

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor

Elder, Bob Naumann, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude

"Great Things He Has Done"

Dr. Gilbreath

We Gather in God's Presence

Pastor's Welcome

Call to Worship:

One: We seek the kingdom of God:

All: *where the smallest seeds turn into great plants.*

One: We seek the kingdom of God:

All: *as precious as pearls or treasure.*

One: We seek the kingdom of God:

All: *where joy and abundance reign.*

*Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

#450

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

God of mystery, God of life, we imagine that we are capable judges of power and wisdom and goodness. We trust our own standards; we separate and categorize; we mark the performance of others. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, transform our withered imaginations until we yield the judgments we trust to a love we cannot control. Amen.
(Silent Confession)

Hymn of Response

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

#435,v.1

Assurance of Pardon:

One: Beloved, hear this good news: God is for us. Not even our sins can separate us from the love of God.

All: *Glory be to God for this grace and mercy!*

*Passing of the Peace

*Gloria Patri

#581

We Listen for God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Bob Naumann

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:26-39

Elder Bob Naumann

Anthem "There Is a Place of Quiet Rest"/"When Peace Like a River" Choir

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Rev. Brogdon

Sermon

"The Kingdom of Heaven is Like..."

Rev. Brogdon

*Hymn

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

#833

We Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Call for the Offering

Offertory

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology

#606

*Prayer of Dedication

We Are Sent into the World

*Hymn

"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

#310

*Benediction

Rev. Brogdon

*Postlude

"The Family of God"

Dr. Gilbreath

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.

Calendar of Events:

Wed., Aug 9 4:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
 5:30 PM CONNECT: with Addi Zeiher
Fri., Aug 11 8:00 AM The Presbyterian Men breakfast and swim at the
 Timberland Club House. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

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.

Flowers were placed in the sanctuary today in honor of Donald & Jan Foster's anniversary.

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



July 30, 2023

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
3310 Danville Rd. SW
Decatur, AL 35603
256-355-6310
Tripp@standrewdecalur.org
www.standrewdecalur.org

Scripture Reading, Bob Naumann:

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am 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.

Rev. Brogdon: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."