

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 3, 2024

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

3228 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland, Oregon [www.standrewspdx.com](http://www.standrewspdx.com)

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



## GATHERING

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Time to Center**

**Call to Worship**

Each of us, infinitely complex, unique, gifted,  
and challenged, has been knit together by God.  
All of us, with our different gifts, skills, abilities,  
resources, personalities, needs, hopes, and dreams  
have been knit together by the Spirit into one community.  
All Christians throughout time and space, are so knit together.

***We gather to praise and worship  
and tap into our connection in Christ.***

***Let us worship God.***

**\*Song**    *Together*    SCREEN

**Silent Prayers of Unburdening**

*Find your feet on the floor. Take three deep breaths, in through your nose and out through your mouth. If you are feeling at all distant, separate, fragmented, take this moment to confess this to God and seek to be knit together anew.*

**Words of Assurance**

Though the world would pull us apart,  
God in Christ knits us together again through the gift of forgiveness.

Friends, believe the good news,  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***Alleluia, Amen!***

**\*Song of Praise**      *Heleluyan, We Are Singing (refrain only)*  
Glory to God #642

**Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Let us honor and strengthen the threads of connection between us  
by sharing peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

Let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

**THE WORD**

**Song of Preparation**    *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*    Glory to God #453

**Reading from the Book of Psalms**    Psalm 100

**Reading from the Book of Romans**    Romans 12:1-2

**Sermon**    *The Rev. Janice K. Reynolds*

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Silent Reflection After the Word Read and Preached**

**Affirmation of Faith**    *from the Iona Abbey Worship Book*

***We believe in God above us,  
Maker and Sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon,  
of water and earth,  
of male and female.***

***We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of compassion, he died forsaken;  
he descended into the earth  
to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb;  
he ascended into heaven  
to be everywhere present;  
and his kingdom will come on earth.***

***We believe in God with us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the church,  
spirit of healing and forgiveness,***

*source of resurrection and eternal life.  
Amen.*

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

**Offertory Anthem** *Come Away* Ken Medina

### **\*Doxology**

*Praise God whose breath fills all the earth  
Whose love reveals our sacred worth  
Whose Spirit forms one family  
Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.*

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

*Holy God, may that which we offer  
strengthen our connection,  
reinforce the strands that bind us to one another,  
and draw others into your warm fellowship too.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

### **Invitation to the Table**

As we prepare to come to the table today, hear this poem by Wendell Berry, *The Wild Geese*.

Geese appear high over us,  
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,  
as in love or sleep, holds  
them to their way, clear  
in the ancient faith: what we need  
is here. And we pray, not  
for new earth or heaven, but to be  
quiet in heart, and in eye,  
clear. What we need is here.

What we need is here

Amy McCreath

What we need is here

What we need is here

What do you need today? What do you desperately need? (*silence*)

Hear the Good News: *What we need is here. What we need is here.*

### **Communion Prayers**

Before anything existed,  
God looked out into the darkness and saw the need for light.  
God saw the void needed life  
and the vast waters covering the earth needed land.  
The day needed the sun and the night the moon and stars.  
The land needed creatures,  
the air needed birds, and the sea needed fish.  
But even with all this, God needed us.  
And so humanity was created  
as the crowning jewel of Creation  
and as we awoke to life God told us:  
*What we need is here. What we need is here.*

But as we grew God saw we needed guidance so  
They sent prophets to speak Their Truth.  
But we couldn't hear.  
We wouldn't hear.  
We kept turning away from God even though all along:  
*What we need is here. What we need is here.*

And so, God saw clearly, there was a need for another way.  
A direct and simple way.  
Christ, God's own self came to remind us,  
God is with us.  
We are loved.  
Whatever we need, we can just simply ask of our good and loving God.  
*What we need is here. What we need is here.*

And though we didn't know we needed it, on his last night with us,  
Jesus said, here, take my body, you need it, given for you.  
And here, take my blood, you need it, poured out for you.  
*What we need is here. What we need is here.*

Because this sacrament knits us together as one body in Christ,  
making us Christ's community,  
you are invited to join hands or to place your hands on each other's  
shoulders... as we boldly ask God to make this meal be for us  
what we need. Let us pray together:

*Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and cup.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory,  
and we feast at your heavenly banquet.  
Through Jesus the Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,  
all honor and glory is yours,  
almighty God, now and forever. Amen.*

*What we need is here. What we need is here.*

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

*Prayer requests submitted by card and zoom will be shared, followed by  
"Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**" Then you are invited to pray  
together the prayer that Jesus taught.*

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

Friends, indeed what we need is here and all is ready.  
I invite the servers forward.  
All the bread is gluten free, all the juice is unfermented.  
All are welcome and safe at this table.  
You are invited to come forward down the center aisle  
to receive a bit of bread and a small cup of juice.  
If you desire to be served in your seat,  
raise your hand as the traveling server comes your way.  
We ask that everyone please hold on to your bread and cup  
so that we can receive as one body with our kindred at home.  
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

### **Prayer After Communion**

*Thank you for knitting us together into one unfathomably large  
and utterly beautiful blanket, O God. And thank you for giving  
us all we need. What we need is here. And we are so thankful. In  
Jesus' name, Amen.*

## **SENDING**

**\*Song**      *Christ Be Beside Me*      Glory to God #702

**Our Ministry in Christ**  
*Stewardship Testimonial*  
*Announcements*

**Charge and Benediction**

**And All God's People Say**

**Postlude**

**Worship Sources**

Communion Liturgy of poetry & song based on Luke 11:9-10 by Rev. Corey Turnpenny This liturgy uses the simple song, What we need is here by Rev. Amy McCreath. Its five words are the closing sentence of a Wendell Berry poem, "The Wild Geese," which inspired Amy to write this tune.