

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH

Established 1706



The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Laetare Sunday

The Family Service at 9:00 a.m.

March 19, 2023



OLD ST. ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH

The Clergy & Staff

THE REVEREND MARSHALL HUEY, *Rector*
THE REVEREND JOSEPH VELLA, *Assistant to the Rector*
THE REVEREND DAVID ALWINE, *Assisting Priest*
THE REV. CANON ZACHARY NASH, *Assisting Priest*
THE REVEREND LEE HERSHON, *Deacon Emeritus*
DAVID ACRES, *Director of Music*
ANN HOOD, *Organ/Piano*
BRENDA RINDGE, *Director of Christian Education*
AMY AUSTEN, *Parish Administrator*
JEANNE GERHARDT, *Parish Bookkeeper*
JUDITH ACRES, *Administrative Assistant*
JEFFREY HEARN, *Sexton*
PAUL PORWOLL, *Historian*
MICHAEL CHRISTENSEN, *AV Coordinator*
THE RT. REV. WILLIAM J. SKILTON
Bishop Suffragan, South Carolina, Retired
Assistant Bishop, The Dominican Republic, Retired
Bishop in Residence, Old St. Andrew's Parish Church

The Vestry

Kathy Abraham, *2024 Senior Warden*
William Adams, *2024*
Debra Bays, *2025*
Jim Beall, *2026*
Wilson Blanton, *2025*
Buzz Carns, *2026*
Roxanne Erskine, *2024*
James Little, *2025 Junior Warden*
Herb Huser, *2024*
Randall Shealey, *2026*
Gail Wagaman, *2026*
James Wilson, *2025*

John Steinmeyer, *Treasurer*
Cindi Smith, *Clerk*
Andy Lacour, *Chancellor*

THE RT. REV. CHARLES F. EDGAR III, , *Bishop of The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina*

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Marshall Huey	Amelia Little	The Wiers
HOMILIST	William Wier	FAMILY OF THE DAY
	LECTORS	

CHALICE BEARERS - James Little, Erin Wilson

VESTRY IN CHARGE - Kathy Abraham, James Little, Buzz Carns

ALTAR GUILD - Dee Norton, Drew Hayes, Millie Strobel

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Laetare Sunday

March 19, 2023

The Family Service at 9:00 a.m.

Welcome!

to our historic, living church
where the saints have
gathered to worship
since 1706!

If you are visiting with us today,
please take a **welcome brochure**
(located in the envelope rack on
the back of each pew) and fill out
the **visitor card**. Please place it in
the offering plate or leave it with
an usher.

The Processional Song, *standing*

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;

there's a kind-ness in his jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;
There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed;
If our love were but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word;

there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
and our life would be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863), alt. Music: Beecher, John Zundel (1815-1882), alt.

The liturgy begins with the **Acclamation**, which is an eager expression of praise.

The Acclamation, *standing*

(BCP page 146)

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures for ever.**

In the **Collect for Purity**, we ask God to cleanse our hearts and minds of anything that comes between Him and us, anything that would impede our worship of Him. Here we offer ourselves to the glory of Jesus Christ.

The Collect for Purity

(BCP page 124)

Leader: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Summary of the Law

(BCP page 124)

Leader: We remember what our Lord Jesus Christ taught us:

People: **We should love the Lord our God with all our hearts. We should love our neighbors as ourselves.**

Leader: These two commandments explain the way God wants us to live.

The Song of Praise, *standing*

Kyrie Eleison

The musical score is written for three voices on a single staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Lord, have mer - cy. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Christ, have mer - cy. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Words: Traditional; alt. *International Consultation on English Texts*, 1975
Music: Brentwood, Eric Wyse, 2004 © 2006 Vine Ridge Music BMI (admin. Music Services www.musicservices.org).

The Collect is a prayer that touches on the theme of the Scripture readings and transitions us from speaking and singing God's praise to listening to his Holy Scriptures.

The Collect of the Day, *standing*

(BCP page 125)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the Lessons.

We Hear God's Word

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Lesson (*will not be read*)

Ephesians 5:1-14

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Scriptures teach that much of our spiritual renewal is by the washing of the Word of God, which cleanses our minds and purifies our hearts. This portion of the service is known as the **Liturgy of the Word**, and it consists of the readings, the sermon, the creed, and the prayers of the people.

