation”

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 #704

“I’m Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table”

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Congregational Benediction #536 (v.4)

“Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen!”

\*Postlude

\* Congregation Standing

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.



1860 Reid School Road, Taylors, SC 29687

864-292-0430

[standrews@standrewspc.com](mailto:standrews@standrewspc.com)

[www.standrewspc.com](http://www.standrewspc.com)



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  
Jackson Schumars, Lay Leader