

**Fourth Sunday In Lent, March 19, 2023**

**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**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome**

**Time to Center**

**\*Call to Worship**

What do we expect to happen here today?

Same old, same old- nothing really new?  
Do we remember that Christ has promised to return?  
Do we expect him to be with us today?  
Are we ready for when he does?

***As we come to worship God of our lives,  
we rekindle the flame of optimistic expectation  
that Christ will return to be with us,  
in the here and now and every day.***

\* **Opening Hymn**     *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*     Glory to God #362

### **Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

***Lamp-lighter, when we have run out of patience  
and find ourselves unprepared,  
may you rekindle the light of faith  
and reorient us towards the ways of the kingdom.  
That we may find a different rhythm to life that lives  
in the waiting and anticipation,  
a waiting shaped by passion and held by generous living.  
Lamp-lighter, relight the lamp of expectation,  
of seeing beyond this journey that takes us closer to the cross.  
See beyond the gathering darkness and relight the hope  
that the promises will be fulfilled, the vision of life renewed,  
that death can be overcome with the dawn.  
Lamp-lighter, hear us as we pray and wait  
and long for this season to slip away unheard.  
So be it. Amen.***

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

Jesus knows our every weakness, and loves us still.  
Awaken to the promise of Christ's amazing grace.  
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.  
***People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!***

\***Sung Response of Praise**     *Amazing Grace (v. 1 only)*     Glory to God #649

\***Passing the Peace**

## **THE WORD**

### **Conversation with the Younger Church**

**Sung Prayer of Illumination** *Lord Prepare Me* Glory to God #701  
*This is a beloved song in this congregation*

**A Reading from the Book of Psalms** *Psalm 43:3-4*

**Readers' Theater from the Gospel According to Matthew**  
*Matthew 25:1-13*

Reader 1: Jesus told his disciples another parable  
about the kingdom of heaven.

Reader 2: Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this.  
Ten bridesmaids took their lamps  
and went to meet the bridegroom.  
Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.  
When the foolish took their lamps,  
they took no oil with them  
but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.  
As the bridegroom was delayed,  
all of them became drowsy and slept.  
But at midnight there was a shout,  
Reader 1: Look! Here is the bridegroom!  
Come out to meet him.'

Reader 2: Then all those bridesmaids got up  
and trimmed their lamps.  
The foolish said to the wise,

***Congregation Left: Give us some of your oil,  
for our lamps are going out.***

Reader 2: But the wise replied,

***Congregation Right: No! there will not be enough  
for you and for us;  
you had better go to the dealers  
and buy some for yourselves.***

Reader 2: And while they went to buy it,  
the bridegroom came,  
and those who were ready  
went with him into the wedding banquet;  
and the door was shut.  
Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying,

**Congregation Left:**     *Lord, lord, open to us.*

Reader 2:                     But he replied,  
                                      'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'  
                                      Keep awake therefore,  
                                      for you know neither the day nor the hour.

## **Sermon**

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn**     *Ten Bridesmaids Waited for the Time*

FOREST GREEN 8.6.8.6 D ("All Beautiful the March of Days")  
*Ten bridesmaids waited for the time the party would begin,  
They took their lamps to meet the groom, for they expected him.  
The wise ones went outside to wait, with oil and some to spare,  
They found the groom had been delayed while he was traveling there.*

*The foolish bridesmaids waited, too, with lamps that lost their light.  
For, unprepared, they'd left their fuel back at the house that night.  
The bridegroom came with festive shout; the party soon began.  
The fools had lamps that soon went out; the wise had lights at hand.*

*O Lord, remind us that your Day will come with great surprise.  
So may we faithfully obey as people who are wise.  
For deeds of justice, words of prayer and acts of kindness, too,  
are ways we daily can prepare as we wait here for you.*

## **Worshipping God with our Tithes and Offerings**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Offertory Anthem**

\***Doxology**     *Praise to Our Creator Unceasing*             SCREEN  
                                      (tune, Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

\***Prayer of Dedication**

***We can stand at the edge and watch while you seek to bring  
hope, healing, peace, and joy to everyone in the world. Or we  
can take that step, of committing our lives as well as our gifts,  
in working with you in this ministry of grace. Bless our gifts,  
bless our lives, bless our service, we pray. Amen.***

**Prayers of the People, The Lord's Prayer**

## **SENDING**

\***Hymn**    *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*, vv. 1 and 2  
Glory to God #350

**Our Ministry in Christ**

**Charge and Benediction**

**And All God's People Say**

**Postlude**

### **Worship Sources**

Reader's Theater – Pastor Sarah adapted from the New Revised Standard translation. Words for “Ten Bridesmaids Waited for the Time” by the Rev. Carolyn Winfrey-Gillette. Prayer of Dedication -  
<https://www.pcwoodbury.com/multimedia-archive/worship-notes-november-8-2020-matthew-251-13/>