



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 25, 2024
Second Sunday in Lent

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

+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,
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 How Firm a Foundation ELW 796

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
 is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
 What more can he say than to you he has said
 who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

- 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
 my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
 The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
 your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
 my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
 and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
 like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

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.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 MESSAGE

FIRST READING Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

A reading from Genesis

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before
the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

A reading from Romans.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who

gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Pg. 34

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.



May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord | Jesus Christ,*
by which the world is crucified to me, and I | to the world. (Gal. 6:14)

Repeat refrain

GOSPEL **Mark 8:31-38**

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

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

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **Will You Come and Follow Me** **ELW 798**

- 1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?"

Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

- 2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?"
- 3 "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?"
- 4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"
- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you

and never be the same.
 In your company I'll go
 where your love and footsteps show.
 Thus I'll move and live and grow
 in you and you in me.

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 We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders.

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

A We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation.

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

A We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion.

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

A We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved, 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 We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love.

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 We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. 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.*

Piano Reflection

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 al - so 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



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

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 Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus ELW 802

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
 follow his example pure,
 through a world that would deceive us
 and to sin our spirits lure.
 Onward in his footsteps treading,
 trav'lers here, our home above,
 full of faith and hope and love,
 let us do our Savior's bidding.
 Faithful Lord, with me abide;
 I shall follow where you guide.

- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus,
 and with patience bear our cross.
 Joy will follow all our sadness;
 where he is there is no loss.
 Though today we sow no laughter,

we shall reap celestial joy:
 all discomforts that annoy
 shall give way to mirth hereafter.
 Jesus, here I share your woe;
 help me there your joy to know.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
 Since by death he conquered death,
 he will free us from destruction,
 give to us immortal breath.
 Let us mortify all passion
 that would lead us into sin;
 and the grave that shuts us in
 shall but prove the gate of heaven.
 Jesus, here with you I die,
 there to live with you on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.
 He has risen from the dead
 that to life we may awaken.
 Jesus, you are now our head,
 we are your own living members;
 where you live, there we shall be
 in your presence constantly,
 living there with you forever.
 Jesus, let me faithful be;
 life eternal grant to me.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, February 25, 2024

Rev. Jim Krauser

Guest Pianist: Carol Yachanin

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

Today we welcome back as our worship leader, The Rev. Jim Krauser. Since moving to Bristol a year ago Pastor Krauser has been a frequent worshipper at St. Andrew Church and has occasionally led worship. Prior to moving to Bristol he served three congregations in the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA, all on Long Island. Thank you for your ministry among us!

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

**Today, Open House at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 355 Camp St. Bristol,
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm.**

Monday, February 26, 2024

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

No Hand Bells

No Voice Choir

Wednesday, February 28 2024

6:00 Four Lutheran Congregation Lenten Gathering at Gloria Dei

Thursday, February 29, 2024

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

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

Sunday, March 3, 2024; Third Sunday in Lent

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

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

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

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator