

**Sixth Sunday in Easter, May 5, 2024  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
3228 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland, Oregon**

<https://zoom.us/j/738059997> or <http://www.facebook.com/standrewspdx/live>



## **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Time to Center**

**Call to Worship**

A life without love would be no life at all!

***I worship, in love, today!***

A church without love would be no church at all!

***We worship, in love, today!***

A world without love would be no world at all!

***We shall pray for more love, today!***

**\*Hymn**    *Though I May Speak*    Glory to God #693

**Call to Prayer**

Mindful of God's unfailing, unending love for us,

Let us bow before God in a spirit of adoration and confession.

Please pray with me.

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

***Holy God,***

***how amazing is love!***

***We look at all that surrounds us and we are awestruck,***

***love is there to see, in each leaf,***

***each blade of grass, each new thing.***

***Your handiwork is everywhere, and we witness it day by day.***

***Your love, in every moment, is for us to enjoy***

***and to give back to you.***

***And yet... so often we take it for granted—***

***love so awesome—yet we overlook it.***

***Forgive us when we are so preoccupied with worldly love,  
we forget holy love.***

***Forgive us when we forget the things that are really important:  
not money and esteem, but love and faith and hope...***

***forgive and renew us we pray so that we may be part of this  
glorious creation and reflective of your precious love.***

### **Silent Prayers of Confession**

...In Jesus' name. ***Amen.***

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Though our efforts to love are often full of fault,

God's steadfast love never fails.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***Alleluia! Amen!***

**\*Response of Praise** *Just As I Am, without One Plea vv. 1 and 4*  
Glory to God #442

### **\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

...May the peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

## **THE WORD**

**Sung Preparation for the Word** *Listen Now for the Gospel!*  
Zimbabwean Traditional

*Listen now for the Gospel! Alleluia!*

*It is God's word that changes us! Alleluia! (Repeat)*

*Come, Holy Spirit, melt and break our hearts of stone,  
until we give our lives to God and God alone. (Repeat)*

*Listen now for the Gospel! Alleluia!*

*It is God's word that changes us! Alleluia!*

*Come Holy Spirit, plant in us God's living word,  
that we may show the faithfulness of Christ our Lord. (Repeat)*

*Listen now for the Gospel! Alleluia!*

*It is God's word that changes us! Alleluia!*

*Come holy Spirit, bind the broken, find the lost,  
confirm in us the fire and love of Pentecost. (Repeat)*

*Listen now for the Gospel! Alleluia!*

*It is God's word that changes us! Alleluia! (Repeat)*

**A Reading from the Gospel According to Mark** *Mark 12:28-31*  
The Gospel of our Lord. ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

**A Reading from the 1 Letter to the Corinthians**      1 Cor 12:31b-13:13  
The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

## **Sermon**

### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

#### **Silent Reflection on the Word Preached**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *Excerpt from the PC(US) Declaration of Faith*  
***The Word which was with God from the beginning  
was embodied in Jesus Christ.***  
***We hold that what God says to us and does for us  
centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord  
as he is remembered, known, and expected.***  
***In Christ God's Word of acceptance takes flesh:  
by grace through faith we are set right with God,  
adopted as children of God, not because of anything we have done,  
but because of what Christ has done.***  
***In Christ God's Word of demand is lived out:  
to love God and neighbor as he did is what God requires of us.***  
***The Spirit adds no different Word from God,  
but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ.***

#### **Worshipping God with our Tithes and Offerings** **Invitation to Generosity**

##### **Offertory Anthem**

**Doxology** *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow*      Glory to God #609

##### **Prayer of Dedication**

***We bring you our gifts:  
we bring you our hearts;  
we bring you our love.***  
***Take it all we pray, use it all, use us,  
to share your love in the world. Amen.***

#### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion** **Invitation**

Friends, this is the table of love,  
Where Jesus fed and feeds even those who betray and abandon him,  
Where we are nourished to carry his love to the world.  
Jesus invites you to meet him here,  
to receive love and prepare to share it.

##### **Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

I pray God in Community be with you!

***And also with you!***

May the Holy Three who are One be in your hearts.

***May we be filled with imagination, with words, with life itself.***

Let us sing our praises to God who makes us one with all people.

***We join all creation in singing glad songs to our God.***

You poured your imagination into chaos,  
stirring all your dreams and hopes and,  
placing them on that palette called your heart,  
began to paint on the blank canvas of creation,

azure for clear morning skies,  
bright yellows for marigolds,  
deep green for grass in the meadows,  
red and orange tickling lazy sunsets.

Simply, faithfully, graciously, all  
was offered to those created in your image,  
but we preferred the absence of color in sin,  
and would paint our lives in death's greyness.

You sent prophets and artists,  
singers and poets, to point up  
back to your beauty and art,  
but we preferred the bleak mirages  
offered by temptation and foolishness.

Finally, you appealed to your Word  
to bring us the good news of your salvific heart.

With those who see and worship,  
as well as those who doubt and despair,  
we offer our songs of praise to you:

*Repeat after Pastor Sarah as she sings.*

Word of justice and love,  
you pointed to the Holy One  
in every word and deed, even  
as God blessed your every step and breath.

A baby,  
you showed us God's vulnerability;  
a young child, you taught us to draw closer to God;  
a storyteller, you reminded us of the One  
who would run to scoop us up in arms of love and welcome;  
a lover, you enter into sin's embrace,  
taking the kiss death intends for us,  
so that, as resurrection's hope,  
you offer us life with you forever.

As we struggle to understand such a gift,  
as we seek to live such faithfulness,  
we live in that mystery called faith:

***Christ died, your Word silenced by the world;  
Christ was raised, your Word singing of resurrection joy;  
Christ will come, the Word which will call us home to you.***

Like a storm, you blew over creation's oceans;  
with a gust, you blow open our shuttered souls;  
with a light breath, you give us life, so now,  
Breath of God, Spirit of all that exists,  
touch the simple gifts of the bread and the cup  
with the sacredness of your peace,  
and stir us all from our fear and apathy.  
The bread which is broken is filled with your strength,  
so that we can go and offer freedom to the prisoner,  
so that we can breathe hope into our dying neighborhoods,  
so that we can be peace for an angry world.  
The cup is never drained of your grace,  
so that we may silence all hatred,  
so that we might put evil in the past,  
so that we might renew your fragile creation.

And when we are gathered in that place  
to which you will direct us at the end of time,  
we will join with our sisters and brothers  
in forever praising your glory, your love,  
God in Community, Holy in One. ***Amen***

### **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*Blue prayer cards and zoom prayers will be shared at this time.*

### **Words of Institution**

#### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

*All the bread is gluten free, all the juice is unfermented. All are safe and welcome at this table. Please come forward to receive the elements. If you prefer to or need to stay seated, please wave a hand when the traveling server comes near and they will be pleased to serve you in your seat. Please hold the elements when you receive them until all have received so we might receive the sacrament as one body with our kindred at home.*

**Sung Prayer After Communion** *Live in Charity* Glory to God #205

## SENDING

### Our Ministry in Christ

**Song**      *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me, vv. 1 and 5 only*  
Glory to God #543

### Charge and Sung Benediction

**And All God's People Say...**

#### **Sources for Liturgy:**

Call to worship, prayer of adoration/confession, and prayer of dedication from the Spill the Beans Curriculum, Issue 18. Prayer of adoration and confession edited by Pastor

Sarah. <http://spillbeans.org.uk/>

Assurance of Forgiveness- <http://www.stephenmfearing.com/liturgy//confession-epiphany-4c-january-31st-2016>

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving by the Rev. Thom

Shuman <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2020/06/liturgy-with-communion-for-june-7-2020.html>