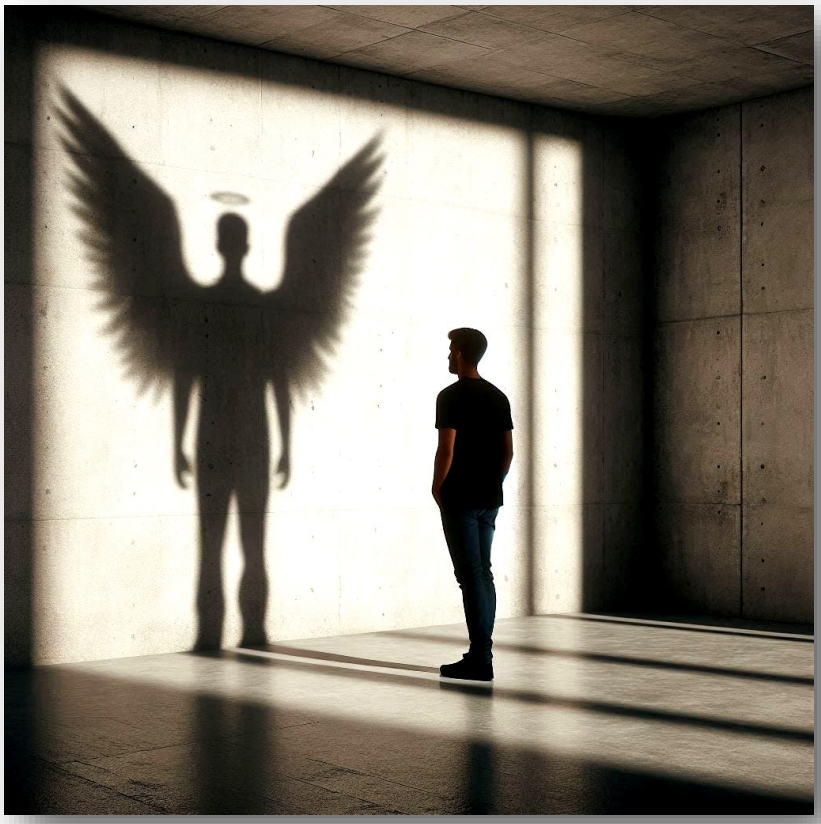
ST. ANDREW UCC
Welcome, Worship, Service

September 6, 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 What a Friend We Have in Jesus Bonnie Wolfgram
(Charles Converse, arr. Phillip Keveren)

WELCOME

OPENING SCRIPTURE Psalm 100:1-5 (MSG) Tennie Capps

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Draw near to God. Come to God's sanctuary with singing.

Many: With a voice of singing, we come to God's house filled with praise.

One: God is here and ready to hear our song.

All: Let us sing, "To God all praise and glory." AMEN.

HYMN Let the Whole Creation Cry *Please stand in body or in spirit.*

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Covenanting God, we know we are part of your promise to Abraham and his descendants. You are a great God who promises to be faithful generation after generation. Help us to keep the faith and continue the journey. As we listen to your story spoken through music and word, may we be renewed in our own faith. Give us energy to continue your work in this world. Through Christ we pray. AMEN.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SERMON SCRIPTURE Genesis 18:1-8, Hebrews 13:1-2 (MSG)

SERMON "Finding the Angels Within" Rev. Bill Friederich

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY MUSIC Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated
(Henri C. Malan (HENDON), arr. John Purifoy)

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.

*Today's service prayers are from Worship Ways, UCC

ANTHEM What Wondrous Love St. Andrew Choir
(American Folk Hymn, arr. Charles Dupree)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Assisting Rev. Bill with Communion: Rev. Dr .Vince Carroll and Jeffery Nunes.

INVITATION
ONE: Creator of all that is, on this Communion Sunday, we enter into worship with words of gratitude.
MANY: Thank you for the invitation to join with others at this table.
ONE: Thank you for being our gracious host who welcomes us as we are.
MANY: Thank you for the nourishment of a living bread that never goes stale.
ONE: Thank you for the cup of blessing that never drains empty, which quenches the deepest thirsts of our spirits.
ALL: Thank you for the companionship shared at your table, for the fellowship of faith that makes friends of strangers throughout the earth. For communion with you and with one another, we offer heartfelt thanks. AMEN.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: O God, we would be true. Hear our prayer. As we respond to the good news, grant us a gentle enthusiasm. Forgive us when we lapse into a style of faith that draws attention to ourselves rather than to you. Help us to walk with a spirited humility.

As we respond to the good news, grant us increasing reliance upon you. We may commit a few spectacular sins, but we need to discern and acknowledge the less apparent sins that are easier to ignore.

Charge our worship with attentiveness, alertness, and awareness. Grant us a sense of grace that we might understand your ways and serve your people. In Christ's name we pray. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ONE: A rigid, unmusical God would be unmoved by our words of confession. How great it is that the one and only God has an ear for music, is free with forgiveness, and is always open to our glad songs of praise. AMEN.

COMMUNION PRAYER AND CONSECRATION OF ELEMENTS

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 As the Deer (Martin Nystrom, arr. Mark Hayes)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
Many: Thank you God, for the gift of life and the sacredness of living. Thank you for the holy meal we have shared with you and with each other. 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 On Jordan's Stormy Banks (Promised Land) - John Purifoy

Genesis 18:1-8 (MSG)
GOD appeared to Abraham at the Oaks of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance of his tent. It was the hottest part of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing. He ran from his tent to greet them and bowed before them.

