



St. Andrew's will resume in-person worship on Sunday, August 1, 2021.

We are excited to begin our return to regular worship and ask for your patience and understanding during this transitional period.

Please be aware that a mask is required while indoors at St. Andrew's regardless of your vaccination status.

A PHASED RE-OPENING of in-person worship

Unless otherwise noted, services will be held weekly starting on the date listed.

JULY

Wednesday, July 28

7:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Resumes in the Chapel

Friday, July 30

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist

Resumes in the Church

AUGUST

Sunday, August 1

9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Begins in the Church

PLEASE NOTE: This service will only be held from August 1 - September 5. It will be spoken, without hymns or music.

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, Sept. 8

6:00 PM Evensong

Resumes in the Church

Sunday, September 12

8 / 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Resumes in the Church

9:15 AM Family Service

Resumes in the Chapel

Sunday, September 19

8:00 PM Compline

Resumes in the Church

Compline will be sung the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

WHAT TO INITIALLY EXPECT

Masks will need to be worn while inside the church and should be removed only for communion. A supply of masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the doors.

Wafers will be used for the communion bread. Wine will not be offered. Communion will be distributed at the foot of the chancel steps.

Offering plates will be placed in the aisle to receive your offering as you come to communion or you can give online at standrewsaa.weshareonline.org.

A bulletin will be produced for each service. Hymnals and Prayer Books have temporarily been removed from the Sanctuary.

These measures are designed to protect all of us, especially those unable to take the COVID-19 vaccine, and may change as the public health situation in Washtenaw County evolves.

VIRTUAL SERVICE OPTIONS

Through September 5: Pre-recorded services of Morning Prayer with hymns and music will be available on YouTube each Sunday. 'Service Links' emails with the eService Bulletin will be sent to the parish on Saturday mornings.

Starting September 12: A livestream of the 10:00 am Holy Eucharist will be available on YouTube each Sunday. The bulletin will be available on our website but not emailed to the parish weekly.

LEARN MORE

St. Andrew's Phase 3: Re-Opening: standrewsaa.org/phase3.html

EDOMI Re-entry plan: edomi.org/covid-19-guidelines

▶ [WATCH THE SERVICE](#) at 10:00 am

Use our [Morning Prayer text](#) or follow the Book of Common Prayer, pg. 75.

▶ **COFFEE HOUR** on Zoom at 10:45 am

Prelude: *Till I Wake*

Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

David Jackson, Trombone

Hymn: *Praise to the Living God*

Hymnal, no. 372

1 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name
2 Form - less, all love - ly forms de - clare his love - li - ness;
3 His Spi - rit flow - eth free, high surg - ing where it will:
4 E - ter - nal life hath he im - plant - ed in the soul;

who was, and is, and is to be for ay the same.
ho - ly, no ho - li - ness of earth can his ex - press.
in pro - phet's word he spoke of old; he speak - eth still.
his love shall be our strength and stay while a - ges roll.

The one e - ter - nal God ere aught that now ap - pears:
Lo, he is Lord of all. Cre - a - tion speaks his praise,
Es - tab - lished is his law, and change - less it shall stand,
Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name

the first, the last, be - yond all thought his time - less years!
and ev - ery - where a - bove, be - low, his will o - beys.
deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, on land.
who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.

Opening Sentences

Book of Common Prayer, pg. 77

Grace and Peace

Preces

Hymnal, no. S-33
Book of Common Prayer, pg. 80

Invitatory: *Venite*

Hymnal, no. S-35
Book of Common Prayer, pg. 80

Psalm 85:8-13

- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

First Lesson: Amos 7:7-15

Mary Bates

This is what the Lord God showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by;
the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.’ “

And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

Canticle 16: *The Song of Zechariah*

Hymnal, no. S-248
Book of Common Prayer, pg. 92

The Gospel: Mark 6:14-29

Mary Bates

King Herod heard of Jesus and his disciples, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some were saying, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.” And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s

head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Sermon

Felicity Thompson

In the Name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Death of John the Baptist

