



The 17th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 21
September 27, 2020
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome! I'm so thrilled to be worshipping with you this morning! While we all may miss our traditional ways of celebrating, I'm so grateful for all of you that are worshipping with us on Facebook or YouTube or just praying in your homes. This time of physical distancing has made it more clear than ever that the church is resilient and that the Body of Christ remains strong even when we can't be together in person.

All churches in the Diocese of Virginia continue to fast from in person worship at the direction of Bishop Goff. We don't yet know when we will begin to regather, but the Vestry is working to put together plans for what this might look like. This is an opportunity to really live in to our certainty that worship from home is just as sacred as worship in our churches. Over the coming weeks, you'll see different members of the parish participating in worship from their homes. I couldn't be more grateful to everyone who is helping make our worship at a distance so meaningful and fulfilling.

I'm so incredibly grateful for the love, grace and flexibility that you show on a regular basis, and especially in challenging times. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions that you have. I may not have the answers, but I will do the best to find them as we move forward together in the great tradition of St. Andrew's. May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, be with you and those you love, now and always.

Grace & Peace,

Andrew+

Opening Acclamation

BCP, p. 355

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Common Worship

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Phillipians 2:1-13

NRSV

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Phillipians:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should

confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Psalter for the Christian People

1. Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
 2. I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
 3. That which we have heard and known,
and what our ancestors have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
 4. We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works God has done.
 12. God worked marvels in the sight of their ancestors, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
 13. God split open the sea and let them pass through; *
making the waters stand up like walls.
 14. God led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
 15. God split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
 16. God brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son *
and to the Holy Spirit:
- As it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Lesson

Matthew 21:23-32

NRSV

Deacon

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

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.

People The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Andrew Moore

The Apostles' Creed (said in unison)

BCP, p. 96

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

from *Praying the Scriptures*

Intercessor Siblings in Christ, in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Humbly then, let us approach our God, saying, to will and work for your good pleasure,

People **O Lord, enable us.**

Intercessor Christ Jesus, strengthen our tongues to declare you as Lord of our lives. May we, your Church, glorify your Heavenly Parent in word and deed. To will and work for your good pleasure,

People **O Lord, enable us.**

Intercessor Christ Jesus, you chose not to exploit your equality with God, but humbled yourself to be with us. Give us your heart for the marginalized and poor. And may all people, especially those in power, follow your example of humility. To will and work for your good pleasure,

People **O Lord, enable us.**

Intercessor Christ Jesus, by your birth in human likeness you blessed all of creation. Remind us that your feet have trod our soil and tasted our waters. Give us the will to care for this precious planet. To will and work for your good pleasure,

People **O Lord, enable us.**

Intercessor Christ Jesus, you rule the world with love and compassion. Give to our local leaders compassion and vision that the people of our region might live as neighbors, looking out for each other's interests. To will and work for your good pleasure,

People **O Lord, enable us.**

Intercessor Christ Jesus, you became obedient to the point of death that we might have abundant life. Work marvels in the lives of the sick and sorrowful. May they recount to generations the wonderful deeds you have done in their lives. We pray for all who live, work, and go to school on Oregon Hill; for all who are celebrating birthdays this week, including Cecilia Brooks, Kathryn Gammino, Vance Joyner, Gabriella Kenney, Sheryl Pedigo, Jim Uzel, Lance Didlake, Matthew Field. To will and work for your good pleasure,

People O Lord, enable us.

Intercessor Christ Jesus, through death and resurrection you were highly exalted by God. Continue your good work in those who now rest from their labors. May all the dead find new and lasting life in you. To will and work for your good pleasure,

People O Lord, enable us.

Intercessor I invite you to offer your own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Please add your own prayers either silently or aloud.

Concluding Collect

Officiant God of all humanity, you call us to bring about healing and wholeness for the whole world – for women and men of all races and cultures and creeds. Help us to respond to a world that is groaning under the weight of injustice and broken relationships. Remind us that differences are a gift, and interdependence a strength from the same creative God. Strengthen us to resist the forces that encourage polarization and competition rather than understanding and cooperation. We know that your reign is not built on injustice and oppression, but on the transformation of hearts – new life, not just reordered life. Teach us forgiveness, O God. Bring us reconciliation. Give us hope for the future. We pray in Jesus' love. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Dismissal

BCP, p. 366

Deacon Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

People Thanks be to God!

+ + +

Worship Participants

Officiant & Preacher The Rev. Andrew Moore

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Barbara Ambrose

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The Prayers of the People:

- Donna Alexander, Gary Bailey, Phyllis Bailey, Richard Bowen, Mac Bridgewater, Sarah Bridgewater, Dwayne Briggs, Rob Burger, Bee Butler, Davison Chapman, Tom Davis, Shirley Dolan, Sarah Dowles, Jim Evans, Renee Ferrucci, Cyrus Field, Ellen Field, Susan Goff, Carlton Green, Jack Greener, Melissa Groome, Van Haywood, Michelle Butler Hinnant, Georgia Jonkman, Jeeha Kamran, Diane Klisavage, Elaine Kriskus, Eileen LoSasso, Shawna Methaney, Lillian Miller, Craig Millward, Crystal Munnings, Henry Randolph, Jerrie Richardson, Audrey Rowe, Greg Rowe, Karen Salter, Lizzy Schrass, Donnie Thomas, Ramon Torres, Robin Underwood, Barrett Walters, Tom Wieleba, Flo Williams.
- Pray for those who live and work and go to school on Oregon Hill and for the Laundry Ministry.
- We pray for schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For healthy relationships between parents, teachers, and students; for cooperation between Superintendents and Administrators of public and private schools throughout this metropolitan city.
- Pray for those who celebrate birthdays this week, including Cecilia Brooks (9/28), Kathryn Gammino (9/28), Vance Joyner (9/28), Gabriella Kenney (9/29), Sheryl Pedigo (9/29), Jim Uzel (9/30), Lance Didlake (10/2), Matthew Field (10/3).

News and Upcoming Events:

- **Noonday Prayer:** Each weekday, join us in praying Noonday Prayer at 12:00 noon on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/standrewsrva. You can follow along in the Book of Common Prayer on page 103 or online at www.bcponline.org. Click on The Daily Office and then an Order of Service for Noonday.
- **Digital Coffee Hour:** Join us on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. on Zoom! You can join by going to <https://zoom.us/j/97623461393> and entering the password 067460. You can also call (929) 205-6099 and entering the meeting ID: 976 2346 1393 and the password 067460. This has been a fantastic time to visit virtually and catch up with one another.
- **Drive-up Blessing of the Animals:** Bring your pets, stuffed animals, or photos of beloved pets to St. Andrew's for a Drive-up Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 3, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. While we can't gather and celebrate all together, you can still drop by for a blessing! Andrew looks forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the sidewalk outside the church on the 3rd!
- **October Book Group - *Inspired*:** *Inspired, Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, is Rachel Held Evans' brilliant final book. It explores the kinds of stories in the Bible and helps us grapple with how we understand it and its influence on our lives. We look forward to a lively discussion at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 8. [Join us on Zoom to discuss this incredible book.](#)
- **Connect at Digital Coffee Hour:** Like most of you, I dearly miss Sunday morning worship services at St Andrew's. But mostly I miss our community which is a big part of our service. I appreciate the effort that Andrew and others have done to put together great online worship experiences, either Noonday Prayer or our Sunday service. And while I'm so happy to continue with this type of worship it doesn't fulfill my longing for connection. What fills me up is our [Digital Coffee Hour](#). It's so great to see familiar faces, to laugh or exchanges stories of our trials and tribulations in dealing with the pandemic. Only then do I feel like it's Sunday! It's really quite simple to log in. If you need help please call me at 804-548-5956 or ask a child or grandchild for help, LOL. 😊 - Sue Barrett

- **Help St. Andrew's with Kroger Community Rewards:** Help St. Andrew's by increasing donations every time you shop at Kroger! Thanks to their Community Rewards program, it's easy. Create or log into your digital account at [kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com). In the Community Rewards section of your account, link your Kroger Plus Card to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Oregon Hill (organization ID AF019). Scan your Kroger Plus Card every time you check out at Kroger. St. Andrew's receives a periodic donation check from Kroger based on a percentage of designated transactions, all at no cost to you. Questions? Contact Chris Catanzaro at 804-922-1288 or Kroger Customer Service at 800-KROGERS (800-576-4377).
- **UGK Community First Volunteer Opportunities:** [UGK Community First](#) now produces about 3,000 meals each week that are distributed throughout the Richmond Area, Goochland, and Petersburg. We have lots of great volunteer opportunities available. Activities include scooping soup into containers, packaging meals, and transporting meals to agencies and residences with limited contact with others. Food preparation and packaging takes place at Roslyn where strict protocols and social distancing are in place. Shifts and teams of volunteers are limited to 2-4 people and take place 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Deliveries take place in the afternoon, but there are some morning routes. To sign up or learn more about volunteering email Barbara Ambrose, Volunteer Coordinator at cats4cats@comcast.net and include your *name, email address, and phone number*.
- **Children's Worship Videos:** Each week we will have a worship video designed specifically for families with children. They will include a reading from the Jesus Storybook Bible, a time for prayers, and a new segment called "Ask Andrew." This will be a chance for our young people to ask their questions about God and the world and Andrew will (attempt) to answer them! [Email Andrew](#) to submit questions for inclusion. The videos will be posted on our [YouTube channel](#) and links will be included in our weekly worship emails.
- **Sunday Paper Junior Bulletins:** While we cannot gather to worship in person, we encourage you to share these Sunday Paper Junior bulletins with your children. These are the same bulletins we have been offering in church each Sunday. Linked here are the Sunday Paper Junior bulletins for [last week](#) and [today](#). Email Britton at office@standrewsoregonhill.org if you'd like her to mail you paper copies.
- **Shields Returning Home:** Thank you to all of you who have provided a vacation home to the saint shields this spring! If you have finished administering their spa treatments, you might feel ready to return them to their church home. We will be setting up additional times to drop them off in the near future.
- **New Free Digital Publications:** Church Publishing Incorporated has once again updated their selection of free digital publications with new titles for the season, [which you can browse by clicking here](#). These include *The Book of Common Prayer* in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and more for children, teens, and adults!
- **Options for Giving:** While we are unable to gather in person and offer our collective offering to God, it is critically important that we all continue to give as we are able. Even though we are not meeting in person, the expenses of the church remain. If you are already accustomed to giving online, thank you! If it is your practice to place your offering in the plate on Sundays, we invite you to consider either mailing your offering to the church or giving through our secure site. Simply visit the [Giving page of our website](#). Choose from a drop-down menu whether this is a pledge payment or if it is just a gift, select Give Now. You can choose to make this a recurring gift online as well. If you do choose to give online, please consider adding an additional 2-3% to your pledge to cover the service fees the church is charged for each gift. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Andrew or a member of the Vestry.
- **UPDATED Cell Phone Number for Andrew:** Andrew has a new cell phone number, which was previously advertised incorrectly! If you need to reach him, please call him at 804-251-0363. You can also email him at amoore@standrewsoregonhill.org.