



**St. Andrew Church's "Why" Statement...** *To come together as a worshipping community, nourished by God's love so that we may reflect God's love to others.*  
Adopted April 2023

**November 12, 2023**  
**24th Sunday after Pentecost**

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

## **+GATHERING+**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.*

### **WELCOME**

### **PRELUDE**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,

**we confess that we are not awake for you.**

**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**

**We forget the least of our siblings.**

**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**

**We are infected by sin**

**that divides your beloved community.**

**Open our hearts to your coming,**

**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**

**open our hands to serve your creation.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,  
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through † Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us

from the foundation of the world.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN    Come, We That Love The Lord    ELW 625**

- 1    Come, we that love the Lord,  
       and let our joys be known;  
       join in a song with sweet accord,  
       join in a song with sweet accord  
       and thus surround the throne,  
       and thus surround the throne.

*Refrain*

We're marching to Zion,  
 beautiful, beautiful Zion:  
 we're marching upward to Zion,  
 the beautiful city of God.

- 2    Let those refuse to sing  
       who never knew our God;  
       but children of the heav'nly king,  
       but children of the heav'nly king  
       may tell their joys abroad,  
       may tell their joys abroad. *Refrain*
  
- 3    The hill of Zion yields  
       a thousand sacred sweets  
       before we reach the heav'nly fields,  
       before we reach the heav'nly fields,  
       or walk the golden streets,  
       or walk the golden streets. *Refrain*
  
- 4    Then let our songs abound,  
       and ev'ry tear be dry;

we're marching through Immanuel's ground,  
 we're marching through Immanuel's ground,  
 to fairer worlds on high,  
 to fairer worlds on high. *Refrain*

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY.**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **+WORD+**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## **CHILDREN'S BIBLE STORY TIME**

*Children may leave worship with the teachers for Bible Story Time. They will return during the Hymn of the Day.*

## **FIRST READING**

### **Amos 5:18-24**

*In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.*

A reading from Amos.

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.     **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM Psalm 70**

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O LORD, make haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**

**let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me

turn back because of their shame.

**<sup>4</sup>Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**

**let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

## **SECOND READING      1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

A reading from Thessalonians.

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. It contains the melody for the first two phrases: 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,'. The second staff continues the melody for the next two phrases: 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The third staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment for the acclamation. The text 'Repeat alleluia' is written below the third staff.

*Alleluia.* Keep awake | and be ready,\* for you do not know on what day your | Lord is coming. *Alleluia.* (Matt. 24:42, 44)

## GOSPEL **Matthew 25:1-13**

*Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and

those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup>But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'" The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY      **What Is The World Like      ACS 1047**

- 1      What is the world like when God's will is done?  
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive;  
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.  
This is how God moves us each to believe.
- 2      What is the world like when God's will is done?  
Witness the wandering child coming home;  
watch as the parent breaks into a run.  
This is how God longs for us when we roam.
- 3      What is the world like when God's will is done?  
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;  
peace thrives in places where once there was none.  
This is how God works when rivalries end.
- 4      What is the world like when God's will is done?  
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,  
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.  
This is how God readies us for the light.
- 5      These are the stories that Jesus imparts,



filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.  
 Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,  
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.\*  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**A** Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

**A** O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith

through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

**A.** O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day especially Bill, Marge, Arthur, Jim, Callum, Paul, Charles, Steven, Johanna, Carole, Anna, Nancy, Susan, Marie, Jean, Tracey, Donna, Michael, Robert, Karen, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for silence)

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **SHARE THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **+MEAL+**

*God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING** *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

## **CHOIR ANTHEM *When You Pass Through the Waters***

Text of Isaiah 43:1-3, Music by P. Weber

Fear not, fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire, you shall not be burned;

and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, I am the Lord your God, the Holy One, your Savior.

