



St. Andrew's United Church of Christ

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 4, 2020

10:00 A.M.

World Wide Communion Sunday



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Prayer for the Beginning of Worship —

Almighty God, your Son, Jesus Christ, fed the hungry with the bread of his life, and the Word of his kingdom. As we gather around the table with people from many places and languages, renew us with your grace, and in all our weakness, sustain us by your true and living bread. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THE TRIUNE GOD

RINGING OF THE BELL AND CHIMES

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

([Psalm 124:8](#))

May our lives profess and proclaim that 'our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth'.

Amen!

We gather at God's command to celebrate the Lord's Day and Lord's Supper today.

We gather to worship, to pray, praise,

and commune with the Living God: Creator, Savior, Spirit.

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will dwell in the land, and enjoy security.

Let us take delight in the Lord, and he will give us the desires of our hearts.

Commit your way to the Lord;

Trust in the Lord, and he will act.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;

The Lord will keep your going out and our coming in from this time forth and forever more.

SALUTATION

([2 Corinthians 13:13](#))

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen!

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

50 This Is My Father's World

The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Job 38:7

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-tening ears All
2. This is my Fa-ther's world, The birds their car-ols raise, The
3. This is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for-get That

na-ture sings, and round me rings The mu-sic of the spheres.
morn-ing light, the lil-y white, De-clare their Mak-er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul-er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought Of
This is my Fa-ther's world: He shines in all that's fair; In the
This is my Fa-ther's world: Why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas—His hand the won-ders wrought.
rus-ling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev-ery-where.
Lord is King: let the heav-ens ring! God reigns: let earth be glad! A-men.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a corresponding lyric line. The lyrics are arranged in three verses, with the third verse being a variation of the first. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have set a table before us and called us to feast with you and the world wide community of faith. Some of us come to the Table tired, even though it is the beginning of a new day; others of come wounded seeking healing. No matter our condition, in the hearing of your Word, and in the bread, and the cup, may we find your unique refreshment and your renewing purpose. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Silent Prayer

WE ARE RENEWED BY THE SPIRIT

CALL TO CONFESSION

In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law. Together let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you judge not by outward appearances, and you know how often we turn away from you in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us and help us live as you would have us live as your people.

(silent reflection)

Gracious God, you have called us to a new community in Jesus Christ. Strengthen our bonds and deepen our resolve to promote the unity of your church throughout the world. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND FORGIVENESS

Hear these comforting words: If you repent and believe in God's redeeming mercy, your sins are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, I say in Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Trust in God's promises and begin anew your life with God and all people. Amen.

GOD'S DIRECTION FOR OUR LIVES

([Matthew 22: 37 – 40](#))

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

WE HEAR AND LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Old Testament

[Isaiah 25: 6-9](#)

New Testament

[Luke 14: 16 -24](#)

SERMON – *Anticipating the Heavenly Feast*

(Text Pg. 9)

WE ARE FED AT THE LORD'S TABLE

The Meaning of the Sacrament and Invitation

Communion Anthem/Duet

[We Come As Guests Invited](#)

Below

218 We Come As Guests Invited

And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. Rev. 22:17

1. We come as guests in - vit - ed When Je - sus bids us dine,
2. We eat and drink, re - ceiv - ing From Christ the grace we need,
3. One bread is ours for shar - ing, One sin - gle, fruit - ful vine,

His friends on earth u - nit - ed To share the bread and wine;
And in our hearts be - liev - ing On Him by faith we feed;
Our fel - low - ship de - clar - ing Re - newed in bread and wine—

The bread of life is bro - ken, The wine is free - ly poured
With won - der and thanks - giv - ing For love that knows no end,
Re - newed, sus - tained and giv - en By to - ken, sign and word,

For us, in sol - emn to - ken Of Christ our dy - ing Lord.
We find in Je - sus liv - ing Our ev - er - pres - ent friend.
The pledge and seal of heav - en, The love of Christ our Lord.

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1975

PASSION CHORALE

Communion Prayer

Communion

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

We praise and thank you, O Lord, that you have fed us at your table.

Grateful for your gifts and mindful of the communion of your saints we offer to you our prayers for all people.

God of compassion, we remember before you the poor and the afflicted, the sick and dying, prisoners, and all who are lonely, the victims of war, injustice, and inhumanity and all others who suffer from whatever their sufferings may be called.

(silent reflection)

O Lord of Providence, who holds the destiny of nations in your hand, we pray for our country. Inspire the hearts and minds of our leaders that they, together with all our nation, may first seek your kingdom and righteousness so that order, liberty, and peace may dwell with your people.

(silent reflection)

O God the creator, we pray for all nations and peoples, take away the mistrust and lack of understanding that divide your creatures; increase in us the recognition that we are all your children.

(silent reflection)

O Savior God, look upon your church in its struggle upon the earth, Have mercy on its weakness, bring to an end its unhappy divisions and scatter its fears. Look also upon the ministry of your church. Increase its courage, strengthen its faith, and inspire its witness to all people, even the ends of the earth.

(silent reflection)

Author of grace and God of love, send your Holy Spirit's blessing to your children here present. Keep our hearts and thoughts in Jesus Christ, your Son, our only Savior, who has taught us to pray:

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.***

WE GO FORTH TO REVEAL JESUS CHRIST IN THE WORLD

PARTING HYMN [*In Christ There Is no East or West*](#)

Below

507 In Christ There Is No East or West

Ye are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:28

Unison

1. In Christ there is no East or West, In Him no South or North,
2. In Him shall true hearts ev - ery-where Their high com-mun-ion find;
3. Join hands, then, broth-ers of the faith, What-e'er your race may be;
4. In Christ now meet both East and West, In Him meet South and North:

But one great fel - low - ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.
His serv - ice is the gold - en cord Close - bind - ing all man - kind.
Who serves my Fa - ther as a son Is sure - ly kin to me.
All Christ - ly souls are one in Him Through - out the whole wide earth.

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It features a treble and bass clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, corresponding to the four verses of the hymn. The first line of lyrics is '1. In Christ there is no East or West, In Him no South or North,'. The second line is '2. In Him shall true hearts ev - ery-where Their high com-mun-ion find;'. The third line is '3. Join hands, then, broth-ers of the faith, What-e'er your race may be;'. The fourth line is '4. In Christ now meet both East and West, In Him meet South and North:'. The fifth line of lyrics is 'But one great fel - low - ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.'. The sixth line is 'His serv - ice is the gold - en cord Close - bind - ing all man - kind.'. The seventh line is 'Who serves my Fa - ther as a son Is sure - ly kin to me.'. The eighth line is 'All Christ - ly souls are one in Him Through - out the whole wide earth.'. The score ends with a double bar line.

WORDS: John Oxenham, 1908

MUSIC: Traditional Spiritual melody; arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1939

McKEE
C.M.

Words used by permission of Desmond Durikerly.

BENEDICTION

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever.

Amen!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✚ The **Crop Hunger Walk for the Chelsea/Dexter** area is scheduled for **TODAY Sunday, October 4th**. To maintain social distancing and safety, walkers should plan on wearing masks if you choose to walk today. Maps with the designated routes are available on the Sanctuary table and attached to this week's worship materials. If you are interested in participating or supporting the Crop Hunger Walk this year, please contact Karen McIlroy at 734.426.6372.
- ✚ **Rummage Sale Update:** It has been decided to postpone the fall rummage sale until after January 1st. St. Andrew's members may bring donations to the church in the meantime and store them in the back rooms.

- ✚ **Special Offering:** For the month of October, special offerings can be made to Neighbors in Need, a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ.



UNLEASHING POTENTIAL (formerly Neighborhood Houses)
OF ST. LOUIS, MO

"Unleash[ing] the magnificent potential in children, families and neighborhoods that leads to a just community for all."

Denise Carter, early childhood education director, was well aware of a rather large need within the population served by Neighborhood Houses. Many of the families are low wage earners, 75% of them earn less than \$20,000 annually. Truthfully, some simply struggle to provide many of basic needs for their children.

To that end, she designed a program to meet the health and development needs of infants and toddlers. Thus, the "Baby Essentials" program was birthed. The main goal was to provide diapers and formula for all of the children enrolled at the early childhood education center for families who could not afford a consistent supply.



