

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 15, 2024

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

3228 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland, Oregon www.standrewspdx.com

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



GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Time to Center

Call to Worship

***Hymn** *Can You Count the Stars?*

A revision of an Adventist Hymn, verses one and two only mildly revised, verse three significantly revised by Pastor Sarah, to the tune of Glory to God #410

Can you count the stars that brightly

Twinkle in the midnight sky?

Can you count the clouds, so lightly

O'er the meadows floating by?

God, the Lord, doth mark their number

With God's eyes that never slumber;

God hath made every one.

God hath made them every one.

Can you count the wings now flashing

In the sunshine's golden light?

Can you count the fishes splashing

In the cooling waters bright?

God, the Lord, a name hath given,

To all creatures under heaven;

God hath named them everyone.

God hath named them everyone.

Do you know how many children

All belong to God above?

*Beyond counting, beyond grasping,
Are the children whom God loves.
You and me, and countless others,
We all share a common mother,
God who loves us everyone.
God who loves us everyone.*

Call to Confession

We worship a faithful, promise making God.
Let us offer to this God our prayers of adoration and confession.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Leader: Starmaker, of Aquilla, Capricornus and Cygnus,
just a few of the constellations in our night sky now.

*Low Voices: As we gaze up at the night sky and look in wonder
at these tiny dots of light,*

**High Voices: We remember that you once promised Abram
that his descendants would number more
than the stars in the sky.**

**All: We are his descendants, billions of us,
living thousands of years after Abram.
Linking his story with our story,
which is altogether your story.**

Leader: Lord, you keep your promises then and now.

Low Voices: You promise to be with us always.

High Voices: You promise to love us no matter what.

**All: You promise to forgive us whenever we ask.
Lord, we are sorry
that we need to ask for your forgiveness so often,
that we fail you time and again,
but we are glad that you forgive us
and allow us to move on,
wiping the slate clean each time,
and offering us a fresh start.**

***May we, like Abram, believe your promises,
Trust in you and follow you, more faithfully,
day by day.***

Silent Prayers of Confession

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

It was hard for Abraham to have faith
as years dragged on and no child ever came.
But God promised. And God delivered.
And indeed Abraham's descendants are many.
It may be hard for us to believe in grace right now,
in goodness, and mercy, and hope.
But God has promised in Christ our salvation and our deliverance.
Friends, believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Alleluia, Amen.

*Response of Praise

You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy
Glory to God #437

437 You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has the lyrics 'You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!' and is accompanied by chords Em, D, Em, Am, Em, D, Em. The second staff has the lyrics 'You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!' and is accompanied by chords Am, D, C, D, Em, C, Em. The third staff has the lyrics 'You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!' and is accompanied by chords Em, D, G, Am, Em, D, E. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together and others held as half notes.

Em D Em Am Em D Em
You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

Am D C D Em C Em
You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!

Em D G Am Em D E
You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Let us live in peace with all our kindred,
Kindred in Christ, may the peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

THE WORD

Song of Preparation *Breathe* St. A's SB #119

*This is the air I breathe,
This is the air I breathe:
Your Holy presence living in me.
This is my daily bread,
This is my daily bread:
Your very Word spoken to me.*

*And I, I'm desp'rate for You.
And I, I'm lost without You.*

*This is the air I breathe,
This is the air I breathe:
Your Holy presence living in me.
This is my daily bread,
This is my daily bread:
Your very Word spoken to me.*

*And I, I'm desp'rate for You.
And I, I'm lost without You.
And I, I'm lost without You.
I'm lost without You.*

*This is the air I breathe,
This is the air I breathe.*

Conversation with the Younger Church

Reading from the Gospel of Luke *Luke 3:8*

Reading from the Book of Genesis *Genesis 15:1-6*

Sermon

Silent Reflection on the Word Preached

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn *How Firm a Foundation* *Glory to God #463*

463

How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord;
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis-mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,



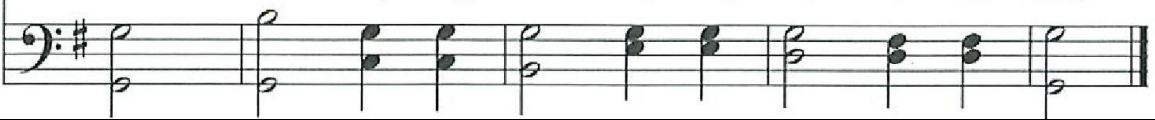
is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,



to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."



Ordination and Installation of Officers

The Presentation

One: As many of you were baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**All: *There is one body and one Spirit,
just as we were called to the one hope of our calling.***

One: In her baptism, Roberta Schlechter was clothed with Christ,
and is now called by God through the voice of the church
to enter into a ministry of service,
announcing in word and deed the good news of Jesus Christ.

Sentences of Scripture

One: There are varieties of gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**All: *There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.***

One: God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**All: *To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.***

One: Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination and installation

Pastor: We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism,
and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit.
This is our common calling,
to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord.
Within the community of the church,
some are called to particular service as deacons,
as elders, and as ministers of the Word and Sacrament.
Ordination is Christ's gift to the church,
assuring that his ministry continues among us,
providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the world,
ordering the governance of the church,
and preaching the Word and administering the sacraments.

Clerk: Representing the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, the
session of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church now
ordains Roberta Schlechter to the office of elder, and installs
her to active service on that board. The session also installs to
active service those who have been previously ordained:
deacons Tracy Gerhardt, Merrie Backer, and Carol Stanfield,
and elders Marilyn Palumbo, Steve Cook, and Oliver Young,

***Reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant**

***Renunciations**

Pastor: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you turn from the ways of sin
and renounce evil and its power in the world?

All: *I do.*

Pastor: Do you turn to Jesus Christ
and accept him as your Lord and Savior,
trusting in his grace and love?

All: *I do.*

Pastor: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his word and showing his love?

All: *I will, with God's help.*

***Profession**

Pastor: With the whole church,
let us confess our faith.
Do you believe in God the Father?

**All: *I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All: *I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead;
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: *I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

***Remembrance of Baptism**

Pastor: Remember your baptism and be thankful.
In the name of the Triune God, Father and Mother of us all.

Anointing

The Constitutional Questions

Pastor: Roberta, God has called you by the voice of the church to serve Jesus Christ in a special way. You know who we are and what we believe, and you understand the work for which you have been chosen. Do you trust in Jesus Christ, your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Candidate: I do and I will.

Pastor: Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ Under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Candidate: I will.

Pastor: Will you endorse our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Candidate: I do and I will.

Pastor: Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Candidate: I will.

Pastor: Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the Church?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Candidate: I will.

Pastor: Roberta will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I will.

***The Constitutional Questions To The Congregation**

Elder: Do we, the members of this church, accept these persons as elders and deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Elder: Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

Congregation: We do.

The Ordination Prayer and the Laying on of Hands

The candidate for ordination shall kneel, and the pastor and the elders shall lay hands upon her head as the pastor speaks the ordination prayer.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Gracious and eternal God, with joy we give you all thanks and praise. Throughout the ages you have been faithful to your covenant people whom you have called out of bondage and redeemed to be your own. In every time and place you have chosen servants from among your people to point the way to salvation. We are grateful for ancestors in the faith who followed without fear, placing their trust in you alone. We give you thanks for judges and monarchs who ruled in righteousness and peace. We praise you for prophets and apostles who spoke your bold words of mercy and of truth. We thank you for disciples in every age who have nurtured your people in faith and faithfulness. Above all we praise you for Jesus Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to

set others free. Anointed by your Holy Spirit, he proclaimed your reign on earth, revealing your saving love in all he said and did.

Congregation: *Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your servants home you called through baptism as your own and marked as your own. Grant them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Give them a spirit of truthfulness that they may show the compassion of Christ in the actions of daily living and rightly govern your people. Give them the gifts of your Holy Spirit to build up the church, to strengthen the common life of your people, and to lead with compassion and vision. In the walk of faith and for the work of ministry, give to your servants gladness and strength, discipline and hope, humility, humor, and courage, and an abiding sense of your presence.*

Elder: Gracious God, pour out your Spirit of power and truth upon the whole church that we may be for you a holy people, baptized to serve you in the world. Sustain this congregation in ministry. Ground us in the gospel, secure our hope in Christ, strengthen our service to the outcast, and increase our love for one another. Show us the transforming power of your grace in our life together, that we may be servants of the gospel, offering a compelling witness in the world to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

Pastor: Roberta you are now an elder in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ.

Welcome

The congregation applauds and elders greet the newly ordained officers. Certificates are distributed.

Charge

Pastor: The end of all things is near;
therefore be serious and discipline yourselves
for the sake of your prayers.
Above all, maintain constant love for one another,
for love covers a multitude of sins.
Be hospitable to one another without complaining.
Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of
God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God
supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus
Christ. To him belong the glory and the power
forever and ever. Amen.

Worshipping God with our Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

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

*Faithful God,
you keep your promises, help us to keep ours.
We promise to give a fitting proportion of our money for the
work of your church.
We offer that portion today.
Take and use it so that your kingdom might come,
here and now, in every place.
Amen.*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

SENDING

Song *Send Me, Jesus* Glory to God #746

Send Me, Jesus

746

Thuma mina

Leader *All*



Thu - ma mi - na. Thu - ma mi - na, thu - ma mi - na. Thu - ma
Send me, Lord. 1 Send me, Je - sus; send me, Je - sus; send me,
(2 Lead me,) Je - sus; lead me, Je - sus; lead me,
(3 Fill me,) Je - sus; fill me, Je - sus; fill me,

mi - na, So - man - dla.
Je - sus; send me, Lord. 2 Lead me,
Je - sus; lead me, Lord. 3 Fill me,
Je - sus; fill me, Lord.

Repeat ad lib. End

2 Lead me, Lord.
3 Fill me, Lord.

Our Ministry in Christ

Charge and Benediction

And All God's People Say...

Postlude