

Worship & Music



4th Sunday of Epiphany, 2020

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • MORNING PRAYER

"The Lord be with you." - Book of Common Prayer, p. 364

The sounds of the congregation gathering for worship haven't echoed through our sanctuary since mid-March. Instead, we have found new ways to build community, experience fellowship, and worship together.

Until we can safely reopen our building to the public, our worshipping community gathers each week for a virtual service that you can join on YouTube and in print. In the coming weeks different voices and additional

musical offerings will enrich our worship.

When we join together in a common commitment the Church will thrive, so that when we can reopen our doors what God has built in us will be something holy and alive, ready to engage the world even more fully than before.

We ask you to prayerfully consider how you are able to help maintain our church home and ministries.

We've been busy with: Worship & Music



In August viewers watched more than **11,000 minutes of Morning Prayer** services on our YouTube Channel



In-person handbell rehearsals have resumed for all ages



The **Adult Choir** rehearses on Zoom - virtual performances are coming soon!



Since March 15 we've produced:
27 Sunday eService Bulletins
18 Evensong eService Bulletins
16 Wednesday Homilies
13 Morning Prayer Videos
5 Holy Week eService Bulletins
1 Tenebrae Audio Recording



A **Virtual Coffee Hour** on Zoom follows the Morning Prayer service each Sunday



A **local postulant**, Eric Braun, has begun his seminarian internship with St. Andrew's

Watch this service on YouTube

Sunday, September 27
at 10:00 am

SERVICE LINK:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkK2EnnuhPEECpxvujO_zw

Then join us for Coffee Hour on Zoom!

Sunday, September 27
at 10:45 am

Log-in information for this Zoom meeting can be found in the Saturday 'Service Links' email or you can send an email to Fr. Alan: agibson@standrewsaa.org.

Navigating this Service: A "full text" pdf of our Morning Prayer is available [HERE](#) or you can follow the service using the Book of Common Prayer, starting with page 75.

Prelude: *Sept Pièces en ut majeur et en ut mineur (excerpts)*

Cesàr Franck (1822-1890)

Stewardship Talk

Mary Wessel Walker

Opening Hymn: *Before Thy Throne*

Hymnal, no. 574



Behind the Altar

Fr. Alan Gibson remains our only paid clergy person.

The work of St. Andrew's would not be possible without the generous gifts of time from our three volunteer clergy and countless parishioners who serve as Leaders in Liturgy at each service.

Mundy Thursday, 2019

Ring & Sing

Handbell rehearsals for all ages have resumed while the Adult Choir rehearses and performs virtually

The St. Cecilia Fund, funded by contributions beyond pledge payments, helps support special music expenses throughout the year.



Coming Soon . . .

Work on our new organ should be completed in 2021.

Funding for the organ comes from a special organ fundraising campaign and does not affect the operating fund of the church.

A Virtual Visit

Join St. Andrew's in welcoming the Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry, the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan!

Bishop Perry will be hosting a virtual visit with St. Andrew's **this Tuesday, September 29 at 6:00 pm on Zoom.** We hope you can all join us!



mean - ing of thy chas - tening hand; what - e'er the pain and
 sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us
 catch the sim - ple un - a - ware, for lives be - reft of
 God, be with us in the flame; a new - born peo - ple

shame may be, bring us, O Fa - ther, near - er thee.
 with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.
 pur - pose high, for - give, for - give, O Lord, we cry.
 may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