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. - Psalm 19:14*

A few weeks ago, on a Friday night, my husband struggled with whether or not to follow up on a vague text message from his sister about checking up on their father. It was shortly after 9PM when Joseph saw the message. My father-in-law was in Freetown, Sierra Leone. It was 1AM over there. Joseph thought it was too late and decided not to call. Joseph and I did not sleep well. We knew something was not quite right. We were afraid to speak our fears. After tossing and turning all night, the news hit us like a bucket of cold water early Saturday morning. The man we knew as Daddy was gone. Our worst fear, shattered expectations, dreams cut short. Daddy was healthy for his age. He took a walk almost every evening. He ate nutritious food. He did what the doctor ordered. Looking back, this is how it should be. He should leave this earth before us. Those of us left behind are now called to continue God's plan for our families.

Who is Bankole Thompson Sr.? He is a judicial giant in Sierra Leone. An author of many books on the law: British law, American law, law in West Africa. He was an encyclopedia of sorts with experiences fighting corrupt governments, looking out for the dispossessed in noted courts of law all over the world and sharing his experiences in his living room. He was also a man of God.

Depending on where an assignment took him, he was either teaching at a university in the United States, on assignment with the United Nations, working at the Hague and sometimes in a court in Sierra Leone. When he was in the U.S., he attended church service somewhere every Sunday. I remember him conducting a new year's eve service at his home in Richmond Kentucky, several years ago. He had scribbled the order of service, complete with the prayers and songs on the page of a notebook.

A few days after his passing, I was planning morning worship and evening prayer at the Academy for Vocational Leadership. I remembered with deep appreciation, that New Year's Eve service that was so skillfully planned by Justice Bankole Thompson. I know that God is real. Yes! I hold

on to the reality that we can deal with this loss and hold on to the memories of the jurist who was not afraid to confront the political leaders, not afraid to fight for victims of war, victims of human traffickers or confront the perpetrators.

In one of the readings for today, Jesus is into a year of his ministry. His fame is beginning to spread. He has summoned and commissioned the disciples who are going out two by two. They are preaching and teaching the Gospel of God and Jesus has given them a portion of his power so they are performing some of the same miracles that Jesus performs. There is confusion in Galilee. People are confused about Jesus and John the Baptist, confused about who Jesus is.

This is the only story in the gospel of Mark that does not mention Jesus Christ. This story is about John. Mark introduces John as the forerunner of Jesus Christ chapters before this. Then Mark gets to chapter 6, to take this opportunity to inform us on what happened to John the Baptist. This is not what we would expect.

Who is this man? Who is John the Baptist? His mother, Elizabeth, was filled with the Holy Spirit. He is filled with the spirit of God in his mother's womb. This is unlike any other child. John's father, Zechariah, spoke about his son, John, saying "he will be the prophet of the Most High, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:76). He prophesied that John would prepare the people for the Lord.

Remember Elizabeth and Zechariah were probably carrying their AARP cards at this time. They had been trying for a child for decades. John's birth was a prayer answered. Archangel Gabriel announced the birth of John to his parents (Luke 1:13-17). John was being raised under a vow to live a certain way. He was hidden in the wilderness in his youth, being formed in secret till he started his ministry at age thirty.

Jesus acknowledged that there was no one greater, born of a woman, than John. John the Baptist was a prophet, he was more than a prophet, he was a spiritual giant. He is greater than Moses. He is greater than Elijah. He is greater than Daniel. He is greater than Elisha. He is greater than Isaiah. He is greater than Jeremiah. That is who John is. He is unlike anyone before him. He was a fearless preacher. He was not afraid to confront the sinful condition of the people of his day. He wasn't afraid to confront the political individuals of that time either. He did not fear anyone. Wouldn't we want to be like him? This is a man who could have boasted about himself. That is not what Mark wrote about the man who wore a cloak of camel hair and lived simply, living on a diet of locusts and wild honey. He was a humble man.

Imagine a John the Baptist showing up at St. Andrew's. His external appearance would have us calling security. John the Baptist was also confrontational. He was warning everyone to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ. You would think of all the people, with his great credentials, he would not die in such a shocking, unexpected manner. We expect John the Baptist would grow old, be called home and ride into glory.

