

# ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. -Micah 6:8*



## Worship Bulletin

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

*Forest Green*  
by R. Purvis

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission: Mother House Stroller Drive

Carol Fries

Call to Worship

Liturgist, Pam Williams

Leader: Sing praise and thanks to God,  
all waves that break on the seashore, gulls that screech on the  
wind,  
all seals and dolphins, whales and minnows;  
bless the Maker.

**People: Sing praise and thanks to God.**

Leader: All streams and rivers, lakes reflecting the sky,  
all fishes and wriggling things, tadpoles and beetles;  
bless the Maker.

**People: Sing praise and thanks to God.**

Leader: All mountains and rolling hills, larks singing on the wing,  
all badgers and foxes, hedgehogs and rabbits;  
bless the Maker.

**People: Sing praise and thanks to God.**

Leader: All trees and green growing things, flowers scenting the air,  
all creeping and crawling things, bee, butterfly and moth;  
bless the Maker.

**People: Sing praise and thanks to God.**

Leader: People of God, short, tall or growing still,  
full of creative talent, made in the image of the Creator;  
bless the Maker.

**People: Sing praise and thanks to God.**

Leader: For all that is made, free to be as they were made to be;

**People: Praise the Maker,  
Praise the Maker's son.  
Praise the Holy Spirit.  
God, the three-in-one.**

## Opening Prayer

**\*Hymn #20 - *All Things Bright and Beautiful***

## Prayer of Confession

**Creator God, you made us in your image  
and gave us the task of being earthkeepers and caretakers;  
loving our neighbor, tending creation,  
and using the skills you gave us for the well-being of your world.  
We confess our failure and acknowledge the harm we have done.  
We are sorry, Lord, that by living without thought,  
we have polluted the air, poisoned the waters and damaged the land.  
We are sorry, Lord, for we are connected,  
whether we recognize it or not, to all of creation;  
to all that you made; from ant to mountain, we are connected.  
Holy Spirit, heal and restore us, that we may live gently and faithfully on the  
earth,  
and with all creation praise you, the Living God,  
Creator, Son and Holy Spirit.**

*(Time for silent prayer and confession)*

## Assurance of Forgiveness

### Passing the Peace

**Leader:** God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.  
God makes peace between us. Let us share it.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People:** **And also with you!**

*(Please share signs of peace with each other)*

**Anthem**

***The Earth is the Lord's***  
**arr. Nygard**

**St. Andrew Choir**

**A Word for God's Children**

**Mindy Heimer**

**Sung Prayer for Illumination (Hymn #291)**

***Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.***

***Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.***

**Scripture – Genesis 2:4-8**

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

**Scripture – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!’

‘Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the

*(Scripture continues on next page)*

one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol**

**A Moment for Silent Reflection**

**\*Hymn #14 - *For the Beauty of the Earth***

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**We trust in God,**

**whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good**

**and makes everyone equally in God's image**

**male and female, of every race and people,**

**to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.**

**Ignoring God's commandments,**

**we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,**

**accept lies as truth,**

**exploit neighbor and nature,**

**and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

**We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.**

**In everlasting love,**

**the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people**

**to bless all families of the earth.**

**Hearing their cry,**

**God delivered the children of Israel**

**from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still,**

**God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,**

*(Affirmation of Faith continues on next page)*

like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Offering our Gifts and Gratitude

Offertory

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

arr. Brian Mathias

#### \*Song of Dedication – #630 - *Fairest Lord Jesus (v. 4)*

*Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!*

*Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!*

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

#### Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our loving God, who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!

#### \*Hymn #15 - *All Creatures of Our God and King (vv. 1,2,3, and 6)*

#### Benediction

#### Postlude

*Now Winter Fades from Sight*

J.S. Bach

arr. H. Whitford

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*The Call to Worship is by Chris Polhil, the Prayer of Confession is from Wild Goose Worship Group, and the Prayer of Confession is adapted from a prayer by Chris Polhil.*

## St. Andrew At-A-Glance

- **April 14** - Holy Yoga
- **April 16** - Session Meeting
- **April 17** - Noon Prayer Service
- **April 21** - Hybrid Worship, Nursery, Choir Rehearsal, Adult Education, Kids' Sunday School, Holy Yoga
- **April 24** - Prayer Group Lunch (No Zoom Service)
- **April 28** - Hybrid Worship, Nursery, Choir Rehearsal, Adult Education, Kids' Sunday School, Family Fun Night, Holy Yoga

## Worship Leaders

### **Pastor**

The Rev. Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol  
Jacqueline@StAndrewBoulder.org

### **Director of Christian Education**

Mindy Heimer  
Mindy@StAndrewBoulder.org

### **Music Director**

Dr. Chad Clark  
Chad@StAndrewBoulder.org

### **Guest Organist**

Barb Kok

### **Office Administrator**

Savannah Morton  
Office@StAndrewBoulder.org

### **Sexton**

Basil Miller  
Basil@StAndrewBoulder.org

### **Sound Team**

Joe Cunningham, Gene Harano, John Irons,  
Basil Miller, Steve Niessner

### **Zoom Techs**

Evaristo Ramirez-Aguilar,  
Max Bedell, Hunter Bellegante

## New Here?

As most people in Colorado are aware, aspen trees aren't individual trees but are connected underground by a complex root system. Given how many trees can be connected, these petite, beautiful trees can join together into mighty organisms. In fact, the largest organism in the world is a single Quaking Aspen in Utah. When we're at our best, the church functions in much the same way: we are connected, and we come together to be nourished, fed, and refreshed even though we live our lives in distinct places. We recognize that our life "above the soil" is only possible when we tend to our life "below the soil," and we realize that without the trunk and branches, the roots don't really serve much of a purpose. Our life of faith is most robust when we balance both dimensions: the interconnectedness that helps nourish our roots and the expression of faith that only comes through wide-reaching branches. That's the kind of worship and service we nurture.



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