

*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.*

*How to read the bulletin
like a pro: when text is
bold and italicized, you
are invited to join the
congregation in reading
the text aloud. When
there is an asterisk (*)
before an element of
worship, you are invited
to stand.*

*Details about and
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for our focal image can
be found at the end of
this bulletin.*

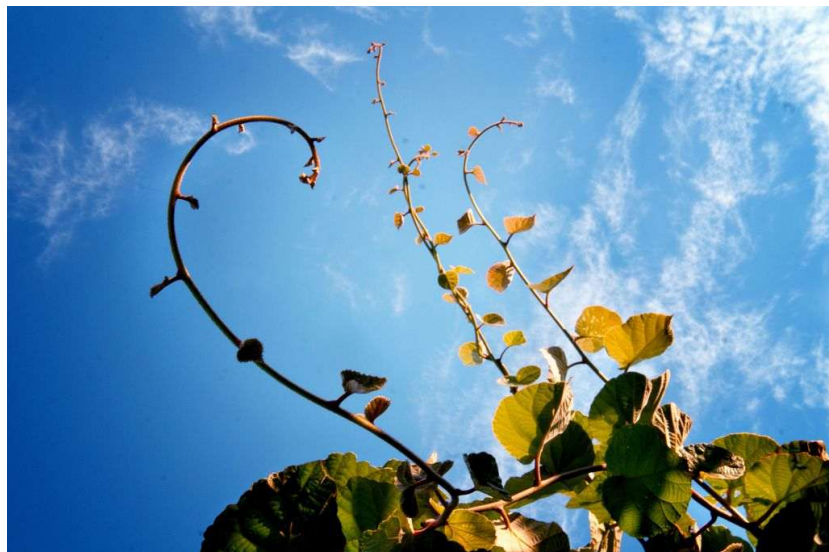
GATHERING

Prelude

Ring of the Bell

Welcome

Time to Center



***Call to Worship**

God calls us from a burning bush.

We are standing on holy ground!

The Spirit calls us to proclaim God's name to all
generations.

We are standing on holy ground!

Jesus calls us from the cross: come and follow me.

We are standing on holy ground!

***Opening Hymn | Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!**

Glory to God #1

Call to Confession

Confession is a time when we recognize the ways we have moved away from God,
a moment to look deeply into our lives
and into our community and shine a light on
the ways we have not lived faithfully.

Confession offers us the opportunity to reorientate our lives ... to turn our hearts, minds, and whole selves back to God, even if we have wandered away.
Let us pray together.

Prayer of Confession

God of Mystery, we are constantly amazed by the depth and breadth of your love.

Over and over again, you turn our expectations inside out and upside down.

And still we don't understand the radical nature of your grace.

*We play by our own rules of justice,
even when it means excluding those we are called to love and defend.*

In our darkest moments, we doubt if we are worthy of your trust.

God, help us remember that you give us all the tools we need;

that through the solid foundation of your love, we find the strength to follow your call as true disciples of Jesus Christ.

Surprise us again, O God. Surprise us again.

Silent Prayers of Confession

...In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The God who brought our ancestors out of slavery will not desert us.

God has promised to be with us throughout all generations.

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice, for God is with us!

***Response of Praise |** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness
Shines on Me*

Glory to God #582

***Passing the Peace**

... The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to hear God's word,
as we pray:

Surprising God,

*you have an uncomfortable habit of showing up
where we least expect you.*

*Help us fully embrace your surprises, and to rejoice
that we are fully embraced by your grace and mercy.*

*We pray in the name of your most amazing surprise
of all: your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew

Matthew 16:21-26

Conversation with the Younger Church

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

Exodus 3:1-15

Sermon *Standing on Holy Ground*

Rev. Jennifer Ackerman

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***Song of Response |** *We Are Standing on Holy Ground*