Denise met with interim director of development, Christine Krueger, and shared her desire and need for funding. Christine went in search of those sources. She applied wherever she felt the need of the program matched the granters requirements. Fortunately, she filled out an application for a NIN direct service grant and was awarded \$3,000 in 2019.

In 2020, it was reported back to us that 100% of babies ages six weeks to 12 months received milk they needed while attending the Center. 50% of those babies also received one canister of formula per month for home consumption. Lastly, 100% of babies/toddlers ages six weeks to three years had diapers needed for Center and home use.

According to Christine, "thanks to the Neighbors in Need grant, our babies are dry and their tummies are full, and parents, who are already stressed financially, socially, and emotionally, have two less potential health issues with which to contend!"

Because of your generosity, direct service programs like that of Neighborhood Houses are grant funded, communities are strengthened, and neighbors experience love without judgment.

all children have the right to simply be children...

Please join us in supporting the 2020 Neighbors In Need Special Mission Offering. Thank you!

- ✚ **Phone calls and Cards of Support** while Betty Davenport is recovering from a broken arm can be send to her at the following address:

Betty Davenport
c/o Pam Pollard
43636 Hanover Ct.
Canton MI 48187
Ph#734-207-3886

- ✚ **Hymn Sing!-** A tentative outdoor hymn sing is being planned in the church parking lot for Sunday, October 11th at 2pm, weather permitting. Hymn books will be supplied, but we ask all participants to bring their own chairs. We will need to borrow a keyboard for the event.



St. Andrew's United Church of Christ Prayer List

Someone has said that when we work, we work; but when we pray, God works! God's strength is available to praying people who pray and believe God can make a difference. In your prayers this week, we ask that you especially remember the following people and circumstances and believe that God is at work in each situation.

"Devote yourselves to PRAYER, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving."

Colossians 4:2

"Lord, let your loving kindness be upon us, as we put our trust in you."

Psalms 33:22

Friends and Family of St. Andrew's

Irv & Babe Hollis and Family- *Parents of Coleen Tomshany*

Kyle Yaeger- *Sister of Coleen Tomshany*

Carl Lesser

Mary Rettig

Bob Rose

Janet Stanfield- *Daughter of Bob Mast*

Jerry Stoll

Jacob Thompson- *Grandson of Carol Jones*

Molly Thompson- *Granddaughter of Jerry & Sharon Stoll*

Betty Davenport

Prayers for the World Around Us

Let us pray for patience and perseverance as we continue to live with Covid-19; as we remember those who have lost loved ones, employment and their businesses. We ask that all essential people be given strength and wisdom as they continue to seek solutions to bring health and healing to our world. Help us to remain vigilant and guide our actions in the days to come.

Prayer for the Healing of our Nation

Lord, we seek peace as unrest ripples through the streets of our land. Help us listen to the hurt and pain of those who have been dehumanized and brutalized because of the color of their skin and to begin to understand the reasons for protest. Just as unrest is breaking out, we pray too, that understanding can break out just as well.

Members Serving in the Military

Brandon Campbell Jacob Hargrove

Scott Mosher Joshua Ware

Noah Campbell Sterling Hargrove

Clinton Olberg Nick Gagalis

Richard McCleery Joel Slavik

People Beyond the St. Andrew's Congregation

Lauren Allison- *Audrey Marshall's Great-Granddaughter*

Janis Clark

Bill Coté- *Friend of Elaine Owsley*

Judy Cote- *Sister of Gale Cobb*

Lillian Donald

Rylee Donaldson- *Audrey Marshall's Great-Granddaughter*

Glenn Ehrstine- *Son of Joan Ettinger*

Linda Ehrstine- *Daughter of Joan Ettinger*

Chuck Feldkamp- *Audrey Marshall's Nephew*

Greg Gardner- *Husband of Sue Gardner, Quilter in Piecemakers*

Chuck Gooding- *Brother-in-law of Cathy Gagalis*

Gene Harvey- *Brother-in-law of Sharon Stoll*

Dale Hoffman- *Brother of Ann Egeler*

Anna Jones- *Mother of Denise Marshal*

Ollie Knapp & Melissa Taylor- *Friends of Shirley Cobb*

Troy King- *Audrey Marshall's Grandson-in-law*

Kristen Kowalski- *Bob Brueninger's Daughter*

Gary Kuehnle- *Friend of Elaine Owsley*

Delena & Ed Moredock- *Friends of Elaine Owsley*

Lori Pliner- *Coleen Tomshany's niece*

SERMON- *Parable of the Great Dinner: Anticipating the Heavenly Feast*

It is difficult to imagine any kind of special occasion without food involved. Birthdays, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, are celebrated over great food. The life of this congregation orbits around the dinners that were provided for the community.

In the Bible we find many references and images about food. In the Old Testament passage we are offered a picture of a great banquet to which all peoples have been invited. Jews and Gentiles alike are invited. The days of mourning are over. Sorrow is no more, death the last enemy has been destroyed, so now God invites everybody to a victory celebration. This banquet gives us a picture of heaven...people of all races and cultures being served the best meats and finest wines.

Against that background Jesus tells this parable of a banquet. The host prepares a great dinner, sends out the invitations, but nobody wants to come. Those invited first begin to make excuses, one person bought a house but has to do repairs first; another has bought a new car, but hasn't had a chance to drive it; still another; someone else has just gotten married and his wife wants him to shampoo the carpet. These are all ridiculous reasons for refusing the invitation.

Insulted by the declines, the host is furious. Many of you at St. Andrews can understand this response. You have worked hard all week preparing for your monthly dinners – Stuffed Cabbage, Swiss Steak, Corned Beef, Turkey, Lasagna and Sauerkraut and Knoeffle. The tables are set and decorated, the potatoes are mashed and carrots cut, the salad and dessert prepared, and the main course cooked to perfection. The doors to the fellowship hall are open, but wait....no one, absolutely no one is at the door. Nobody is coming to the dinner. You are upset, as you have invested a lot of time and elbow grease, seemingly for nothing.

So you can understand the reason the dinner host is upset. But still he responds not with vengeance but with grace. He now thinks of inviting people that no one else would think of inviting, the poor, the crippled, the lame, those whom you expect might have been excluded will be there. Far from being an exclusive affair to which only societies finest are invited, the Kingdom of God is for the disposed and the underserving.

That response would be like you saying okay, Chuck, nobody is coming why don't you go out on Ann Arbor Street and wave down any one who wants a meal. And so in the parable the servant fulfills his mission and goes out and waves down the marginal people, there is still room in the fellowship hall, so the host orders the servant to go out to the roads and country lanes and bring in all those from outside the hosts community.

First the host invites Israel's religious leaders, those who have the seating arrangement at the messianic banquet all figured out. They refuse to come. Then the host invites the Jewish masses many of whom, come, and some who are still coming. Finally, with much room still available he invites the Gentiles, many of whom come to the banquet, and many who are still coming. The parable is open ended. The host order has been issued but remains unfilled as the parable closes.

The focus of the parable shifts away from the people first invited and their reasons for declining to the banquet host who remains the master of the situation. The people first invited are a stranger to grace and seek to boycott the banquet by declining the invitation. If they would have succeeded the host would have lost control of the situation. But he remains Lord of the situation and fills the banquet hall. The declines he receives sadden him but does not stop him. He accomplishes what he sets out to accomplish.

We are to see ourselves as those who have fallen short, missed the mark, done those things we ought not to have done, and left undone those things we should have done. Those least likely to see themselves at the heavenly banquet with Jesus has the host. A poem, 'Best Poem in the World, by an anonymous author sums up a picture of those gathered for the anticipated Heavenly Banquet....it just might surprise you whose there. It goes like this:

I was shocked, confused, and bewildered as I entered Heaven's
door, Not by the beauty of it all, nor the lights or its décor.

But it was the folks in Heaven who made me gasp –
The thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade who swiped my lunch
money twice. Next him was my old neighbor who never said
anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought was rotting away in hell, was sitting
on cloud nine looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'what's the deal?' I would love to hear your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here, God must have made a
mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet, so somber – give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' he said, "they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

God in Jesus Christ, the host, continues to invite the peoples of the world to a banquet. As we gather around the Lord's Table on this World Wide Communion Sunday, we get a foretaste of that heavenly banquet where different peoples from different cultures have stepped forward and accepted the invitation to the banquet not because we ought but because we may; not because we are righteous but because we are penitent; not because we are strong but because we are weak; not because we are whole but because we are broken.