

***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 GOD'S 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.

***HYMN 846 (v 1,3,4)**

Fight the Good Fight

***CHARGE, AND BENEDICTION**

***DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)**

**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.**

MUSIC FOR DISPERSAL

*Observing appropriate physical distancing, please leave from the back rows first. There is an **offering plate** near the door of the sanctuary if you wish to contribute at this service.*

POSTSCRIPTS

Our **Sunday schedule** continues, with Sunday School classes at 9:00 a.m., one of which is also accessible through Zoom, and our hybrid worship at 10:00 a.m., which is held onsite and livestreamed. As always, a pre-recorded version is also available on YouTube from Saturday at 6:00 p.m.

Our audio **Lenten Studies**, *Thy Kingdom Come*, continues to be offered in audio format on Wednesday evenings (and following). The link is accessed from the church website.



**ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Third Sunday in Lent • March 7, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

OPENING REMARKS & CALL TO WORSHIP

Let all who thirst come to the waters;

let all who are hungry come and eat.

The Lord's name be praised.

Please put on your mask and wear it through the Sharing of the Peace.

***HYMN 32**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

***CONFESSION AND PARDON**

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Amen.

***RESPONSE (Hymn 627—Sing through twice.)**

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you;

O my soul, rejoice.

Take joy, my King, in what you hear;

may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

*SHARING THE PEACE

With the forgiveness of God comes the peace of God.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please remain in your pew and share the peace in whatever symbol may be meaningful to you.

You may now remove your mask until the Affirmation of Faith.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM 73:1-14

Truly God is good to the upright, to those who are pure in heart.

But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped.

For I was envious of the arrogant; I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

For they have no pain; their bodies are sound and sleek.

They are not in trouble as others are; they are not plagued like other people.

Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them like a garment.

Their eyes swell out with fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.

They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.

They set their mouths against heaven, and their tongues range over the earth.

Therefore the people turn and praise them, and find no fault in them.

And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"

Such are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.

All in vain I have kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.

For all day long I have been plagued, and am punished every morning.

SCRIPTURE READING

I Kings 19:4-18

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." 5 Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell

asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." 6 He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. 7 The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." 8 He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. 9 At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 15 Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. 17 Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Seduction of Self-Pity

Sermon Series: "Avoiding Life's Detours"

Please put on your face mask for the Affirmation of Faith.

32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
 3 There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes thy glo-ries known.

that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y
 God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
 And clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from thy

skies. I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.
 good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
 throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev-er in thy care,

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o-bey.
 if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up-on the sky!
 and ev-ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

With minimal revision this text brings together six of the eight four-line stanzas in an 18th-century hymn written for children and originally headed "Praise for Creation and Providence." The anonymous German tune provides a fitting sense of breadth and wonder.

Fight the Good Fight

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1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
 3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
 God's bound - less mer - cy will pro - vide.
 God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;
 Trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall prove
 On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

The opening phrase here (based on 1 Timothy 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning "struggle" or "grapple" or "wrestle." The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1-2).