



# SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

306 N. Division Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 • (734) 663-0518 • [www.standrewsaa.org](http://www.standrewsaa.org)

**Sunday, October 25, 2020**

*Morning Prayer • Proper 25*

## Watch this service on YouTube

**Sunday, October 25**  
at 10:00 am

### SERVICE LINK:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkK2En-nuhP\\_EECpxvujO\\_zw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkK2En-nuhP_EECpxvujO_zw)

## Then join us for Coffee Hour on Zoom!

**Sunday, October 25**  
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](mailto:agibson@standrewsaa.org).

*We look forward to seeing you online!*

 [standrewsaa.org](http://standrewsaa.org)

 [@standrewsaa](https://www.instagram.com/standrewsaa)

 [St. Andrew's YouTube Channel](#)

Dear Friends:

There is no arguing the fact that we are living in tumultuous times, and that the coming weeks and months, perhaps years, will try the souls of many. This is not a new state of being for our nation. Every generation has been called to face challenges, which at the time, seemed unimaginable. As the election approaches, I would like to offer the following prayer written by the Reverend George Lyman Locke in 1882, which entered our Prayer Book with the 1928 revision. The language may seem a bit antique to us in 2020, but the sentiments and hopes of the late 19th century still ring true today, and its call is just as urgent now as it ever has been.

*Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP p. 820)*

At the time this prayer was written our country was reeling from the assassination of the President the previous year, the establishment of the early corporate monopolies that would come to dominate the consumer economy, the passage of immigration legislation to limit or exclude certain ethnic groups as undesirable, and efforts to overturn the Civil Rights Act of 1875 which the Supreme Court ruled as unconstitutional the following year opening the door to legalized racial discrimination in areas of public accommodation and jury service.

We, as Americans, have always faced challenges; that is nothing new. We, as Christians have always been called to face those challenges with confidence that if we allow God to guide us, we will eventually work through them for the good of all. May it ever be so.

God bless, Fr. Alan

# Calendar

**Sunday, October 25**

**Virtual Church School**

8:45 am on Zoom

**Morning Prayer**

10:00 am on YouTube

**Virtual Coffee Hour**

10:45 am on Zoom

**Millennial + Z Brunch**

12:30 pm on Zoom

**Wednesday, October 28**

**Handbell Rehearsal**

6:30 pm in the Church

**Virtual Youth Groups**

7pm MS / 8pm HS on Zoom

**Thursday, October 29**

**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

**ALL SAINTS' DAY**

**Sunday, November 1**

**Virtual Church School**

8:45 am on Zoom

**Morning Prayer**

10:00 am on YouTube

**Virtual Coffee Hour**

10:45 am on Zoom

**Masks are required for  
all in-person events**

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## 2021 ANNUAL GIVING

**Current Campaign (2021)**  
**142 Cards for \$564,102**

\$0 \$250,000 \$500,000 \$750,000 \$900,000

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**As of October 25, we have received  
142 pledge cards totaling \$564,102  
or 63% of our \$900,000 goal.**

## Announcements

### Stewardship Campaign Update

*Thank you to those we've already heard from for 2021!*

This week the Stewardship Committee will begin following up with those persons from whom we have not yet received a 2021 pledge card. If you have not already done so, you can email your pledge to [pledge@standrewsaa.org](mailto:pledge@standrewsaa.org) or mail it to the church.

### Millennial + Z Brunch Today!

Join us for brunch on Zoom on Sunday, October 25 at 12:30 pm. Contact Bill Bryan ([williamabryan@gmail.com](mailto:williamabryan@gmail.com)) to RSVP or learn more.

### LEARN & SHARE with SJM

Our first book selection is STAMPED: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds. An online discussion will be held Saturday, November 14 from 10-11:30 am on Zoom. Contact session leaders **Jude Wilson** ([judelwilson@gmail.com](mailto:judelwilson@gmail.com)) and **Patricia Bard** ([PBard460@aol.com](mailto:PBard460@aol.com)) to register.

### Save the Date: SJM Prayer Vigils / Discussions

SJM is hosting four events on Zoom before, during, and after the election. The goal is to have open, safe, nonjudgmental spaces to pray and seek wisdom together. Meeting links will be available in the November 1 eService Bulletin.

**Prayer Vigil:** Monday, November 2 from 3-5 pm

**Prayer Vigil:** Tuesday, November 3 from 4-6 pm

**Discussion & Sharing:** Wednesday, November 4 from 7-9 pm

**Discussion & Sharing:** Tuesday, November 10 from 7-9 pm

*Feel free to join when you can and leave when you must!*

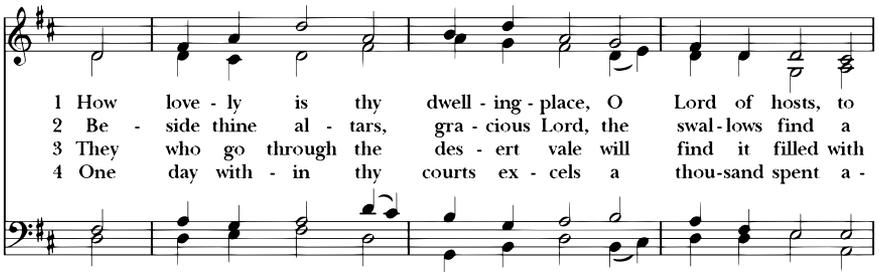
## Navigating this Service

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.

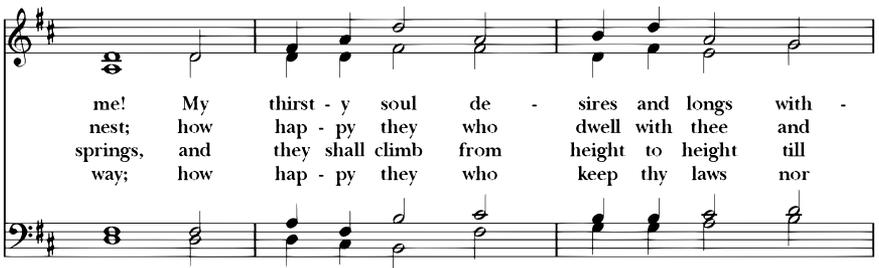
**Prelude:** *Minuetto no. 1 and 2 (Suite no. 2 in d Minor, BWV 1008)*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), arr. Amy Porter  
Barbara Mackey-King, Flute

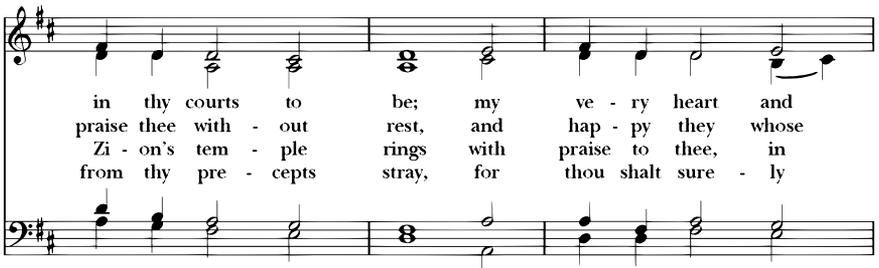
**Opening Hymn:** *How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place* Hymnal, no. 517



1 How love - ly is thy dwell - ing - place, O Lord of hosts, to  
2 Be - side thine al - tars, gra - cious Lord, the swal - lows find a  
3 They who go through the des - ert vale will find it filled with  
4 One day with - in thy courts ex - cels a thou - sand spent a -



me! My thirst - y soul de - sires and longs with -  
nest; how hap - py they who dwell with thee and  
springs, and they shall climb from height to height till  
way; how hap - py they who keep thy laws nor



in thy courts to be; my ve - ry heart and  
praise thee with - out rest, and hap - py they whose  
Zi - on's tem - ple rings with praise to thee, in  
from thy pre - cepts stray, for thou shalt sure - ly



flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, for thee.  
hearts are set up - on the pil - grim's quest.  
glo - ry throned, Lord God, great King of kings.  
bless all those who live the words they pray.



**Old Testament:** Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

**Canticle:** *The First Song of Isaiah*

Hymnal, no. S-213

Book of Common Prayer, pg. 86

**The Gospel:** Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,  
“Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet”?’

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. . . and your neighbor as yourself.” This is Jesus’ response to a Lawyer’s question: Of the 613 commandments in Jewish Law, which is the greatest? Jesus links two commandments together, saying that they are mutually dependent and cannot be separated from each other. The remaining 611 commandments rely on these two and have no purpose or meaning without them.

We can rightfully take satisfaction that with proper discipline, self-restraint, and a mindful use of our energies and emotions we can keep ourselves from committing murder or adultery or theft – transgressions whose harm is easily felt and seen. With a well-developed, mature sense of self we can probably refrain from uttering slander or falling into the pit of envy. But loving God above all else and my neighbor with the same regard I have for myself is something with which everyone who hears the words of Jesus, struggles.

Those standards are as honorable as they are difficult to attain. But are they, really? Throughout history, much of humanity has on a certain level achieved, even surpassed, these goals without giving it much thought, and that has created much of the suffering and strife the world has known from generation to generation.

When Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy in pinpointing that the first commandment is to love God, he is referring to the Lord God of Israel, what the Lawyer would know as Yahweh, one of the Hebrew names for God, the creator of the universe and the sustainer of the people of Israel. The Lawyer would understand and agree with Jesus that this God is the rightful recipient of our deepest love and loyalty. No argument there. But in reality, is that the God the Lawyer loved with his whole heart, soul, and mind? Like many devout individuals, he would certainly say so. But his intent to entrap Jesus with his questions says otherwise. So, was there another god who was the recipient of the Lawyer’s devotion? Perhaps a god known as Status, or Power, or Wealth; perhaps one of those gods stood at the true center of this man’s being and was the true guide of his actions. If that were the case, he would not have been the first, and certainly not last, to say one thing and believe another. Gods of our own making have been with humanity for as long as humans have walked the earth.

Our generation is not especially unique, but we do have more opportunities and options than any generation that has come before us. For example, we can reveal things about ourselves and know more about each other than at

any other time in human history. With a few clicks and key-strokes, vast amounts of personal information and individual opinion can be laid out for all the world to see. Yet we have never been more separated from each other than we are now, and I'm not talking about the pandemic. It all says a lot about what we believe, what we love, and who our god is.

You'll find that the usual suspects are all there. Status, Power, Wealth all still have their devoted followers. But another god has risen to prominence in our time and outshines all the others. The Cult of the Self, also called the Right to Choose, or Freedom, or Independence seems to capture the most passion, loyalty, and love among all the gods on offer. This worship flourishes in our society in a way it never has, and any threat to it is met with a fierce, religiously zealous rebuff.

You need look no further than your own family, your neighbors, people you might at one time have called friends and colleagues. More and more, differences of opinion on things political, cultural, religious, racial have superseded and replaced bonds of family, community, and respect that once guided our actions and interactions. An unthinking conviction of 'I am right all the time' has become the god of our time. Which makes the second commandment of loving your neighbor irrelevant, since isolation does away with neighbors. They are not needed when we are fully satisfied with ourselves.

How did this happen? There are plenty of theories with plenty of blame to go around. But before we start pointing fingers let us not overlook the fact that we don't have to engage in this destructive behavior and rhetoric. We don't have to be told, or tell anyone else, what to think. We don't have to create enemies. We don't have to hate anyone.

If we want our world to be different, if we are going to disengage from the toxicity we are being led into, we must put something, someone, else in its place. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...and your neighbor as yourself."

Loving a god is not that hard. Most people do it with great ease. But which god do we love? One of our own making, like the one the Lawyer who challenged Jesus, worshipped? Or perhaps more importantly, what is the god we worship drawing out of us? That, more than any other indicator, will reveal who we truly are and where our loyalty lies.

Loving the Lord God, who gives everything for us; loving our neighbor whom the Lord God loves just as much as us, even if we vehemently disagree with them, is hard work that must be renewed every day. But it is an effort that leads to life. Worshipping the self is easy and takes no effort, we really don't have to do anything. But look where it has brought us. Do we

really want more of the same? If not, then something, at the level of the heart, has to change.

The ironic thing is that in deciding who to love the Lord God gives us the freedom to choose. How will we use it? As the ancient saying goes, “Actions speak louder than words.” Maybe it’s time to be quiet and let our actions speak for us. I just hope we find life-giving love in what those actions say.

## **Apostles Creed**

Book of Common Prayer, pg. 96

## **The Prayers**

### **Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Voluntary:** *Sarabande (Suite no. 2 in d Minor, BWV 1008)*

J.S. Bach, arr. Amy Porter

Barbara Mackey-King, Flute

## **General Thanksgiving**

Book of Common Prayer, pg. 101

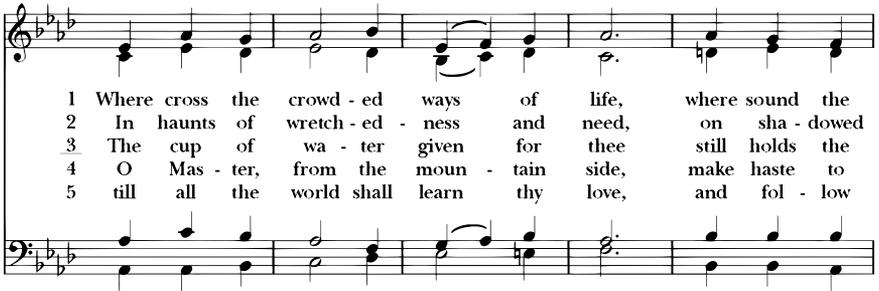
## **Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

## **Concluding Versicle**

Hymnal, no. S-54

Closing Hymn: *Where Cross the Crowded Ways*

Hymnal, no. 609



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on sha - dowed  
3 The cup of wa - ter given for thee still holds the  
4 O Mas - ter, from the moun - tain side, make haste to  
5 till all the world shall learn thy love, and fol - low



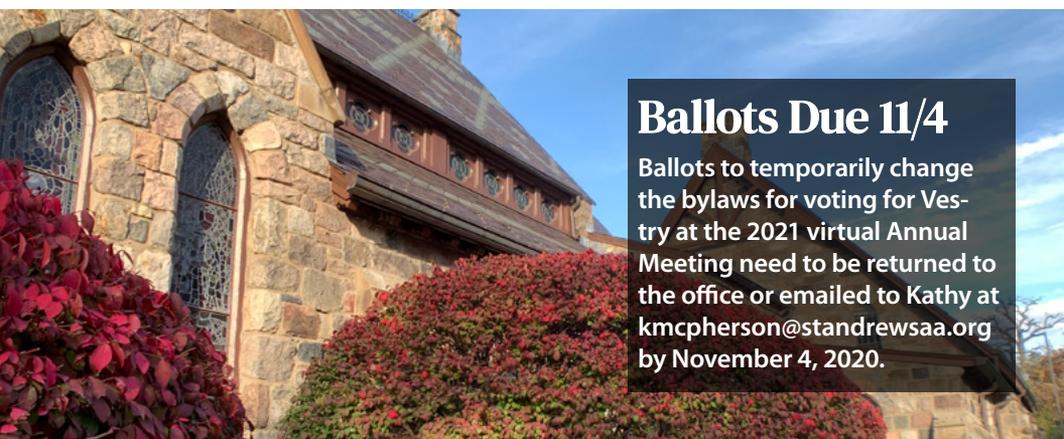
1 cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
2 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the  
3 fresh - ness of thy grace; yet long these mul - ti -  
4 heal these hearts of pain; a - mong these rest - less  
5 where thy feet have trod; till glo - rious from thy



1 self - ish strife, we hear thy voice, O Son of Man.  
2 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of thy tears.  
3 tudes to see the true com - pas - sion of thy face.  
4 throngs a - bid, O tread the ci - ty's streets a - gain;  
5 heaven a - bove, shall come the ci - ty of our God.

Postlude: *Gavotte (Suite no. 5, BWV 816)*

Johann Sebastian Bach



## Ballots Due 11/4

Ballots to temporarily change the bylaws for voting for Vestry at the 2021 virtual Annual Meeting need to be returned to the office or emailed to Kathy at [kmcpherson@standrewsaa.org](mailto:kmcpherson@standrewsaa.org) by November 4, 2020.