The Gospel Song, *standing*

Open the Eyes of my Heart, Lord

O - pen the eyes_ of my heart, Lord, o - pen the eyes_ of my heart,
I want to see You, I want to see You;
O - pen the eyes_ of my heart, Lord, o - pen the eyes_ of my heart,
I want to see You, I want to see You; *(Repeat 1st time)*

Refrain
To see You high and lift - ed up,
shin - ing in the light of Your glo - ry; Pour out Your power and love
as we sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly." *(1st time, to the beginning)*
(2nd time, going on)

Ending
Ho - ly,
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, I want to see You.

Words and music by Paul Baloche
© 1997 Integrity's Hosanna Music. Used by permission CCLI #208083.

The Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Continued →

Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

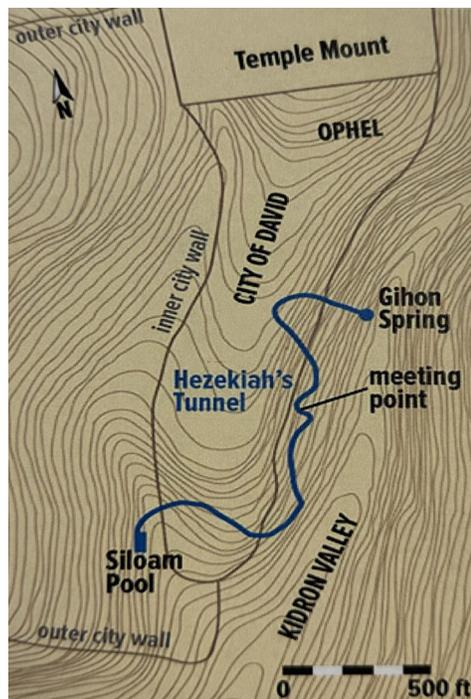
So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The word Gospel comes from the Old English word, *gōd-spell*, which means "good news" or "glad tidings." That word developed from the Latin word, *evangelium*, and Greek, *evangelion*, which also literally means "good news." These are the source of the English words "evangelist" and "evangelism"



We Respond to God

The **Nicene Creed** is a statement of what the Christian community believes to be true about God. It was born of rigorous intellectual debate in the fourth century, culminating in councils of the whole church at Nicaea in 325 and at Constantinople in 381. The word "creed" comes from the Latin word "credo" which means "I believe."

The Nicene Creed, *standing*

(BCP page 127)

Celebrant: Let us stand and confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father, through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People, *standing*

(BCP page 128)

Reader: Let us offer our prayers to God.

Lord God, we thank you for the leaders of our Church, especially Archbishop Beach, Bishop Edgar; Bishop Skilton, Father Marshall, Father Joe, Father David, Father Zac, Deacon Lee, and our staff, and we ask you to bless them. We also pray for St. Andrew's Mission and their Vicar, Fr. Jimmy Gallant, and for Jacob and April Rogers and their family at Nashotah Seminary.

Lord God, we pray for all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others, in particular Fr. Zac Nash, Chaplain at Joint Base Charleston; All Saints' Church in Florence, their Rector, Fr. Jason Hamshaw, Chelsea and their family; San José Church in the Dominican Republic, their Rector, Fr. Isaac Pringle Mejía and their Bishop, Moises Quezada; and Fr. Rob Sturdy, Anglican Chaplain at The Citadel.

Lord God, we pray for the leaders of our country, especially President Biden, Governor McMaster, Mayor Tecklenburg, and we ask you to bless them.

Lord God, we thank you for all our blessings, especially for people who love and care for us. (*intercessions may be spoken aloud*)

Lord God, we ask you to take care of everyone who is sick or sad. (*intercessions may be spoken aloud*)

Lord God, we know you hear us when we pray. We ask that you answer our prayers as may be best for us.

Celebrant:

Almighty God, who sits on the throne of judgment, we humbly beseech thee to bless the members of the South Carolina Supreme Court as they deliberate this final petition filed against us. Give unto them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may provide finality to these lawsuits and enable us to continue our mission and ministry here. Guide and direct us as to how to best serve and support Camp Jubilee and the parishes who have been displaced. Grant to all of us in our Diocese your peace which truly passes understanding, and the reassurance that you are a just and loving God.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Christians pray. When we worship the living God, we bring before Him our concerns for ourselves and others, for the world, and for the church. We also thank God for hearing and responding to our prayers. At the Offertory, all of our prayers are presented to God along with our tithes and offerings.

About the "posture" of prayer: It has been commonly said that Anglicans kneel for prayer, but that is not the rule for posture in any edition of the Prayer Book. Various editions have assumed that standing is the normal posture for public prayer and have directed the people to kneel only for confessions, for reciting the Commandments, etc. However, in this parish it is the traditional discipline to kneel for the prayers. It is a posture of humility, which is something always worth cultivating in ourselves.

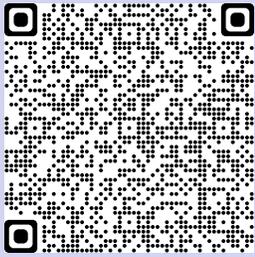
We Give in Thanksgiving for God's Blessings

The Offertory Song, *seated*

Power of the Cross

Sung by the Family Service Team

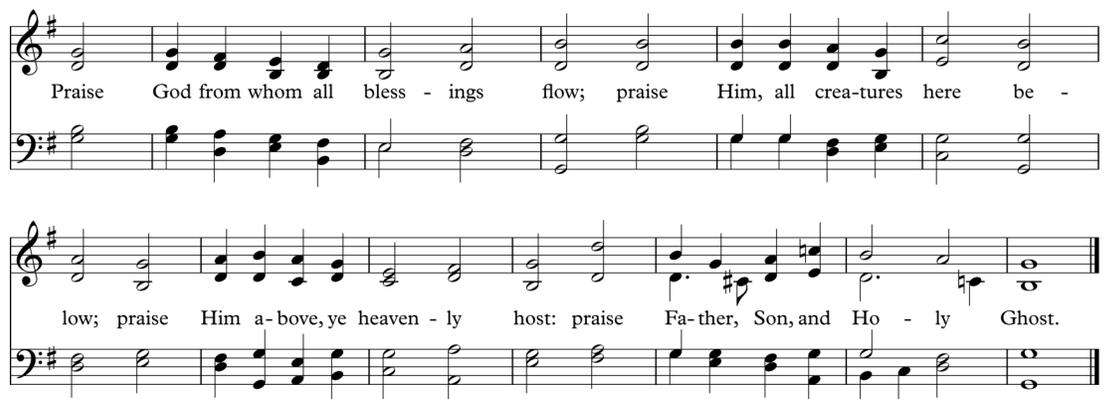
If you want to give an offering to Old St. Andrew's, you may scan the QR code.



Or visit oldstandrews.org and click on the giving tab.

The Presentation Song, *standing*

Doxology



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here be -
low; praise Him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

Celebrant:

(BCP page 131)

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O Lord,

People: **And of your own have we given you.**

The Prayer of Consecration, *kneeling*

(BCP page 132)

When we gather together, we remember the presence of Jesus. By repeating the words and actions of Jesus' last meal with His disciples, we join the story and make it our own. We don't just watch the drama or listen to it unfold, we enter into the story as we, too, take the bread and wine and eat and drink.

Celebrant:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you have made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People:

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

This **AMEN** is often called the "Great Amen" because it is the apex of our liturgy, the powerful ending to the Eucharist Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray: (*Spoken*)

**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 Fraction

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Prayer of Humble Access

(BCP page 135)

Celebrant and People;

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/2 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace." The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the last staff.

Setting: Eric Wyse (b. 1959).
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The **Lord's Prayer**, so called because Jesus gave this prayer to His disciples as an example of how to pray, has been a part of Eucharistic liturgies since the fourth century. The link between "our daily bread" and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is very ancient. In the Lord's Prayer, we ask for daily bread, meaning the things we need to get through each day. But as a part of that, the sacramental bread is Jesus Christ. When we eat of this bread, we most certainly receive our daily bread.

The Prayer of Humble Access is a very distinctive element of worship in the Anglican Tradition. Assembled in the earliest prayer books by Thomas Cranmer, it includes phrases and concepts from Mark 7:28, the Liturgy of St. Basil, a Gregorian collect, John 6:56, and some ideas of Thomas Aquinas.

The Christian life is deeply personal yet is essentially corporate by nature, not private. Every act of worship is intended not only to glorify God for His own sake, but to lift up and build up one another in Christ for His sake as well. The word "liturgy" literally means "the work of the people." A central function of liturgy is to send the message that in a worship community there are no bystanders. It is corporate through and through and from one end to the other. Singing is also a form of prayer that can help carry the heart to God not only in the words being sung but beyond the reach of words.

At Old St. Andrew's, we encourage you to continue to pray by singing both before and after Communion. In this way all of us are helping each other to lift our hearts continuously in the midst of receiving the greatest gift ever given: the life of Jesus Christ.

We have been blessed by being here. Now, at the end of the service, we are reminded that God takes loving delight in blessing us abundantly. We leave in peace, forgiven, fed, and sent out with a purpose to make Christ known in the world.

The Invitation to Communion

(BCP page 136)

Celebrant:

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

(If you need Holy Communion brought to you in your pen, please ask the Usher.)

The First Communion Song, *seated*

Downpour

Sung by the Family Service Team

The Second Communion Song, *seated*

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Sung by the Old St. Andrew's Youth Choir

The Post Communion Prayer, *kneeling*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The Recessional Song, *standing*

10,000 Reasons

Refrain

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; wor-ship His ho - ly Name.
Sing like nev-er be-fore, O my soul; I'll wor-ship Your ho - ly Name.

Verse *(repeat refrain 1st time)*

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn- ing, it's time to sing Your song
2. You're rich in love and You're slow to an - ger. Your Name is great and Your
3. And on that day, when my strength is fail - ing, the end draws near, and my
a - gain. What - ev - er may pass, and what ev - er lies be -
heart is kind. For all Your good-ness I will keep on
time has come; Still, my soul will sing Your praise un -
to Refrain

fore me, let me be sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
sing - ing: Ten thou-sand rea-sons for my heart to find.
end - ing, Ten thou-sand years, and then for - ev - er more!

Text & Music: Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music, Said And Done Music
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We Go Out to Serve God

The Dismissal and Commissioning

(BCP page 138)

Priest or Deacon: Our worship has concluded; our service begins.

Priest or Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

As the service ends, we are charged to "go," a challenge to reach out beyond our own church to the world around us.

The Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version of the Bible.

A Brief History of Saint Andrew's Parish Church

Built in 1706, this simple, elegant church is the oldest surviving structure used for worship south of Virginia. It is South Carolina's only remaining colonial cruciform church.

Our historic church holds a full schedule of worship services every Sunday. Some other early colonial churches in South Carolina are still used, but less often. (None is older.) Others have been replaced or augmented by newer buildings, some centuries old themselves, some modern. Still others have vanished, or their ruins stand in silence to ages past. Visitors to our national treasure see a beautifully restored building, but the church hides a past that left it for dead many times.

St. Andrew's Parish Church (commonly known as Old St. Andrew's) was one of ten Anglican churches in South Carolina established in 1706 by the Church Act. It was built to serve the Anglican planters along the Ashley River, a thriving tidal waterway that connected them to the city of Charles Town and to each other.

Rice, indigo, and slaves brought prosperity to the lands along the Ashley, where some of the wealthiest plantations in British North America were located. The church was expanded to the shape of a cross in 1723 to accommodate a growing population. It survived a major fire in the 1760s but was quickly rebuilt inside its existing walls. But the parish declined before the Revolution and into the antebellum era. Ministering to the slaves, at the church and three plantation chapels, became the focus of the clergy. From 1851 to 1891, the Rev. John Grimké Drayton, the renowned horticulturalist at Magnolia-on-the-Ashley just north of St. Andrew's, was rector.

The church was one of the few buildings along the Ashley that Union troops did not burn to the ground during the Civil War. It became a polling place and did not reopen until 1876, eleven years after the war ended. The parish found itself at the epicenter of two of the most important events of late nineteenth century Charleston: the phosphate mining boom along the Ashley and the Great Earthquake of 1886, which caused significant damage to the church. After Rev. Drayton died in 1891, St. Andrew's lay dormant for the next fifty-seven years.

In 1948 Episcopalians moving to the West Ashley suburbs reopened the dilapidated church, even though it was far away from new residential developments. Dogged perseverance brought slow but continual improvements. A parish house was built, and then expanded twice in quick succession. Hurricane Hugo (1989) caused major damage to the graveyard. Into the twenty-first century, the church undertook the most extensive restoration in its history and celebrated its tercentennial.

In 2013, the Parish left The Episcopal Church and aligned with the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina and later with the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).

For more than 300 years, St. Andrew's has survived, indeed has thrived, against all odds.

- Paul Porwoll, author of *Against All Odds: History of Saint Andrew's Parish Church, Charleston, 1706-2013*