Opening Sentences

Book of Common Prayer, pg. 78

Confession

Book of Common Prayer, pg. 79

Preces

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

Invitatory

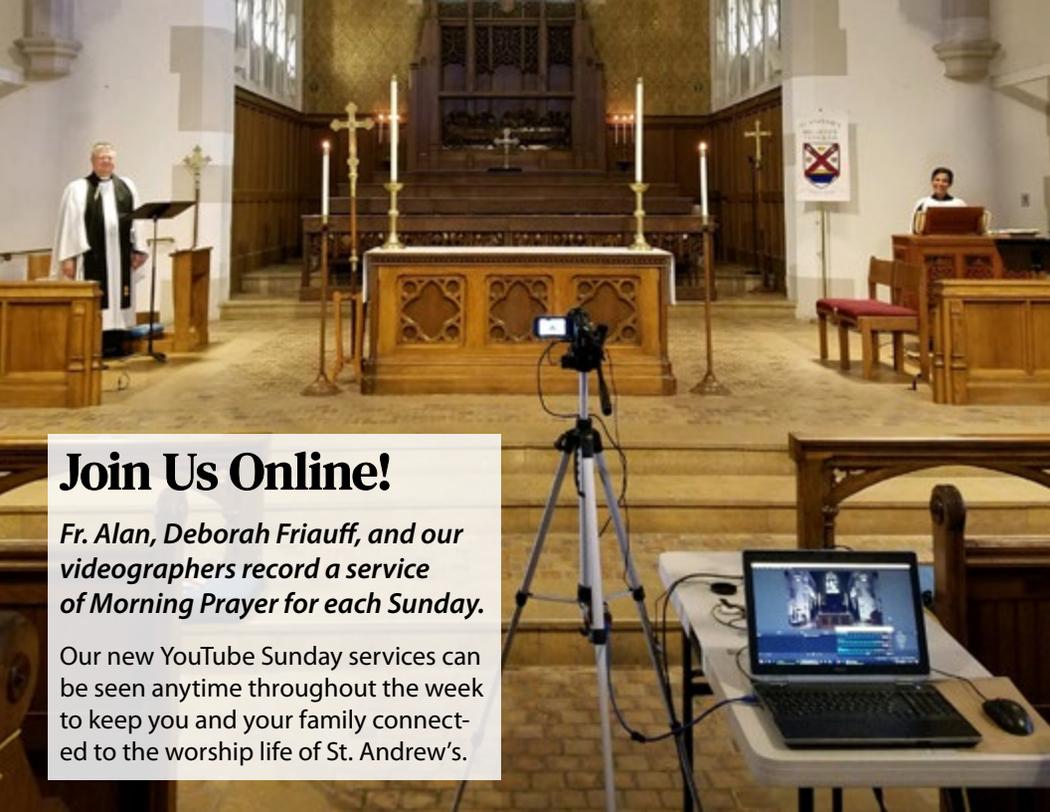
Book of Common Prayer, pg. 80

Venite

Hymnal, no. S-34
Book of Common Prayer, pg. 82

Psalm 25:1-8

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.



Join Us Online!

Fr. Alan, Deborah Friauff, and our videographers record a service of Morning Prayer for each Sunday.

Our new YouTube Sunday services can be seen anytime throughout the week to keep you and your family connected to the worship life of St. Andrew's.

Your pledge dollars at work

For every dollar spent at St. Andrew's **22¢** goes to **Worship & Music**



Worship & Music is 22% or \$222,220 of our budget

• **Funding for the organ comes from a special organ fundraising campaign** and does not affect the operating fund of the church.

Worship & Music pays for: Video Production and Equipment for Morning Prayer · Music Director Salary · Weekly Worship Services · Liturgical Supplies · Rector Salary · Print and Streaming Music License Fees · Special Musical Events · Music for Meditation Concert Series · Musicians for Christmas and Easter Services **and much more!**

- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

Old Testament: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Canticle: *A Song of Creation*

Hymnal, no. S-228
Book of Common Prayer, pg. 88

The Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Sermon

Fr. Alan Gibson

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

It doesn't happen very often, but every now and then I find myself saying something and stop mid-sentence when a voice goes off in my head telling me, 'that's something my father would say.' And like the children Ezekiel speaks of, my teeth are set on edge. Like most father/son relationships ours had its ups and downs. Like any man, my father had his good and not-so-good qualities. And while I strive to be my own person, for better and for worse, I am his son. He is part of my history, as his father was part of his, and so on and so on. Whether we choose to see it or not, history (both personal and societal) is one of the most powerful forces that shape us. Our understanding of who we are starts with where we've come from, but it is up to us to complete the picture ourselves and bear responsibility for the person we become.

Ezekiel preached to a people who never quite understood that, but lived in their past, trapped in a cycle so narrow, it became impossible for them to see or even dream of any other way of living. The history of Israel began

with an acceptance of being part of a community that God called into being. Part of that was an act of faith, part was out of necessity. In order to distinguish themselves as a distinct people the first laws of Israel were written to protect and bind them together to form a nation. Such unity was essential at a time when nomadic life and periodic conflicts with other nations could rip apart the stability of a fragile society.

One of these laws extended the punishment for sin down through the generations, with the implication that you might be held responsible for something your grandfather did. The intention was not meant to punish descendants for acts they never committed, but to make everyone understand that one person's crime, in some way, hurts everyone, even generations yet unborn. Sin is not a private matter but wreaks havoc on all who are touched by it with a force equal to that of a mighty army. In Ezekiel's time there was a popular proverb, “the parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.” It was used as a way of blaming current hardships on the sins of parents, grandparents, even great-grandparents.

That's not quite how it works, Ezekiel tells his people. If they feel trapped in a cycle that has brought nothing but suffering, then they must acknowledge their reality and use what power they have to break the cycle. Each person must take responsibility for their own souls and face the consequences of their own actions. Maybe their ancestors were guilty of some transgression, but that doesn't mean the current generation needs to perpetuate the sin.

There's no doubt that the sins of the past shape the present. The Covid pandemic has certainly shined a bright light on that reality. But if those sins decide the future it will be because we allow it, and that will be our sin. Good and qualities not-so-good live side by side within each of us, and it's up to us to choose which we will embrace, as the rule of our life or as the means of our death.

Jesus also had to deal with people hiding in a past that was killing them. He tells a story and poses a question to the chief priests and elders who seek to entrap him: Which of two sons did their father's will? Was it the one who defied his father, but later changed his mind and did as he was asked? Or was it the son who paid lip service to his father's wishes, and then ignored them? It was the son who changed his ways and obeyed, they said, condemning themselves with their answer. The religious professionals could talk a good line; they knew the right words but failed to live by them. Those who hear the offer of God's salvation and believe and act, these are the ones who are welcomed into God's presence. But in

this case, former corrupt officials and prostitutes are at the head of the line. As the people of Ezekiel's time couldn't get away with blaming their problems on the sins of previous generations, the chief priests and elders couldn't claim God's favor by virtue of their position, or the righteousness of their ancestors.

We sometimes unconsciously seek to live in the past, but God never does. God is concerned with who we are, and the state of our souls, today. It doesn't matter who we were five or ten years ago, or what our parents did or didn't do. What matters is the relationship we desire to build with God and each other, now.

Our histories shape us. There is no doubt about it. The good and the not-so-good that have lived in us in the past are part of who we were, and have made us who we are, but it's up to us to determine who we will be. Even if we honestly seek to build a better future, we will still make mistakes; some of them will be whoppers. Yet God will always let us try again by giving us the chance to write our own history in advance -- one that will either include God, or not. Of the two, which one would be the history worth living?

Apostles Creed Book of Common Prayer, pg. 96

The Prayers

Collect of the Day

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Antem: *Teach me, O Lord (Ps.86:11-13)* Gershon Kingsley (1922-2019)

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name. I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your Name for evermore. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.

General Thanksgiving Book of Common Prayer, pg. 101

Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Concluding Versicle

Hymnal, no. S-54

Closing Hymn: Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing Hymnal, no. 344

1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
 3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

Postlude: Ciaconna

Johann Kaspar Kerll (1627-1693)

Calendar

Sunday, September 27

Virtual Church School

8:45 am on Zoom

Morning Prayer

10:00 am on YouTube

Virtual Coffee Hour

10:45 am on Zoom

Generations Y + Z Brunch

12:30 pm on Zoom

Tuesday, September 29

Virtual Bishop Visit

6:00 pm on Zoom

Wednesday, September 30

Handbell Rehearsal

6:30 pm in the Church

Virtual Youth Groups

7pm MS / 8pm HS on Zoom

Thursday, October 1

Bible Study

10:00 am on Zoom

Cherub Handchimes

4:30 pm in the Church

Jr. Handbell Choir

5:15 pm in the Church

Adult Choir Handbell Lesson

7:30 pm in the Church

Sunday, October 4

Virtual Church School

8:45 am on Zoom

Morning Prayer

10:00 am on YouTube

Virtual Coffee Hour

10:45 am on Zoom

Blessing of the Animals

4:00 pm on the Lawn

Masks are required for all in-person events

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



2021 ANNUAL GIVING

We have heard from 65% of our Early Givers. A total of 28 families have committed \$206,750 for 23% of the \$900,000 goal for 2021.

Upcoming Events

Virtual Bishop Visit: Tuesday, September 29 at 6:00 pm

Bishop Bonnie Perry is making a 'virtual visit' to St. Andrew's on Tuesday, September 29 via Zoom!

Meeting Link: <https://edomi.org.zoom.us/j/85192501371?pwd=d0ZoT0o3aDBsampleTgvY2RyYjR4QT09>

Meeting ID: 851 9250 1371 **Passcode:** 4800929

Blessing of the Animals: Sunday, October 4

Even though we cannot gather in the church building for worship, the annual Blessing of the Animals will still take place on the front lawn of the church at 4:00 pm on Sunday, October 4. Please join us with your animal companions (or a picture).

All human participants are asked to wear a mask and to gather with members of your household, remaining at least six feet apart from other household groupings.

Discussion Groups on Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility*

This book seems to be on everyone's reading list right now. We are happy to offer you the opportunity to study the book in a small group led by a peer.

Each group will meet for three weekly sessions; you must commit to coming to all three. Meetings will use the Zoom platform, which you can use from a regular phone or a smart device. Daytime and evening groups will start before the end of the month.

Contact Shirley Harden (shirley.e.harden@gmail.com, 734-674-0951) to ask questions, register and choose your time preference for the three-meeting series.

"Forward Day by Day"

The November - January "Forward Day by Day" booklets are available. If you would like one mailed to you, please send a message to agibson@standrewsaa.org or leave a message for Fr. Alan at 734-663-0518, ext. 201. Copies have already been mailed to those who requested a booklet in the past. Let Fr. Alan know if you have not received it.

New Issue Available

CLICK TO READ



Notice of Special Parish Meeting

to Consider a Temporary Amendment in the Parish Bylaws regarding Elections

With the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for January 31, 2021 will be held virtually. Due to the nature of our voting procedures the vestry has proposed two possible temporary amendments to the by-laws for the consideration of the congregation to facilitate the election of vestry and deanery representative candidates.

The parish bylaws call for a slate of candidates for the Vestry and Deanery to "contain at least one and a half time the number of candidates as there are terms expiring at the next annual meeting." Article 4.04(a)(1)

To be elected, "A majority of all ballots cast shall be necessary to elect a candidate." Article 4.05(d)(1)

In many years, a second ballot has been required to fill vacant seats. The vestry asks that the following two proposals be considered and voted on by a mailing to be sent on or around October 5, 2020, which will constitute a Special Parish Meeting in accordance with Article 3.04 of the parish bylaws. The outcome of this vote will determine the method of voting at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 31, 2021.

1. A temporary amendment to the bylaws rewriting Article 4.04(a)(1) to read in full: "No later than the December 2020 Vestry meeting, the Nominating Committee shall present a slate of candidates for election to the Vestry at the January 2021 Annual Parish Meeting that shall not exceed the number of vacancies that will occur at the time of that Annual Parish Meeting."
2. A temporary addition to the bylaws as Article 4.05(d)(1.1) that reads: "Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, ballots for 2021 elections to the Vestry and Deanery Representative will be mailed to all eligible voters in the congregation following the December Vestry Meeting. To be counted, ballots must be returned to the parish office by January 29, 2021. Elections will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting. In the event of a second ballot being needed, a ballot of the remaining eligible candidates will be mailed to those who voted in the first ballot, following the Annual Parish Meeting. To be counted, second ballots must be returned to the parish office by February 19, 2021."

Ballots to determine which of these two proposals will be used for the election at the Annual Parish Meeting will be mailed to all eligible voters at the address on file in the church office. Parents with children who are not currently residing at home, please forward them their ballot.

All voters are asked to choose between the two proposals and return their ballot to the church office by November 6.