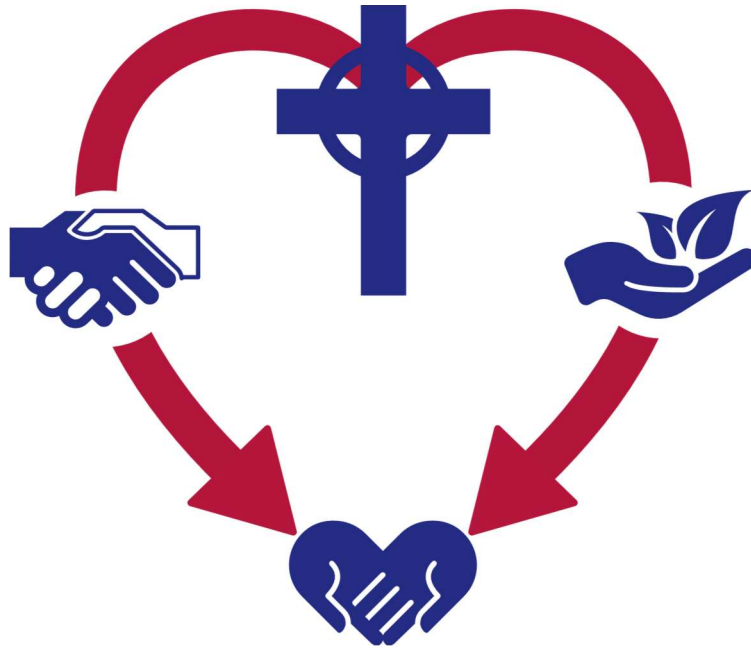
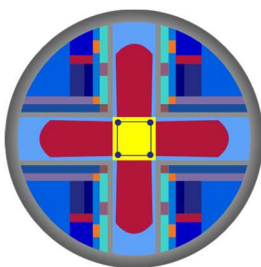


We are imperfect believers, passionate
about sharing the love of Christ:
by **Connecting**, **Growing**, and **Serving**.



A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sacrament of Communion
September 1st, 2024

Welcome! If you are visiting, please use the QR code on the visitor card found in the pew rack to share your information online or fill out the back of the card and drop it in the offering plate. Prayer cards, with the same options, are also available and we invite you to share your concerns and allow us to pray with you.



St. Andrews
Presbyterian Church

We Gather to Worship God

***Congregation stands as noted**

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (Psalm 2, 118)

Leader: Why did the gentiles rage
and the peoples imagine vain things?

**People: The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers have gathered together
against the Lord and against God's Messiah.**

Leader: the stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

People: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. Amen.

Invocation

***Opening Hymn #823**

"Shall Tribulation or Distress"

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)

Gracious God, you call us blessed when we are persecuted for righteousness' sake, and when others revile us and utter all kinds of evil against us falsely on your account. Yet, we confess that we often shy away from discomfort and opposition. We seek the approval of the world, rather than standing firm in our faith. We persecute others when they do not fit our picture of faithfulness. We perceive persecution when we do not get our way, or when others get what we think we deserve. We celebrate persecution as a sign of your blessing, even when it comes from unrighteousness. Forgive us, Lord, for our fear and our lack of courage. Strengthen us to rejoice and be glad, even in the face of persecution, knowing that our reward is great in heaven. In the name of Jesus, the persecuted one, we pray. Amen.

Time of Silent Reflection and Personal Prayer of Confession

Leader: And all the people of Christ say,

People: Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Hear the good news, who is in the position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ was persecuted for us, Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, and Christ prays for us. Beloved, you are a new creation, the old has passed away, the new has come. Believe the Good news and be at peace, we are forgiven.

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.

***Transition Hymn #614**

"Great Are You, Lord"

We Respond to God's Faithfulness in Our Life

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

(see the 'Giving' card in the pew rack for information about options for digital giving)

***Doxology (#606)**

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

God's Word Is Read and Proclaimed

Time for Young Disciples

(Children are dismissed at this time for Children's Church)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:10-12

Special Music

"Hymn for the Persecuted Church"
Text by Ken Bible

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

Acts 4:1-31

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation of God's Word

Rev. AJ Ochart

"Persecution Complex"

Responding to God's Word

***Hymn of Preparation for Communion #537**

"When at This Table"

Sacrament of Holy Communion (see liturgy on laminated card in pew rack)

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Sending Out Into the World

***Sending Hymn #172**

"Blest Are They"

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Benediction #313 (v.1)**

"Lord, Make Us More Holy"

***Postlude**

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.



**Rev. AJ Ochart, Pastor
Kenneth Jones, Director of Music
Millie Shiflett, Accompanist
Kellen Jones, Lay Leader**

