

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor

Cerese Sweeley, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude "Grace from God" Dr. Gilbreath

We Gather in God's Presence

Minute for Mission: Peace & Global Witness Offering John Jordan

Pastor's Welcome

Call to Worship:

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

All: Bless God's holy name.

One: God forgives. God heals. Gods transforms with steadfast love.

All: Bless God's holy name.

One: We gather to worship the God who forgives, heals, and transforms.

All: Bless God's holy name.

*Hymn "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" #624

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us. Amen. (Silent Confession)

Hymn of Response "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" #547,v.2

Assurance of Pardon:

One: People of God, hear and believe the good news: God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to God's own steadfast love for us.

All: As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us. Thanks be to God!

*Passing of the Peace

*Gloria Patri #581

We Listen for God's Word

Prayer for Illumination Cerese Sweeley

Scripture Reading Psalm 103:1-13 Cerese Sweeley

Anthem "God is Love" Choir

Scripture Reading Matthew 18:21-35 Rev. Brogdon

Sermon "How Often?" Rev. Brogdon

*Hymn "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" #619

We Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith: From our Book of Common Worship

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 "Grace Alone" Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

We Are Sent into the World

*Hymn "Lord, Make Us More Holy" #313

*Benediction Rev. Brogdon

*Postlude

“Shout to the Lord”

Dr. Gilbreath

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.

Calendar of Events:

Sun., Sept. 17 The last day to sign up for the CATS Lunch is today!
Mon., Sept. 18 9:00 AM Color Group
 6:00 PM NAP Presbyterian Men’s Fall Meeting, Fellowship
 Presbyterian Church, 3406 Meridian St., Huntsville, AL. The
 sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.
Wed., Sept. 20 2:00 PM Session Meeting
Thurs., Sept. 21 11:30 AM CATS Lunch

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.



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

Scripture Reading, Cerese Sweeley: Psalm 103: 1-13

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

Scripture Reading, Rev. Brogdon: Matthew 18: 21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

