

**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

**February 4, 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer

**+GATHERING+**

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

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** *Fanfare and Reflection* J.Krug  
Handbell Choir

**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,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another  
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit  
dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant.**

**Renew your creation.**

**Restore us,**

**that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN   Healer of Our Every Ill   ELW 612**

*Refrain*

Healer of our ev'ry ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.

- 1 You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*
- 2 In the pain and joy beholding  
how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*
- 3 Give us strength to love each other,  
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*
- 4 You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *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.**

## KYRIE

We all sing refrains and verses


*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the




u - ni - ty of all; for  
 hun - gry and the poor; that  
 friends and fam - i - ly; for  
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
 we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
 life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY.**

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, 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      Isaiah 40:21-31**

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

A reading from Isaiah

- <sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
 Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
 Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
 and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
 who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
 and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught,  
 and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
 scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
 when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp to our God,

<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the  
mountains.**

<sup>9</sup>God provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love. <sup>20c</sup> Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

*God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.*

A reading from Corinthians.

<sup>14</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**



**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****ELW p. 188**


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL Mark 1:29-39**

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*

**The holy gospel according to Mark.****Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.  
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY **Praise The One Who Breaks the Darkness** **ELW 843**

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many

that we may know God by grace.  
 Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
 seeing what our God has done.  
 Praise the one redeeming glory;  
 praise the One who makes us one.

## **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** As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

**A** Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

**A** God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

**A** God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need, especially Bill, Marge, Arthur, Callum, Paul, Charles, Steven, Johanna, Carole, Anna, Nancy, Susan, Jean, Tracey, Donna, Larry, Denise, Robert, Karen, Roy, Lou, Lee, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for silence)

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

**A** God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

**A** Guide and nurture our Lutheran congregations in Bristol and Plainville — Grace, Zion, Gloria Dei and St. Andrew — as we continue exploring and discovering pathways of joining together in proclaiming your Good News and building a servant community of healing, hope and new life. Open our hearts and minds to visions of your church for a new day.  
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

**A** God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation.  
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

**A** Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**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** *Praise Ye the Lord* C.Saint-Saens;

Praise ye the Lord of hosts, Praise and adore Him;  
God, in Holy Trinity, Blessed forevermore.

Sing, O ye heavens, and on earth be ye joyful.  
Praise ye the name of the Lord, who cometh. Alleluia

**OFFERTORY HYMN****Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken**

st. 2 and 3

**ACS 966****Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken**

1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the  
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a  
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in  
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from  
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you  
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the  
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.  
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

*Refrain*

By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Shoemaker Jr., 1923-2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, Holy One,  
for all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
that we receive what we seek  
and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.

**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**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

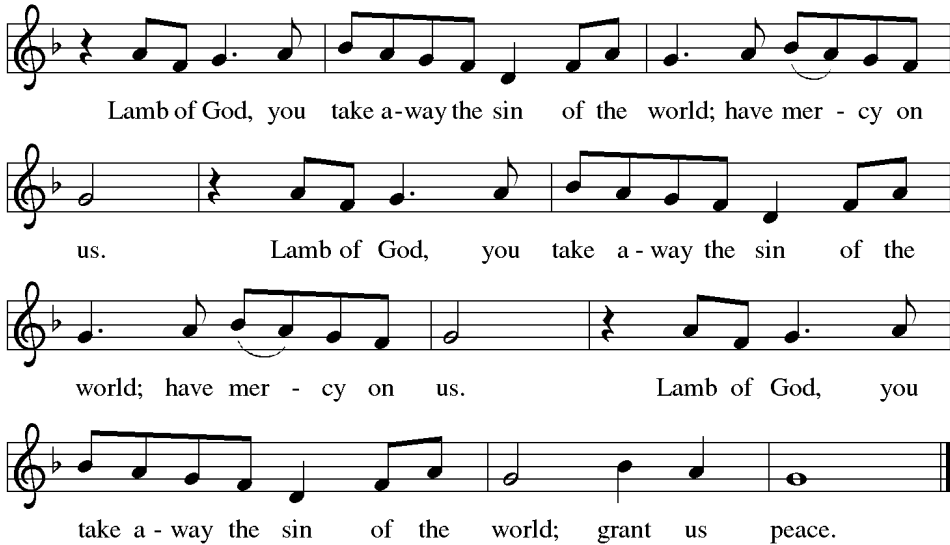
## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the altar railing receive the Meal today. Please fill in along the railing from the pulpit to lectern sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive the Meal. The Meal will be served continuously. After you have received the Meal and after a quiet prayer of thanksgiving you may return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available as an alternative. Please ask. White grape juice, in the center ring of each serving tray, is available as an alternative to the wine. Praise God for the life giving presence of the crucified-risen Christ in the bread and wine of this holy meal!*

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

## 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:

Giver of every gift,

Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.

Raise us to life by your power

for the benefit of all and to your glory,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

**+SENDING+**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****BLESSING**

God who names you,  
 Christ who claims you,  
 and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
 † bless you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN Praise to the Lord, the Almighty ELW 858**

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
 with a liberating light;  
 praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
 turning blindness into sight.  
 Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
 healing ev'ry dread disease,  
 calming storms and feeding thousands  
 with the very bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
 with a strong yet gentle word;  
 praise the One who drove out demons  
 with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
 Praise the One who brings cool water  
 to the desert's burning sand;  
 from this well comes living water  
 quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
 Christ, who suffered in our place;

Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are God's beloved. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**     *Lobe den Herren*     J.Walther

## **WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, February 4, 2024**

Pastor Les Swenson

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

**Assistant Minister:** Arlene Creswell

**Lector:** Mike Beaudoin

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

**Ushers:** Donald Zurell, Alan Rindfleisch, Denise Martin

**Altar Guild:** Arlene Creswell, A.J. Trudel

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## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Monday, February 5, 2024**

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

### **Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

6:45 Hand Bells

8:00 p.m. Voice Choir

### **Wednesday, February 7, 2024**

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

### **Thursday, February 8, 2024**

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

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

### **Sunday, February 11, 2024; Transfiguration of Our Lord**

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:00 a.m. Council Meeting

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: [churchoffice@standrewct.org](mailto:churchoffice@standrewct.org)

The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor, phone #: 860.857.9362

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator