



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

March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Prelude in B flat Minor J.S. Bach

*** 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 O God, Who Gives Us Life ACS 1086

- 1 O God, who gives us life and breath,
 who shapes us in the womb,
 who guards our lives from birth to death,
 then leads us from the tomb:
 deliver us from fears that kill
 the life we have from you.
 Help us to know your Spirit still
 is making all things new.

- 2 O God, who calls your people out
 to venture and to dare,
 to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt
 and find you even there:
 when we despair in wandering
 through wastes of empty lies,
 refresh us with the living spring
 of hope that never dies.

- 3 O God of covenant and law,
 revealed in cloud and flame,
 your mighty deeds evoke our awe;
 we dare not speak your name.
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you
 and will your people prove,

as on our hearts you write anew
the covenant of love.

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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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 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 Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,**

and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

**¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

A reading from Hebrews.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,

according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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.



Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a | single grain;* but if it dies, it | bears much fruit. (*John 12:24*)

Repeat refrain

GOSPEL **John 12:20-33**

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **Seed That in Earth is Dying** ELW 330

- 1 Seed that in earth is dying
 grows into ears of grain.
 Grapes that are crushed in the vessel
 turn into golden wine.
 God, through this mystery grant us
 faith in our deepest darkness,
 life in our night and death.

- 2 We were baptized in Jesus,
 into his death and grave,
 to resurrection's promise:
 praise and eternal life.
 Heaven's own praises begin here
 where you yourself are near us,
 deep in our night and death.

- 3 Seed that in earth is dying
 rises to bear much fruit.
 Christ, as we meet at your table,
 give us the bread of life.
 Lord, we do thank and adore you!
 Unceasing praise of the ages
 rises from night and death.

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 of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions.

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

A God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill, especially Bill, Marge, Callum, Paul, Charles, Steven, Johanna, Carole, Anna, Nancy, Tracey, Donna, Larry, Denise, Robert, Roy, Lee, Sandy, Charlie, Todd, Patricia, Ann, 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 of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. 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 *Washed Anew* words and music by T.Keesecker

Refrain: Washed anew with life-giving water,
bathed and cleansed, Kyrie eleison!

Thirsting for knowledge, thirsting for truth, Jesus, you have set us free.
Like gentle rainfall, like morning dew, clear and clean our hearts will be.
Refrain.

Cast off all weakness, cast off all sin, with his death we've been reborn.
A mighty ocean, a quiet stream, rising, greet a glorious morn. Refrain.

Come sing God's praises, come to the feast, Christ is risen from the grave,
A flooding river, a raging, sea, trembling, stand among the saved. Refrain.

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

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 Spirit, Open My Heart ACS 1043

Refrain

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.

Spirit, open my heart.

- 1 God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain*

- 2 Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. *Refrain*

- 3 May I weep with those who weep;
share the joy of friend and neighbor.
As I live from day to day,
love will be my finest labor. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be of good courage. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, March 17, 2024

Pastor Les Swenson

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Assistant Minister: Keith Clark

Lector: Bob Herold

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

Ushers: Donald Millbrandt, Bill Golden, Kathy Golden

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today, Sunday, March 17, 2024

10:30 Coffee Hour/Informal Congregation Meeting to discuss Four Church Proposal

Monday, March 18, 2024

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

6:45 p.m. Hand Bells

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

6:00 p.m. Four Lutheran Congregation Lenten Gathering at St. Andrew

Thursday, March 21, 2024

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

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

Friday, March 22, 2024

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. St. Andrew Tag Sale

Saturday, March 23, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. St. Andrew Tag Sale

Sunday, March 24, 2024; Passion/Palm Sunday

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.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@standrewct.org

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

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator

Help for Homeless Neighbors

For those willing and able to help put together 'Go-Bags' for people suffering from homelessness, please consider bringing the following items to the shopping cart in the Narthex, or anything else that may be helpful.

- Socks and underwear (all sizes)
- Toiletries
 - Toothbrush and toothpaste
 - Soap and shampoo
 - Feminine hygiene products
 - Hand sanitizer
- Hand warmers
- Notebook and pen
- Something to read (happier or easier books are best)
- Gift cards to local coffee places, restaurants, and grocery stores (\$5 denominations, but we can put multiple cards in each bag)
- Nonperishable snacks
- Lip balm
- Sunblock
- Gloves, hats, scarves, and Long Johns (the weather is getting warmer, but nights are cold)
- Backpacks
- First aid kits
 - Ointments
 - Anti-fungal cream
 - Hydrocortisone cream
 - Bandages
- Waterproof bags
- Reusable water bottle

Easter Flowers and Special Gifts

You can honor loved ones through a special giving this Easter. Those wishing to adorn our sanctuary with flowers this Easter season may do so by completing the form and placing it in our offering plate on Sunday or leaving it in the church office door slot.

Donations should be submitted by March 24th.

EASTER FLOWERS

Those wishing to adorn our sanctuary with flowers this Easter season may do so by completing this form and placing it in the offering plate or leaving it in the church office door slot.



Donations of \$20.00 are requested.

All donations received will be used for the purchase of flowers.

Please make checks payable to St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

GIVEN BY: _____

All gifts are given to the Glory of God. Is there someone you'd like to recognize additionally with this gift?

In loving memory of: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____



SPECIAL GIFTS FOR EASTER

I would like to make a special Easter offering to the following St. Andrew fund:
(Please designate amounts)

New Hymnal! **All Creation Sings** \$ _____
Donations of \$16 per hymnal

Capital Improvement Fund \$ _____

General Fund \$ _____

Mission Endowment Fund \$ _____

TOTAL offering \$ _____

All gifts are given to the Glory of God. Is there someone you'd like to recognize additionally with this gift?

In loving memory of: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____

Given by: _____

Please return this form by **March 24, 2024**