Glory to God #406

Thank you for your faithful giving that fuels the mission and ministries of St. Andrew's! Invitation to Generosity from Psalm 116:12, 14	*Affirmation of Faith <i>We believe in the God who calls us from the burning bush, the Holy God, the eternal I AM, who knows our names, hears our cries, and stands with us on holy ground.</i> <i>We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, who reveals the path to true life is through the self-giving love of the cross.</i> <i>We believe in the Holy Spirit, who emboldens us to lay down our worldly ambitions, and set our minds on the things of God, so we might pick up our cross and follow.</i> Amen. Worshipping God with our Tithes and Offerings Invitation to Generosity Offertory *Song of Praise Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology) Glory to God #609 *Prayer of Dedication <i>Gracious God, we offer you now these gifts. Take our money and use it to bring comfort to those in need. Take our service and use it to bring justice to those who are oppressed. Take our witness and use it to bring good news to those who hunger for hope. Take our lives and use them for our very salvation. We pray through Jesus Christ, the one whom we follow even to the cross. Amen.</i> Prayers of the People and the Prayer that Jesus Taught
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SENDING

Closing Hymn | *To God Be the Glory

Glory to God #634

Our Ministry in Christ
Announcements

Charge and Benediction

Sung Response | *God Be with You Till We Meet Again
(verse 1 only)

Glory to God #542

Postlude

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Liturgical elements from Ministry Matters, *Worship Elements: August 30, 2020*, by Laura Jaquith Bartlett. Original source: https://ministrymatters.com/2020-07-18_worship_elements_august_30_2020/

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.
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



Today's worship leadership includes the Rev. Jennifer Ackerman, Guest Preacher
and Amy Houchen, worship elder; Don Feeley, Director of Music;
Steve Cook, worship assistant; Connie Blumthal, songlead;
Caroline Sanderson-Doughty, AV tech assistant; and Steve Ihrig, sound technician.

About Our Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ackerman is Assistant Professor of Preaching at Fuller Theological Seminary. She is also the Director of Fuller's Ogilvie Institute of Preaching, where she works with church leaders around the country who are committed to doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. She has over 30 years' experience facilitating the worship and preaching efforts of churches in multiple denominations across the US, including her current service to the Presbytery of the Cascades as a member of the Commission on Ministry. Jennifer lives in North Portland with her husband and two (nearly) grown stepsons.



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visit our website at www.standrewspdx.com

Office hours: Mon - Thurs, 8:30am - 2:30pm
Bookkeeper hours: Mon & Weds, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Mission Updates

*For full details about mission and ministry work, contact the office, and refer
to your eNews and Upcoming Events in this bulletin for special events.*

Neighborhood House - Current legislation and drastic cuts to food assistance and Head Start programs will undoubtedly create more hardship to this organization and the people it serves. You can help by: donating to their social safety net services; contacting your legislators to support SNAP, Head Start, and housing assistance programs; and talking to

others to increase awareness of this crisis to our most vulnerable neighbors. Visit their website for more ways to help -- www.nhpdx.org.

Ziploc Ministry - Resuming on **Saturday, October 3**, this ministry meets monthly to fill bags with hygiene and personal items to be distributed to our unhoused neighbors.

West Women & Children's Shelter - We prepare and deliver homemade casseroles and other food items to this domestic violence shelter throughout the year. Recipes and instructions are provided; reimbursement is available.

Quilters - Gathers on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, at 9:30am. Contact Gail Planck for more info.

Homelessness Outreach - We support the Multnomah Safe Rest Village and the Southwest Outreach shower program. See your eNews for volunteer opportunities.

Learning & Fellowship Opportunities

- **Sunday Coffee Hour** - Volunteers are needed for Sundays. Contact Marie Dolson or Gail Planck for more info.
- **Family Fellowship** - Please join us on the 2nd Sunday of each month after service downstairs in Calvin Hall for an all-ages, family-focused service (with meal provided). Children in attendance will hear a Bible story and then take part in a craft that mirrors the lesson. Guests are always welcome!
- **Sanctuary Choir** - Rehearsals will resume on **Sunday, September 27th**. If you'd like to join, we encourage you to stop by the chapel after service that day. Contact Don Feely for more info.
- **Men's Bible Study** - This group meets at 7am via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Contact Larry Kelley for more info.
- **Spiritual Formation Group** - Please join us from 12:30-2:00pm in the lounge for our next class on **Wednesday, September 2nd**. This is a drop-in group; no need to have read the book!

Upcoming Events

August 30 & September 6 10:00am Hybrid Worship	September 4 & 11 10:00-12:00pm Virtual Coffee Chat Zoom
September 2 12:30pm Spiritual Formation Group St. Andrew's	September 13 11:00am Family Fellowship St. Andrew's
September 9 9:30-11:30am Quilters Group St. Andrew's	September 17 10:00am St. A's Book Club St. Andrew's

We give thanks for the gift of life and love as we celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries of our church family this month, praying for God's continued grace and joy in every new year ahead.

August Birthdays

Jocelyn Errico - August 1
Laura Planck - August 4
August Dew - August 6
Kara Errico - August 11
Ron Grover - August 13
Charlie Heniken - August 17
Bev Shaw - August 18
Wesley Tanous - August 20
Carolyn Gazeley - August 22
Tracy Gerhardt - August 22
Barb Leahey - August 22
Sydney Herb - August 23
Joy Moss - August 23
Carol Stanfield - August 25
Jim Leahey - August 26
Katherine Van Allen - August 26
Irene Fowler - August 30



August Anniversaries

Dwain & Sharleen Peterson - August 3
Diana & Roland Zapata - August 13
Anne & Larry Dewey - August 16
Adam & Emily Dew - August 22
Linda & Todd Jessell - August 30



New News & Announcements
See your eNews for full details

UPCOMING CELEBRATION OF LIFE

We continue to lift up the family of Sue Malter as they process their loss. Details for Sue's memorial service, which will be held at St. Andrew's in the Fall, will be announced soon.

SPECIAL OFFERING THIS FALL

As summer comes to a close and we begin to get back into our routines for the "school year," the Church is also recommitting to efforts to turn Peacemaking: The Believer's Calling into tangible action. In the next few weeks, you will receive information regarding the World Communion Offering (formerly named the Peace & Global Witness Offering). This Special Offering focuses on the values and causes of reconciliation and justice through cause-based support — including ministries of racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, ecumenical and interfaith relations.

Thoughts from Your Session
(Written August 26th)

Dear friends in Christ,

Students and teachers have returned to the classroom in many of our local schools, and others are returning next week. We lift up prayers of thanks to God — the greatest teacher — for the gift of a new school year. For the students, we pray that they have curious minds, joyful hearts, and eager spirits, and are protected as they learn and grow. For the teachers and school staff, we pray for wisdom, patience, strength, and the creative energy to inspire students and grace to handle hard moments. And for the families, we pray for peace for busy, hectic mornings and comfort for tired evenings.

Beyond our borders, our Cuban Kindred are preparing to welcome the Cuba Partners Network (CPN) at Encuentro 2026. You can read more about St. A's (and the Presbytery's) involvement in this annual event below, as we know this ministry is near and dear to our hearts.

This week, our message from Session comes in the form of a financial report from John Calhoun:

Because we have spent most of this budgetary year without a full-time pastor, we have been spending much less than we budgeted for personnel costs. In fact, through the end of this month we will have underspent our pastor budget by over \$50,000. At the same time, our revenues are meeting the budget goals and our other spending is also within our budgeted targets.

As a result, your Session spent time discussing whether we should use some of these unspent funds, without changing our annual budget total, to help meet the extraordinary mission needs facing our community and the world this year. After a healthy deliberation, Session voted to increase spending for mission projects by \$30,000. Of this amount, half will be used for other mission work. The understanding was that around \$5,000 will go to a dedicated fund for Deacons to use for individual needs and \$10,000 will be allocated by the mission team for various non-profits doing mission work.

The other half will be given to Neighborhood House to help pay down the debt they have incurred developing their new building and free food market. This will be a gift that will keep on giving, as it reduces their interest costs over time. During our discussion, several Elders mentioned the close long-term relationship Neighborhood House and St. Andrew's have had (especially with the food market) as the reason for giving them such a large share. Our support of this vital resource dates back several decades. We have participated in Southwest Hope, the faith-based community food drive benefitting Neighborhood House. This annual event, initiated by prior co-pastor Patty Campbell-Schmidt in 2006, has been one we have committed our support to since its beginnings.

While this is a significant act by Session, not putting these funds to good use while the needs are so pressing seems wrong. We still have strong financial reserves and a foundation that has grown substantially due to stock market growth. Using these resources to help our neighbors is what we are here for.

If you have any questions or comments, please talk to a current Elder or member of the mission team.

In Christ,

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Session