

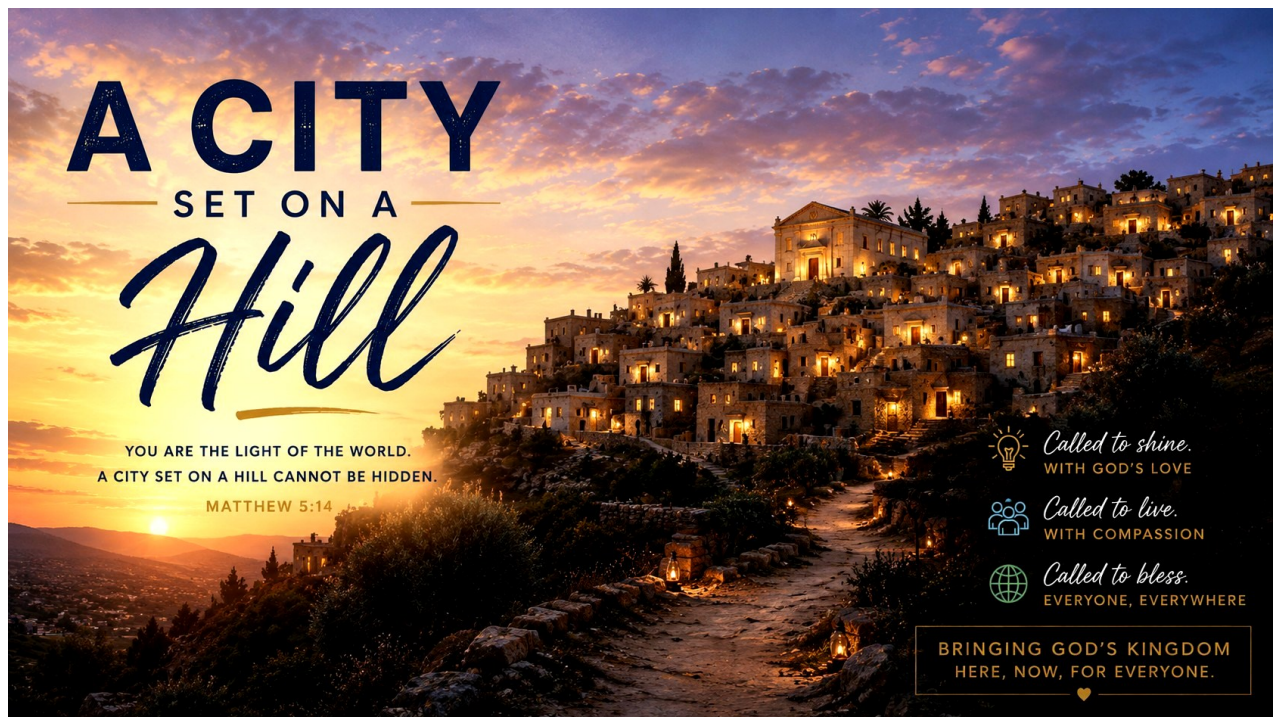


ST. ANDREW UCC

Welcome, Worship, Service

6908 Beneva Rd., Sarasota FL 34238
Facebook.com/sarasotaucc ~ www.sarasotaucc.org

July 5, 2026
Communion Sunday
Worship 10:30 am



Welcome to worship with St. Andrew United Church of Christ.

We treasure our diversity, believing each person enriches us. You are invited to share in our connection to God and to each other as we gather for worship of the One who is worthy of our love and devotion.

- We are an **Open and Affirming** church. We covenant to affirm and welcome visitors, members, and staff of all sexual orientations and gender identities, just as we extend the same loving affirmation and welcome to people of every age, faith, race, ethnicity, sex, nationality, marital status, and physical or mental ability.
- We are a **Just Peace** church. We promote peace with justice (a just peace) as an expression of God's love, and we support peaceful opposition to intolerance, injustice, discrimination, violence, and war.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRELUDE

Song for the Nations
(Chris Christensen, arr. Mark Hayes)

Bonnie Wolfgram

WELCOME

Rev. Ken Gregson

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-5

Debra Cottrell

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

Many: We come to worship the One whose light shines in every nation and every heart.

One: We gather not because we have all the answers, but because God continues to call us into lives of mercy, justice, and peace.

Many: We come to be shaped by Jesus and his teachings, so that our lives may reflect God's love.

One: God's kingdom is not confined by borders or divided by walls. It is revealed wherever neighbors are loved, strangers are welcomed, justice is sought, and peace is made.

Many: May we be salt for the earth, light for the world, and a community where God's love is made visible.

One: No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Many: We come to worship the God who welcomes us all.

HYMN

We Are Called

Please stand in body or in spirit.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Loving and gracious God, You are the Light of the world, and in Jesus, you have called us to reflect your light in all that we do. As we gather in worship today, quiet our minds, open our hearts, and awaken our spirits to your presence among us. Shape us into a community that shines with your love—a city on a hill where mercy is practiced, justice is pursued, peace is nurtured, and every person is welcomed as your beloved child. Remind us that our highest calling is not to build our own kingdoms, but to participate in your Kingdom here on earth, where compassion is stronger than fear, hope is greater than despair, and love knows no borders. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that our worship may honor you, our lives may reflect what , Jesus has taught us, and our light may shine before others, so that all may see your goodness and give glory to you. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, our Teacher, our Savior, and the Light of the World. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Debra Cottrell

SERMON SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:13-16

Rev. Ken Gregson

SERMON

"A City on a Hill"

Rev. Ken

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Bless the Lord, O My Soul (Douglas Wagner) St. Andrew Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please write your prayer concerns or celebrations on the blue prayer request forms located in the pew rack and place them in the offering plate.

LORD'S PRAYER *(using these or whatever words are familiar to you)*

Our Father and Mother in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Ken

This is Jesus' table. It is not the table of one nation or one people. It is not the table of one denomination or one congregation. It is God's table. Here, there are no strangers. Here, there are no insiders and outsiders. Here, there is no first or last. Jesus welcomed fishermen and tax collectors, saints and sinners, the doubting and the faithful, the joyful and the grieving. He welcomed all who hungered for God's presence. Today, that same invitation is extended to us. If you are seeking God's grace... If you are longing for hope... If you are hungry for peace... If you desire to follow the way of Christ... Then you are welcome here. For this is not our table. It is Jesus's table. And all are invited.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Gracious and loving God, you have called us to be the light of the world, yet too often we hide our light. You have called us to be salt for the earth, yet too often we lose our distinctiveness by choosing comfort over compassion. Forgive us when fear keeps us from welcoming the stranger. Forgive us when pride divides us from one another. Forgive us when we seek power more than service, certainty more than humility, and our own interests more than the common good. Renew us by your Spirit. Shape us into a community that reflects the life of Christ—a people who love generously, serve joyfully, seek justice faithfully, and walk humbly with you. May your kingdom come through us, until your love is visible in all we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Ken

Hear this good news: God's mercy is greater than our failures. God's grace is wider than our divisions. God's love is stronger than our fears. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, we are renewed, and we are invited again into God's work of bringing light to the world. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION PRAYER AND CONSECRATION OF ELEMENTS

Words of Institution

Rev. Ken

On the night before his death, Jesus gathered with his friends around a table. He took bread. He gave thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, *"Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."* When the supper was over, he took the cup. Again, he gave thanks, gave it to them, and said, *"Drink from this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."*

Consecration of the Elements

Debra Cottrell

Remembering Jesus' life, his death, his resurrection, and his promise to come again, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude and hope. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup, and upon all of us gathered here.

In the taking of the bread, remind us that we are part of the body of Christ, that is, the people who follow his Way. In taking the cup, remind us to pour out ourselves to and for others as Jesus taught us to do

And make us one people, united not by nationality, politics, language, or background, but by your grace.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

People are invited to come to the table and take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and the elements will be brought to you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Let Us Break Bread Together
(African American Spiritual, arr. Joel Raney)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: Gracious God, we thank you for meeting us at this table.

In simple bread and cup, you have nourished us with your grace, strengthened us with your love, and reminded us that we belong to one another as members of the family of God.

Now send us into the world as your people. May we be salt that brings healing. May we be light that offers hope. May we be a city on a hill whose life together reflects your compassion, justice, mercy, and peace.

Strengthen us to love our neighbors, welcome the stranger, care for the vulnerable, and seek the common good, so that your kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven.

In the name of Jesus, the anointed one, who is the Light of the World, we pray. Amen.

PASSING OF PEACE

Not everyone is comfortable with physical contact. Please refrain from hugging or touching anyone without consent.

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me;

Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our parent, family all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my silent vow:

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me!

BENEDICTION

"May the presence of God go before us." (3X)

POSTLUDE

In Christ There is No East or West
(Alexander Reinagle, arr. Mark Hayes)

Matthew 5:13-16

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Today in Worship

We are blessed to have Rev. Ken Gregson in the pulpit today. You will remember Rev. Ken from last summer, when he led our worship for many weeks –and even ran a bible study – as we searched for our new Pastor. Welcome back to St. Andrew, Rev. Ken!

We Are Called

720



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
 fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
 one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
 sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



Refrain
 We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
 Music: David Haas
 Text and music © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

WE ARE CALLED
 Irregular

Announcements

Visitors Welcome! We are pleased you are worshipping with us today. We already include you as part of our family, and we invite you to continue to get to know St. Andrew by joining us at Fellowship Brunch after worship. Please take a moment to sign the Guest Book in the Gathering Area, and feel free to take one of the stuffed bears as a welcome gift.

Fellowship Brunch Please join us after worship in Fellowship Hall.

Book Study Group	Each Thursday 10:00am Thursday Book Group
Beads and Bears Craft	Resumes August 20 11:00am Conference Room
Thursday Lunch Break	Resumes August 20 12:00pm Bring your lunch and join us!

St Andrew Choir Rehearsal Sunday mornings before the service 9:30-10:15. All are welcome!

St. Andrew 101 Beginning in August. Sign up with Pastor Bill.

Mission of the Month: ALSO Youth If you wish to donate, you may do so in worship, in the office, or on our website. Scan this QR Code to reach our Giving Page, and then scroll down to the monthly mission.



NOTE: All service music Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731176. All rights reserved.



ST. ANDREW UCC
Welcome, Worship, Service

Rev. Bill Friederich, Pastor

Cell: 207-669-5353 Email: bfriederich@yahoo.com

Bonnie Wolfgram, Interim Music Director

Email: bonnie.wolfgram@gmail.com

Kate Eichorst, Church Administrator

Office: 941-922-7595 Email: office@sarasotaucc.org

Craig Bray, Sexton

Please take note of the two (2) emergency exits, located on either side of the Sanctuary. There is also an exit to the left of the choir loft.

The entrance doors in the Gathering Area may be used as emergency exits, as well.