

# St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 22, 2019

Rev. Rosemary McMahan, Interim Pastor

Elder Turner Matthews, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude

"My Life, My Joy, My All"

Dr. Gilbreath

## We Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

Pastor's Welcome (Please sign the friendship roster.)

Finance and PNC Update

Turner Matthews

Call to Worship:

One: The invitation to worship is here. Our God has welcomed us into this place of worship and we will respond with praise and thanksgiving.

**All: We come, one and all, to give praise and glory to our God.**

One: As creation proclaims the greatness of God with all its beauty, so we proclaim God with word and song.

**All: We will praise and sing and pray -- all to the glory of the one true God. We accept your invitation to come, O God, and we will respond with praise and thanksgiving.**

Prayer of Adoration

\*Hymn of Worship

"The God of Abraham Praise" Vs. 1, 2, 4

#49

*Please pass your prayer cards to the aisle for pickup.*

Invitation to Confession: We turn to God in prayer not because we are compelled but because God invites us. We come to God not because of our righteousness but because of God's grace. In that spirit, we offer this prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession: ***Like the prodigal son, how easily we leave your side, Lord God, for a place far away. How often our only focus is ourselves. How quickly we take your gifts for granted. We are blind in our darkness, so open our eyes to our sins. Unless you strengthen our spirits and create our hearts anew, we cannot make the journey home to you. Guide us to your welcoming arms, to the music and the dancing, for we are easily lost, and only you, our loving Father, can find us. Give us hearts to want to come home. Amen.*** (We make our silent confession.)

Hymn

"There Is Now a New Creation"

#774

(To the tune of "Jesus Calls Us" #720)

Declaration of Forgiveness: There is no greater joy in God's heart than this moment right now! For in this moment we call upon the Holy One to grant us new life. It is with the greatest joy that God grants us mercy and makes us whole once again.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and blessed by God's grace. With great joy we are made alive! Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

\*Gloria Patri

#581

Anthem

"The Artist"

Choir

## We Listen for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

2 Cor. 5:16-21

Elder Matthews

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:11-32

Rev. McMahan

Message

"Which One Are You?"

Rev. McMahan

\*Hymn of Reflection

"Just As I Am"

#442

## We Respond to the Word

\* Affirmation of Faith: from Confession of 1967, 9.15

***God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. We ascribe to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love. This we believe.***

Prayers of the People: The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Offertory

"No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus"

Dr. Gilbreath

\*Doxology

#606

\*Prayer

## We Go Forth to Minister

\*Hymn of Sending

"Rock of Ages"

#438

\*Blessing and Sending

Rev. McMahan

Postlude

"He Keeps Me Singing"

Dr. Gilbreath

\*All that are able are invited to stand.

***Bold italic type indicates our shared response.***

**To Our Visitors & Guests:**

Welcome! It is a blessing to have you in worship with us today. We warmly invite your participation in the worship, fellowship, and ministry of this congregation where everyone is welcome as God's child. The pastor is available to answer any questions you might have after worship or by email or phone. There is a place for you here, and we are delighted to have you with us today.

**To All:**

The baptismal font at the entrance into the sanctuary signifies baptism as the entrance into the Universal Church and our inclusion in the worldwide family of Jesus Christ. It reminds us to remember our baptisms and be thankful.

Please note two upcoming speaker events. On Wednesday evening, Oct. 2, Marsha Farrell will speak about "Brain Health: Use It or Lose It." This interactive class will include interventions for improving our brain health. On Oct. 9, Pam Frazier will lead "Beautiful-Successful Aging," sharing how proper nourishment of body, mind and spirit can give us a glow that shows on the outside and leads to successful aging.

These talks are a good time to invite a friend to join you as St. Andrew. 6-7 PM. If you need a ride, please contact the church office and we will provide you with one.

Pastor Rosemary

Scripture for this Wednesday's study: Philippians 2:5-18 "The Mind of the Messiah"

**Prayer for Wholeness Opportunity:**

Individual prayers for Healing and Wholeness are available after church and on Wednesdays by appointment. Please contact Pastor Rosemary.

**"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise." Jer. 17:14.**

An audio and written copy of each week's sermon is available on the website at [www.standrewdecatour.org](http://www.standrewdecatour.org).

# Welcome to



***"Growing in Faith; Sharing the Good News;  
Living in God's Love."***

September 22, 2019

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**Scripture Reading Turner Matthews: 2 Cor. 5:16-21**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Scripture Reading Rev. McMahan: Luke 15:11-32**

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be

called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "