

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor

Don Koza, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude

“Give Him Glory”

Dr. Gilbreath

We Gather in God’s Presence

Pastor’s Welcome

Call to Worship:

One: God’s creation delights and astonishes.

All: **Let the people pause and wonder!**

One: God, the Creator, has made it all.

All: **Let all creation shout and sing! Alleluia!**

*Hymn “All Creatures of Our God and King” v. 1-4,6 #15

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

O God, we are quick to say, “We didn’t know. We didn’t mean to. We didn’t expect that to happen.” But we have not tended the soil of our lives. We let it stay shallow and rocky by not learning from the experience of others. We let it be riddled with thorns by succumbing to our own prejudices. Life-giving God, help us to tend our soil. Open us to being challenged, enable us to learn, so that your word will take root and bear good fruit in our lives. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

Hymn of Response “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” #435, v. 1

Assurance of Pardon:

One: There is no condemnation for us: God has forgiven us that we might live according to the Spirit.

All: **The Spirit of God dwells within us. Thanks be to God!**

*Passing of the Peace

*Gloria Patri #581

We Listen for God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination		Don Koza
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 55:10-13	Don Koza
Anthem	Fantasiestücke, Movement II Robert Schumann	Virginia Hardy Dr. Jeff Gilbreath
Scripture Reading	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Rev. Brogdon
Sermon	“The Sower and the Seeds”	Rev. Brogdon
*Hymn	“How Lovely, Lord”	#402

We Respond to God’s Word

Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from Romans 8

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Call for the Offering

Offertory “There Is No Name So Sweet on Earth” Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

We Are Sent into the World

*Hymn	“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”	#367
*Benediction		Rev. Brogdon
*Postlude	“Standing on the Promises”	Dr. Gilbreath

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.

Calendar of Events:

Wed., July 19 2:00 PM Session Meeting
Thurs., July 20 10:00 AM Member Care Committee Meeting
Wed., July 26 1:00 PM Christian Education Committee Meeting
4:30 PM Choir
Sun., July 30 8:45 AM Combined Sunday School led by Rev. Tripp
Lies My Preacher Told Me: Part Two

To Our 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 our congregation. The pastor is available to answer any questions you might have after worship, by email or phone. There is a place for you here.

Children's activity bags are available from an usher for the sermon time. Please leave the bag in the pew as you leave. A nursery is provided for children 3 years of age and under.

We are pleased to welcome Virginia Hardy as a guest musician this morning. She is the daughter of Joel and Tonya Hardy. Virginia is a rising 9th grader at James Clemens High School. Her interests include playing clarinet and video games. She was selected for the 2022 and 2023 District One Honor Bands, as well as the 2022 and 2023 Alabama All-State Bands.

Live Streams and recordings of each week's worship service are available on our YouTube channel. For more information, visit us at www.standrewdecalur.org



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Scripture Reading: Don Koza: Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Scripture Reading, Rev. Brogdon: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had

no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."