Instead we read that John the Baptist is beheaded. A prize for a request from a young girl who has danced in a provocative manner for the king and his friends. By the way, the king is also her step-father. The king wants to appear strong and in charge so offers whatever his step-daughter requests. He wants to be looked up to by his wife and his friends, so carries out his promise to fulfill her request. His insecurity leads him to do the wrong thing. If this story was on Instagram, it would have crashed his page. Such a bizarre sequence of events. A prophet of God, illegally imprisoned gets caught up in the sin filled activities of the day. None of this makes any sense.

I believe God is preparing us to be like John the Baptist right where we are. Our faith is not supposed to be private. We should reveal who we are. We are Christians, followers of Christ. God wants us to be bold and not care about the Facebook likes we get. Our identity should not be shaped by what people think about us. It should be shaped by our faith.

Crowds were drawn to John the Baptist. There was something supernatural about his message. He was inspired by God. Justice Bankole Thompson was also inspired to fight for the downtrodden in courts of law by the same God. He had law clerks, lawyers, legal scholars and even other judges coming to listen to his arguments, inspired by his reasoning. Even bigger crowds including religious rulers, political leaders, scholars and the local people were drawn to Jesus. I believe God wants this to happen in our churches. God wants to raise up Christians that aren't contaminated by the world but Christians that are engulfed by the Holy Spirit.

When people get close enough to you for long enough, will they see Jesus? Will they ask you to tell them about Jesus? If your heart is on fire, you don't have to advertise it. People will be drawn to you because you don't compromise. You will find your peace in the presence of God. Be wild for God not by your outward appearance but by your inward conviction. I pray this morning that we commit to prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus. Find a quiet place to breathe in the Holy Spirit and breathe out all the chaos. Let us end with this prayer:

Jesus, may You continue to fill us with Your peace, your Spirit and conviction with each breath we take. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Prayers

Collect of the Day

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Anthem: *My Lord What a Mornin'* Spiritual, arr. Harry T. Burleigh
Margaret Nesse, Soprano

*My Lord, what a mornin', when de stars begin to fall.
Done quit all my wor'ly ways Jine dat hebbenly ban?
Oh! My Lord what a mornin', when de stars begin to fall.*

General Thanksgiving

Book of Common Prayer, pg. 101

Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Concluding Versicle

Hymnal, no. S-54

Closing Hymn: *Awake, Thou Spirit of the Watchmen* Hymnal, no. 540




1 A - wake, thou Spi - rit of the watch - men
2 O Lord, now let thy fire en - kin - dle
3 Send forth, O Lord, thy strong E - van - gel




who nev - er held their peace by day or night,
our hearts, that ev - ery - where its flame may go,
by man - y mes - sen - gers, all hearts to win;



con - tend - ing from the walls of Zi - on
and spread the glo - ry of re - demp - tion
make haste to help us in our weak - ness;



a - gainst the foe, con - fid - ing in thy might.
till all the world thy sav - ing grace shall know.
break down the realm of Sa - tan, death, and sin:



Through - out the world their cry is ring - ing still,
O har - vest Lord, look down on us and view
the cir - cle of the earth shall then pro - claim



and bring - ing peo - ples to thy ho - ly will.
how white the fields; the la - bor - ers, how few!
thy king - dom, and the glo - ry of thy Name.

Postlude: *Allein Gott, in der höh sei ehr* Johann Gottfried Walther
(1684-1748)

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-718890.

Calendar

Sunday, July 11

Morning Prayer

10:00 am on YouTube

Virtual Coffee Hour

10:45 am on Zoom

Wednesday, July 14

DIRECTORY UPDATES DUE

July 15 - 17

ANN ARBOR ART FAIR

Saturday, July 17

Art Fair Parking

Starting at 9:30 am

Sunday, July 18

Morning Prayer

10:00 am on YouTube

Virtual Coffee Hour

10:45 am on Zoom

Announcements

Art Fair Parking at St. Andrew's

Our Middle School youth group will host Art Fair Parking in the church parking lot on Saturday, July 17 from 9:30 am until the lot fills (*usually within a few hours*). Only \$10 per vehicle with an unlimited time frame for convenient and safe parking. Proceeds benefit their Pilgrimage. Thank you for your support.

