



St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church

First Sunday after Pentecost
June 15, 2025
10:00am, Chapel

<https://zoom.us/j/738059997>

<http://www.facebook.com/standrewspdx/live>

All are welcome here. Worship is a series of invitations, accept only those you feel called to accept. Feel free to change language in a respectful manner if it helps the hour to be more worshipful for you. All ages are welcome in worship, we do have a child care provider available if needed.

Opening responses, opening prayer, prayer of confession all by the Rev. Teri Peterson written and shared with the Bible Worm Collective in which Pastor Sarah is a member.

GATHERING

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome

Time to Center



*Opening Responses

God is Alpha and Omega, beginning and end —
the all-encompassing Life surrounding our every story.
God was, and is, and is to come —

<p>We introduced this song last week. We'll sing it for several weeks so we can become comfortable with it.</p>	<p><i>the consistent Truth holding us fast.</i> God the Almighty calls us even now — <i>revealing the Way to kingdom life.</i></p> <p>*Opening Prayer Your voice thunders like rolling waters, sounds out like the herald's trumpet, whispers at our fearful ears, endures on the page... so we come to hear you, God. Get our attention today that we might be re-created, ready for your appearance, strengthened by your faithfulness, empowered to live with you, by you, for you. Amen.</p> <p>*Opening Song Holy Spirit, Rain Down Screen</p> <p>Call to Confession Don't be afraid. We worship the God who raised Jesus from the dead, who sent the Spirit to continue Christ's ministry on earth, who loves us no matter what. Let's be honest with that God as we pray together and in silence.</p> <p>Prayer of Confession <i>You are the Living One, holding the keys to all we long for and all we fear. We cannot stand in the glory of your presence, though you call us to shine with your light. We pray for your kingdom to come, and you reveal the truth that your kingdom is already at hand... but we confess we aren't actually ready for that much change. We admit to preferring the illusion of control, even when we know it's propaganda. Forgive us for orienting our lives around the powers of this world, and acting as if they are the only way.</i></p>
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<p><i>This is week one of a six-week summer series. The texts have been selected and organized by the Rev. Dr. Bobby Williamson and Rabbi Dr. Amy Robertson, scholars who host the Bible Worm podcast. They are calling the series Revelation and Resistance.</i></p>	<p><i>Forgive us for propping up the systems and institutions that harm simply because we cannot imagine anything better. Forgive us for hiding your light, and so obscuring your presence among us even now. Prepare us today to see what is real, turn us from falsehood to truth, and overwhelm our reluctance with your grace. We ask in the name of the One who was dead yet lives forever, Jesus the Christ. Amen.</i></p> <p>Silent Prayers of Confession ...In Jesus' name <i>Amen</i>.</p> <p>Assurance of Forgiveness Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone, and a new life begun. Friends, believe the good news, In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. <i>Alleluia. Amen.</i></p> <p>*Sung Response of Praise Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me! Glory to God #582</p> <p>*Sharing the Peace of Christ We have received the gifts of the Spirit, including peace which passes all understanding, so that we might continue Christ's ministry on earth. Christ worked to reconcile human beings to one another and to God. Let us be peacemakers and reconcilers. And may we begin by sharing signs of Christ's peace with one another today.</p> <p>May the peace of Christ be with you. <i>And also with you.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE WORD</p> <p>*Sung Preparation Open the Eyes of My Heart Glory to God #452</p> <p>A Reading from Revelation Revelation 1:1-20</p> <p>Sermon</p>
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<p><i>We respond to our generous God by practicing grateful generosity. You are encouraged to give as you are able, to honor or even exceed your pledge!</i></p> <p><i>This is the choir's last Sunday before their summer break. Thank a choir member for their ministry after worship today.</i></p> <p><i>We say "debts and debtors" rather than "trespasses and those who trespass against us" or "sins and sinners," but you may use the language of your heart.</i></p> <p><i>See the announcements in this bulletin or your eNews for a full account of all that is happening in and through St. A's soon.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESPONSE TO THE WORD</p> <p>Silent Reflection on the Word Read and Proclaimed</p> <p>Hymn <i>O Word of God Incarnate</i> Glory to God #459</p> <p>Worshiping God with our Tithes and Offerings</p> <p>Invitation to Generosity</p> <p>Offertory Anthem <i>I Want Jesus To Walk With Me</i></p> <p>Doxology <i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i> Glory to God #607</p> <p>Prayer of Dedication <i>Loving God, we have so many reasons to say "thank You" to You. Your generosity, grace, and mercy are astounding and we pray that the gifts we offer in worship and throughout the week might be used in Your name. Help us to be generous with our money, but also with our talents and time. Strengthen us to recognize Your blessings, to be grateful, and to respond accordingly. Amen.</i></p> <p>Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SENDING</p> <p>*Hymn <i>Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!</i> Glory to God #1</p> <p>*Our Ministry in Christ</p> <p>*Charge and Sung Benediction</p> <p>*And All God's People Say</p> <p>Postlude</p>
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Welcome to St. Andrew's PDX!
Welcome Home! We are so glad you are here.

Connecting with Christ and each other to Serve Our Neighbors

Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00am,
both in person and online via Zoom and Facebook.

Join us for Supper Church on second and fourth Sundays at 5pm.

Visit our website for the worship links and the weekly worship bulletin.

Please use blue prayer cards or Zoom chat to share prayer requests. You can pass these to the pastor during the passing of the peace or give them to an usher at any time in the first half of the service.

PRINTED COPIES OF TODAY'S SERMON ARE AVAILABLE



We encourage you to leave your **offerings and sign-in sheets** in the offering plates that are passed during worship. Offerings can also be made anytime on our website, www.standrewspdx.com



3228 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland, OR 97239; (503)246-4276, admin@standrewspdx.com
visit our website at www.standrewspdx.com
Office hours: Mon - Thurs, 8:30 - 2:30, Bookkeeper Hours: Mon & Weds, 9:00 - 3:00

Mission Updates

See your eNews or contact the office for full details.

Neighborhood House - See their website - www.nhpdx.org - for a list of volunteer opportunities and donation needs.

Ziploc Ministry - Join us on the first Saturday of each month to fill bags with hygiene and personal items for our community partners, including Operation Nightwatch. The next gathering will be July 5th, 10:30-12:00pm. ****New socks and men's boxer-briefs donations always needed****

West Women & Children's Shelter - We prepare and deliver monthly, homemade casseroles and other food items to this domestic violence shelter. Recipes and instructions are provided. Casseroles are dropped off at the first Saturday Ziploc event.

Quilters - Gathers on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 9:30am. Contact Gail Planck for more info.

Homelessness Outreach - St. Andrew's supports the Multnomah Safe Rest Village and the Southwest Outreach Shower Program. See your eNews for volunteer and donation opportunities.

June Birthdays

Dick Shettler - June 1, Greg Williams - June 1, Gladys Mannheimer - June 6,
Carol Patterson - June 9, Victoriano Ledezma-Tilton - June 12,
Randy Schlechter - June 16, Steve Cook - June 18, John Sherwood - June 18,
Merrie Backer - June 19, Connie Lloyd - June 22, Nancy Mitchell - June 28

June Anniversaries

Larry & Kathy Kelley - June 9, Amy Houchen & Rick Wise - June 9,
Chuck & Becky White - June 9, Steve & Gail Planck - June 15,
Shirley & Jim Tormey - June 20, John & Mary Sherwood - June 21,
Connie & John Blumthal - June 21, Lorinda & Ray Moholt - June 24,
Steve Cook & Marianne Parshley - June 26, Nate & Ellen Krusi - June 30

Learning & Fellowship Opportunities

- **Sunday Coffee Hour** - Volunteers are needed for Sundays. Contact Becky Schiefelbein for more info.
- **Supper Church** - Supper Church is on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, at 5pm in our chapel. Join us for this children and family focused service, with dinner provided. Please RSVP to help with our planning.
- **Spiritual Formation Group** - Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 12:30-2:00, in the lounge. The summer session has officially begun.
- **Anti-Racism Discussion Group** - Meets on the second Thursday of the month, at 6:00 on Zoom. Our current book for discussion is "Anti-Racism as Daily Practice: Refuse Shame, Change White Communities, and Help Create a Just World," by Jennifer Harvey.
- **Enneagram Study Group** -Gathers on the 4th Saturday of each month, at 1:00pm on Zoom. You are invited to focus on the type that is your dominant wing or the two types on either side of your type if you are unclear about wings. Or just come to learn more.
- **Sanctuary Choir** - The choir is taking a break for the summer.
- **Pathways Home Housing Justice** - The Civic Circle on June 18th has been canceled, to be rescheduled in September. Join us on July 16th, 6:30pm, at St. Andrew's for a presentation of the Mirco Village Expansion Project.

Upcoming Events

<p>June 15 & 22 10:00am Hybrid Worship</p> <p>June 18 12:30-2:00pm Spiritual Formation Group St. Andrew's</p> <p>June 20 & 27 10:00-12:00pm Virtual Coffee House Zoom</p>	<p>June 22 5:00pm Supper Church St. Andrew's</p> <p>June 25 9:30am Quilters St. Andrew's</p> <p>June 28 1:00pm Enneagram Discussion Group, Zoom</p>
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Thoughts from Pastor Sarah (Written June 12th)

Dear Kindred in Christ,

Thanks to all who joined us for, and particularly those who let the Spirit guide them to testify in, our Pentecost Worship. It was a delightful morning. The Spirit is upon us!