**OFFERTORY HYMN We All Are One In Mission****ELW 576**

St. 1 and 2

**We All Are One in Mission**

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.  
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:  
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray:

God of all goodness,  
 generations have turned to you,  
 gathered around your table,  
 and shared your abundant blessings.  
 Number us among them  
 that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,  
 and give thanks for your rich blessings,  
 we may feast upon your very self  
 and care for all that you have made,  
 through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
 that we should at all times and in all places  
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
 through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
 who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
 and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW pg. 130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:  
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
 You have filled all creation with light and life;  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
 the promise to Israel,  
 the rescue from Egypt,  
 the gift of the promised land,  
 the words of the prophets;  
 and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,  
 who proclaimed the good news in word and deed  
 and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in Christ's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest

until he comes as victorious Lord of all.  
Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**



## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa - ther, — who art in heav - en, — hal - low - ed  
 be thy name; — thy king - dom come; — thy will be  
 done — on earth as it is in heav - en.  
 Give us this day — our dai - ly bread; — and for -  
 give - us our tres - pass - es — as we for - give those —  
 who tres - pass a - gainst us; — and lead us — not in - to temp -  
 ta - tion, — but de - liv - er us from e - vil. —  
 For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the  
 glo - ry — are yours, for - ev - er and ev - er. —  
 A - - - - - men. A - - - - - men. —

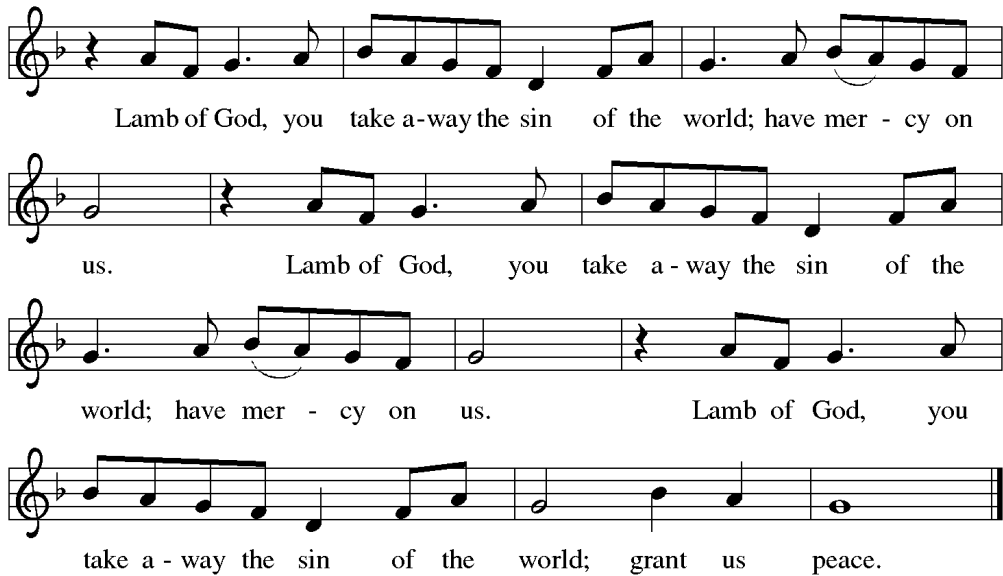
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to come forward to the front of the nave to receive the Meal. The bread will be distributed by the Presiding Minister. Gluten free wafers are available. Please ask. The wine, served in small glasses, can be received on either side of the front. Also in each tray you will find glasses containing white grape juice as an alternative to the wine. Return to your seats via the side aisles, placing your empty glasses in the baskets provided along the way. In returning to your seats, pause to pray and give thanks for the life-giving graces you have received in this holy meal offered us by the crucified-risen Jesus.

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready!

## COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN "Lamb of God" ELW p. 135



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus,  
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.  
Sustain us on the journey,  
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,  
and give us glad and generous hearts  
as we meet you on the way.

**Amen.**

## **+SENDING+**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

May the God of all creation,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved,  
who strengthens us for service,  
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!  
The blessing of God,  
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,  
be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN    Soon and Very Soon    ELW 439****DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE****WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, November 12, 2023**

Rev. Les Swenson, Deacon Gwynne Hopko

**Assistant Minister:** Jill Little

**Lector:** Mike Beaudoin

**Tech Team:** Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Noah Galvin, Connor Pratt

**Ushers:** Donna Ropp, Rosemarie Tessman

**Altar Guild:** Emily & Matt Girard, Nancy Carpenter

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## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Monday, November 13, 2023**

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

### **Tuesday, November 14, 2023**

6:45 Hand Bells Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

### **Wednesday, November 15, 2023**

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

### **Thursday, November 16, 2023**

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

### **Sunday, November 19, 2023; 25th Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

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The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator