

Outdoor Worship – October 18, 2020

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St. Andrew's Service of Healing

Welcome to St. Andrews Lutheran Church in San Mateo, CA and our online worship service. Please feel free to pause this video, you may want to have a lit candle in front of you. Materials you may want to have: small bowl of water, a small bit of olive or cooking oil, bread/cracker/tortilla, and wine/juice. Feel share this bulletin and this worship service with friends, family, or neighbors.

Prelude

Welcome

“We welcome all people as children of God and invite them to participate fully in the life and ministry at St. Andrew's regardless of age, race, gender, education, ethnic origin, marital or family status, cultural heritage, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic reality or diversity of ability. We resolve to be a church with open hearts, open minds, open doors and seeking to be reconciled to God and one another.” St. Andrews voted to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation that has a special welcome for the LGBTQ+ community.

Introduction to our Service of Healing

Our world is filled with brokenness and pain. We are in need of God's healing. We join together today to pray for our world, our family, friends and for ourselves. Here each one give themselves a physical gesture of healing: putting our hands over our heart and dipping our finger in oil or water and putting that oil or water on your forehead in the shape of a cross. These signs, first given in baptism, tell us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world.

In its ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community nor does it promise a cure. Rather, the church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love embodied in the community of faith.

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Pastor: We meet in the presence of God. God is with us. Who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain, and heals our wounds. Jesus healed many as a sign of God in our midst. He sent the disciples to continue this work of healing - with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Jesus, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

Prayer of the Day

Watchful and caring God, we find you along our journey of faith. You stand at each of the crossroads pointing the way of your truth. You cheer us on as we love your creation and all of your people. You make us want to be faithful to your word and to lean on your love. Heal us of illness, boredom, impatience, loneliness and fear. Give us hope. God, you are awesome. We lift up your name.

AMEN (CWE March 2015, revised)

First Reading I King 17:8-16

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah, saying, ⁹“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” ¹³Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.” ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Psalm 33:1-5 (Read responsively)

¹ Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous.

Praise befits the upright.

² Praise the LORD with the lyre;

make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.

³ Sing to him a new song;

play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

⁴ For the word of the LORD is upright,

and all his work is done in faithfulness.

⁵ He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

Praise the Lord!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:1-5

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² He called a child, whom he put among them, ³ and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

This the Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O God.

Sermon

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Prayers of People

Let us pray, Healer of our body and Soul, come to us and show us the places of our lives that we most need to change. Tear down the barriers that keep us from loving others. Free us from dependency on any person, object, substance or power so that we can place our trust only in you. Show us the way to take own new habits and set aside old ones that do not have us focused on you God. We pause to pray for those who need your help and healing . . . We turn these people and situations over to God.

Give comfort to those who are ill, our first responders, teachers, students, front line workers, and those who are without basic necessities. Give us energy and courage to share your love, hope and serenity to all that we meet. We pray in the name of Jesus. AMEN

(Ruth Duck and Pastor Connie Winter-Eulberg, *Flames of the Spirit*, pg. 83)

Laying on of Hands

Pastor: Sisters and brothers, I invite you to pause this video and gather some water or oil for anointing and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of God who helped lepers, blind people, the bent over woman, Jairus' daughter, and a paralytic man.

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Words during anointing with individual oil

In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit. AMEN. (ELW 277)

Hymn during anointing with individual oil "Heal Me O Lord"

Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed, save me and I shall be saved;
Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed, save me and I shall be saved.
For you are my praise, save me and I shall be saved.

Prayer

Let us pray – Living God, we are thankful for the presence of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and anointing. Gracious Healer, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When we are afraid, give us courage; when afflicted, give us patience; when dejected, give us hope; and when alone, assure us of the support of your holy people. We ask this through, Jesus, the Christ. AMEN (ELW pg. 278)

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us share that peace with one another. (PEACE SIGN, BOW)

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Offertory Prayer

Lord, we give you today what is already yours. You provide so much for us, blessings pressed down, shaken together, running over. Thank you for giving us the ability to give, and cheerful hearts to do it. **AMEN**

Eucharistic Prayer

O God, it was you who led Abraham and Sarah to the land of promise, who saved your people from the desert of bitter tears, who called them to the land of the living. It was you who blessed Miriam and David when they danced and sang in holy places. And through Jesus the Christ, you taught us to celebrate. Those who were blind saw the sun of your goodness, the crippled leaped for joy, and those who were locked in the prison of their fears were given the freedom to love. Your spirit calls us now, in this place, to gather all people in to our celebration, to help the lame and blind, to wipe away tears with an outstretched hand. **AMEN.**

(Flames of the Spirit, pg. 105 by Ruth Duck)

Words of Institution

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 in 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 sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

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Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Holy Communion

Blessing

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in God's grace. **AMEN**

Post Communion Prayer

Thank you, God, for being present at our tables today. You are the "Bread of Life" for us and all people. You are the one who keeps our plants and animals going so that we have water and food. This meal allows us to keep walking the path of faith and to look forward to this week with joy and hope. Thank you for your blessings. AMEN (CWE)

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Benediction

May the joy of God's freedom cause your spirit to dance; May the presence of God's peace bring wholeness to your body and mind. May God give you blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe. In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

Leader: Go in peace. Share the Good News that God is a great healer!

Congregation: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Postlude