



**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

**April 7, 2024**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

**+GATHERING+**

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

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**      *The Day of Resurrection*      M. Burkhardt

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*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,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.  
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection

you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN    The Day of Resurrection**

**ELW 361**

- 1 The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad,  
the passover of gladness,  
the passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
from sin's dominion free,  
our Christ has brought us over  
with hymns of victory.
- 2 Let hearts be purged of evil  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light,  
and list'ning to his accents,  
may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own "All hail!" and hearing,  
may raise the glad refrain.
- 3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful,  
let earth its song begin,  
the round world keep high triumph  
and all that is therein.

Let all things, seen and unseen,  
their notes of gladness blend;  
for Christ the Lord has risen,  
our joy that has no end!

- 4 All praise to God the Father,  
all praise to Christ the Son,  
all praise to God the Spirit,  
eternal Three in One!

*Let all the ransomed number*  
fall down before the throne,  
and honor, pow'r, and glory  
ascribe to God alone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

## **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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

## ACS p. 31 vs. 2



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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      Acts 4:32-35**

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

A reading from Acts

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM Psalm 133

<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is,  
when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

## SECOND READING 1 John 1:1--2:2

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

### A reading from John.

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that

we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW 174**

*We all sing*

*Refrain*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Blessed are those who <sup>1</sup> have not seen\* and yet have come <sup>1</sup> to believe. *Repeat refrain*



## **GOSPEL                      John 20:19-31**

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

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

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come

to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY    We Walk by Faith                    ELW 635**

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight;  
with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:  
"My peace be with you here."
- 2 We may not touch your hands and side,  
nor follow where you trod;  
but in your promise we rejoice,  
and cry, "My Lord and God!"
- 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
and may our faith abound  
to call on you when you are near  
and seek where you are found:
- 4 For you, O resurrected Lord,  
are found in means divine:  
beneath the water and the word,  
beneath the bread and wine.
- 5 And when our life of faith is done,  
in realms of clearer light  
we may behold you as you are,  
with full and endless sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love.

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

**A** Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life.

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

**A** Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear.

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

**A** Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain, especially Bill, Marge, Callum, Paul, Charles, Steven, Johanna, Carole, Anna, Nancy, Tracey, Donna, Larry, Denise, Robert, Roy, Lee, Sandy, Charlie, Todd, Ann, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for silence)

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

**A** Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve.  
God of grace, **hear 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, **hear our prayer.**

**A** Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**A** Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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**    *Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!* Words by J. Monsell,  
music by M. Shepperd

Refrain: Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!  
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!

Gratefully our hearts adore him, As his light once more appears;  
Bowing down in joy before him, Rising up from griefs and tears. Refrain.

Death and hell before him bending, See him rise, the victor now,  
Angels on his steps attending, Glory round his wounded brow. Refrain.

OFFERTORY HYMN      Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful    ELW 181

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful  
*Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the  
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**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,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death,

and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY****ELW p. 108**

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. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. 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!*

The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

## COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN *Eat This Bread* **ELW 472**

*Sing verse 1 repeatedly as a chant*

#### **Eat This Bread** *Jesus Christ, Bread of Life*

*Refrain*



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.  
or Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”  
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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## **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:

Shepherding God,  
 you have prepared a table before us  
 and nourished us with your love.  
 Send us forth from this banquet  
 to proclaim your goodness  
 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
 our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

## **+SENDING+**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
 the Christ of unending joy,  
 and the Spirit of Easter hope  
 † bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen ELW 548**

- 1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,  
from this meal of love and grace;  
may we through such love envision  
whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
Alleluia, alleluia;  
God, the wonder of our days.
  
- 2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow  
after Christ, though wounded, whole;  
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed  
to release and to console.  
Alleluia, alleluia;  
Christ, our present, past, and goal.
  
- 3 Rise, remember well the future  
God has called us to receive;  
present by God's loving nurture,  
Spirited then let us live.  
Alleluia, alleluia;  
Spirit, grace by whom we live.
  
- 4 Service be our sure vocation;  
courage be our daily breath;  
mercy be our destination  
from this day and unto death.  
Alleluia, alleluia.  
Rise, O church, a living faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

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**DISMISSAL**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE****WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, April 7, 2024**

Pastor Les Swenson

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

**Assistant Minister:** Jill Little

**Lector:** Paul Martin

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

**Ushers:** Tina Beaudoin, Gerald Beaudoin, Carol Emond

**Altar Guild:** Denise Martin

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## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **This Sunday, April 7, 2024**

**Following worship** Special Congregation Meeting for the purpose of voting on recommendations of the Four Church Collaboration Committee

### **Monday, April 8, 2024**

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

### **Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

6:45 p.m. Hand Bells

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

### **Thursday, April 11, 2024**

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

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

### **Sunday, April 14, 2024;** Third Sunday of Easter

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

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Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator