

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

16th Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

September 13, 2026
Elder Faye Anderson, Liturgist
Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

O Love, That Will Not Let Me Go

JEFF GILBREATH

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

All: Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord.

One: Christ lived, died, and rose again so that he might be Lord of all.

All: Let us lay aside judgment and open our hearts to grace.

One: Come, let us worship the God of endless mercy and boundless love.

All: Let us praise the Lord together!

* GATHERING HYMN #624

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON

GATHERING PRAYER

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you have cancelled a debt we could never repay, welcoming us into freedom through Christ. Yet we confess how quickly we forget your generosity. We tally the faults of our neighbors; we harbor resentment and demand our own measure of justice. We pass judgment on our siblings in faith, forgetting that we all stand before your judgment seat alone. Forgive us, Lord. Soften our stubborn hearts. Release us from the bitterness that binds us, and teach us to extend the same extravagant pardon we have received, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (Silent Confession)

HYMN OF RESPONSE #472

Kum ba Yah

KUM BA YAH

Verse 1

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

O Lord, kum ba yah!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Who are we to pass judgment on another? It is God who justifies; it is Christ who sets us free. Hear the good news: Christ has borne our burdens and forgiven our debts completely.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 14:1-12

CHOIR ANTHEM

Lord of the Morning

ARR. BY JOSEPH MARTIN

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:21-35

SERMON

"A Community of Forgiveness"

* HYMN #444

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

DETROIT

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Confession of 1967, 9.20-9.21

God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in human life. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which people are reconciled to God and to one another. The Spirit enables people to receive forgiveness as they forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as they make peace among themselves. In spite of their sin, the Spirit gives people power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all.

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Call for the Offering

(The offering plate is not passed but is located on the stand outside the sanctuary doors.)

Offertory

The Bond of Love/Make Us One

JEFF GILBREATH

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* Prayer of Dedication

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

* HYMN #829

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OLIVET

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Serve the Lord with Gladness

JEFF GILBREATH

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW!

Whether you are a first-time guest, a long-time member, or somewhere in between, know that you are welcome in this place. We are so glad you are here, and we hope that your time in worship this morning draws you closer to God and to God's people. Our journeys of faith are not just lived on Sunday mornings, so we invite you to also join us in the fellowship and ministry of our congregation. Rev. Tripp is available to answer any questions you might have after worship, by email (tripp@standrewdecatur.org), or by phone. There is a place for you here!

THIS WEEK TOGETHER

Today, September 13th

New Member Class & Lunch immediately following worship

Monday, September 14th

Providing lunch for HAD

Wednesday, September 16

2:00 PM Session Meeting

Thursday, September 17

1:00 PM Caring Hands

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP: GATHERING

Preparing for Worship

Worship begins as the people gather — greeting one another, praying in silence, sharing announcements, or offering music to the glory of God. The act of assembling in Jesus' name bears witness to the Church's identity and mission as Christ's body in the world.

Opening Sentences

A call to worship, typically drawn from sentences of scripture, expresses God's invitation to gather as Christ's body in this place. A greeting in the name of Jesus Christ or the triune God establishes the context for worship as an encounter with the Holy One who calls all things into being.

Gathering Prayer

A prayer may be offered, giving thanks and praise to God, expressing joy in the presence of Christ, and calling for the gifts of the Spirit to be poured out upon the gathered community. This prayer may employ themes and images that are drawn from the biblical readings for the day or from the setting in the Christian year.





September 13, 2026

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
256-355-6310
www.standrewdecaturn.org

Scripture Reading, Faye Anderson: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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.”