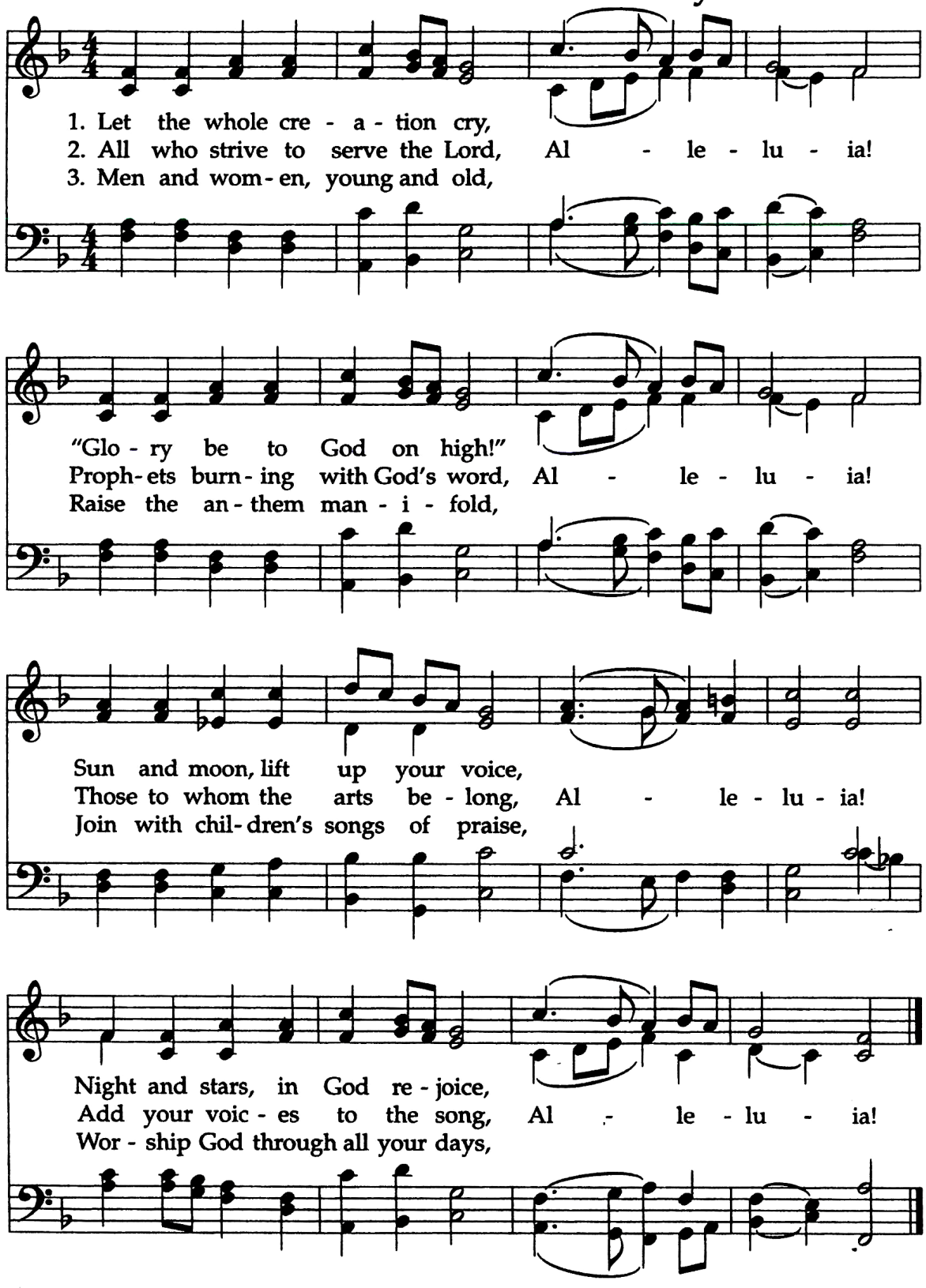
He said, "Master, if it please you, stop for a while with your servant. I'll get some water so you can wash your feet. Rest under this tree. I'll get some food to refresh you on your way, since your travels have brought you across my path."

They said, "Certainly. Go ahead."

Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. He said, "Hurry. Get three cups of our best flour; knead it and make bread."

Then Abraham ran to the cattle pen and picked out a nice plump calf and gave it to the servant who lost no time getting it ready. Then he got curds and milk, brought them with the calf that had been roasted, set the meal before the men, and stood there under the tree while they ate.

Hebrews 13:1-2 (MSG)
Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it! Regard prisoners as if you were in prison with them. Look on victims of abuse as if what happened to them had happened to you.

21 Let the Whole Creation Cry

Words: Stopford A. Brooke, 1881, alt.
Music: Robert Williams, 1817

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Altar Flowers
The flowers on the altar today are given by Nancy Goethe, for the glory of God and in loving memory of George Goethe.

Announcements

Visitors Welcome! We are pleased you are worshipping with us today. We already feel you are 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.

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

Fellowship Brunch Please join us after worship in Fellowship Hall.

Book Study Group	Each Thursday 10:00am Thursday Book Group
Beads and Bears Craft	Each Thursday 11:00am Conference Room
Thursday Lunch Break	Each Thursday 12:00pm Bring your lunch and join us!
Centering Prayer	Each Thursday 1:00pm In the Sanctuary
St. Andrew 101	September 6, 13, & 20, in the Sanctuary after Brunch
Labor Day	Monday, September 7 **Office Closed**

Mission of the Month: Resurrection House 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.

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