And we're letting the Spirit blow us into the chapel for the remainder of the summer. We'll enjoy both the intimacy and satisfaction of filling a worship space and the gift of air conditioning. We will not be doing story sharing on any weeks this summer, but some of the other features of chapel worship- like spoken prayers-- will remain.

Speaking of prayers-- because we are verbalizing prayers, we aren't using prayer cards (except perhaps on healing prayer weeks). As such, your deacons are working on a plan for transcribing prayers to get them to our prayer team. It also seems like a good time to ask you if you would like to be on the prayer team, receiving an e-mail once or twice a week with prayer requests from your congregation. If you're not on the list and want to be, please let me know.

Back to chapel worship...this week the choir will sing, but it will be their last time singing for a few months. Come and express your appreciation for their ministry. We are so grateful the session authorized the purchase of a new piano for the chapel. Music will be enhanced this summer.

Been away for a while? Why not give chapel worship a try?

We are beginning a 6 week series on the Book of Revelation today. I imagine this might be intriguing to some of you and repulsive or even fearful to others of you. I am shocked that in 23 years of preaching I have NEVER preached on the Book of Revelation. One thing I appreciate about the narrative lectionary is that it does get me to engage scripture I might naturally avoid. Because I have never preached on this book before I'm doing a lot of study at the moment. And I'm taking the good scholars of the Bible Worm podcast my primary guides and companions. Rather than using exactly the six week series the narrative lectionary recommends, I'm using the series they have put together. I also picked up a resource I have loved since my earliest days of preaching, "The People's New Testament Commentary" by M. Eugene Boring and Fred B. Craddock. One of the first things I read about revelation in this resource was that it is a letter intended to be read aloud in one sitting. The book is best taken as a whole, not in snippets.

Practically speaking, we are breaking the book up. BUT if you want... you could read the book cover to cover-- or do as I'm doing at the moment and read a chapter a day in morning devotions. You could even do a reading with family or friends. You might get more out of the series if you go into it with a sense of the whole. You might find some of it (or much of it) strange or even disturbing. I hope the preaching over the next six weeks will help you to find meaning, and better yet, hope, in this book.

The word translated "Revelation" is the Greek word "Apokulupsis"- from which we get the word "Apocalypse". The word means literally "unveiling," as when the face of a bride in an arranged marriage is revealed to her groom. The suggestion seems to be that there are parallel realities-- what we can see and perceive, and something deeper and invisible. An

apocalypse grants a glimpse into what can ordinarily not be perceived. The author of Revelation, John, says it is a prophesy. And prophesy functions in much the same way. I found this paragraph especially helpful this week:

The biblical prophets functioned as interpreters of history. The events of history, when seen from the human perspective, are ambiguous and can be interpreted entirely in terms of this worldly causes (physical, sociological, psychological). The wind that drove back the marshy waters of the Red Sea could be seen as a lucky break for the Israelites (the Egyptians regarded it as such.) It was the prophet Moses... who interpreted the event as a mighty act of God that delivered Israel from Egypt and made them into God's people, but this was not obvious apart from the prophetic word. The escalating military power of Assyria that became a threat to Israel and Judah could be interpreted empirically in terms of world politics, imperial ambitions and military strategy, but the prophets of Israel interpreted it as the judgment of God against Israel's sins (Amos, Hosea, Micah, Isaiah). So also the cultural pressure of John's day, the growing insistence that the church adapt to Roman religion and culture, could be seen as more or less harmless historical phenomenon to which the church should adapt. But the prophet John interprets what's really going on. He is allowed to see behind the scenes of world history and perceives the events through which he and his churches are living as a great struggle between God and Satan, a struggle that has already been decided by God's act in Christ, a struggle that calls for decision and faithfulness on the part of the church. Boring and Craddock, 761-762

Prophesy sometimes sees into the future, but mostly it reveals something true about the present. It is the word of God spoken in the midst of struggle, chaos, grief, loss, unfaithfulness, oppression, etc. Revelation is often misread as a code book to the end of all things, but we're going to try to read it as a letter to the Church and to churches in the midst of very difficult circumstances and see what it has to say to us in our own challenging time.

Perhaps some of these thoughts will find their way into my sermon as well, but I wanted to help prepare your hearts and minds for the journey we're beginning together.

On Saturday, 20 plus members and friends of St. A's are meeting with our consultants from AE Sloan for the first time. Please pray for us as we go deeper into this process and stay tuned for invitations to focus groups this summer. We want to hear from everyone in this process.

I'll be on Zoom between 10 and 12 tomorrow and would love to visit with you about Revelation, Consulting, Summer Plans, or whatever is on your heart and mind.

In Christ,
Pastor Sarah