



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 18, 2024
First Sunday in Lent

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Prelude on the tune *Slane* Paul Manz

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,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy, O God,
**against you, you alone,
we have sinned.**
**In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.**
**Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.**
**Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.**
Amen.

As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever!

GATHERING HYMN Bless Now, O God, the Journey ELW 326

- 1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.
- 2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.
- 3 Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,

but waiting not for places,
 you meet us all around.
 Our covenant is written
 on roads, as faith is found.

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

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY.

Let us pray.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the
 chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from
 sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that
 the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our
 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
 God, now and forever.

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 Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

A reading from Genesis

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day
long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of
your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

A reading from Peter.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We all sing

Refrain



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



One does not live by bread alone,* but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Repeat refrain

GOSPEL Mark 1:9-15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY When We Are Tested ACS 922

- 1 When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.

- 2 When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.

- 3 When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.
- 4 When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

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

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

A God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling, especially Bill, Marge, Arthur, Callum, Paul, Charles, Steven, Johanna, Carole, Anna, Nancy, Susan, Tracey, Donna, Larry, Denise, Robert, Roy, Lee, Sandy, 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 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.

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

A God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace.

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

A Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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 *Thy Holy Wings* words by C.Berg; Swedish folk tune
arr by W.Miller

Thy holy wings, dear Savior, spread gently over me,
And through the long night watches I'll rest secure in Thee.
Whatever may betide me, be Thou my hiding place,
And let me live and labor each day, Lord, by Thy grace.

Oh wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into Thy keeping Thy children, great and small,
And while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all,

OFFERTORY HYMN Come to the Table ELW 481

Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Jesus, you are the bread of life

and the host of this meal.
 Bless these gifts that we have gathered
 that all people may know your goodness.
 Feed us not only with this holy food
 but with hunger for justice and peace.
 We pray this in your name
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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
 and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
 that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
 we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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

ACS p. 36



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 Bless this feast.
 Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
 Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
 Breathe new life into us.
 Send us forth,
 burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
 with the earth and all its creatures,
 with sun and moon and stars,
 we praise you, O God,
 blessed and holy Trinity,
 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!

Come, the table is ready. Receive bread for the journey, a feast for hungry hearts. Taste and know the goodness of God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN “Lamb of God” ACS p. 40

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, 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:

Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

+SENDING+

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS**BLESSING**

Beloved,
 we are God's people,
 holy, washed, renewed.
 God bless you and keep you,
 shower you with mercy,
 fill you with courage,
 and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**ELW 504**

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
 a sword and shield victorious;
 he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
 and wins salvation glorious.
 The old satanic foe
 has sworn to work us woe!
 With craft and dreadful might
 he arms himself to fight.
 On earth he has no equal.

- 2 No strength of ours can match his might!
 We would be lost, rejected.
 But now a champion comes to fight,
 whom God himself elected.
 You ask who this may be?
 The Lord of hosts is he!
 Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,

God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be of good courage. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, February 18, 2024

Pastor Les Swenson

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Assistant Minister: Terry Gustafson

Lector: Keith Clark

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

Ushers: Jon Fitzgerald, Roy Tessman

Altar Guild: Arlene Creswell, A.J. Trudel

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, February 19, 2024

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

6:45 p.m. Hand Bells

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, February 22, 2024

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

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

Sunday, February 25, 2024; Second Sunday in Lent

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Open House at Gloria Dei

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

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

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Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator