



ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morning Worship | Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
February 12, 2023 | 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

•WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS VOLUNTARY

“i thank You God for most this amazing day”

Chris Currie
Forrest/cummings

*i thank You God for most this amazing day, for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky
and for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes who have died am alive again today and this is the sun's birthday
This is the birth day of life and of love and wings and of the gay great happening illimitably earth
How should tasting, touching, hearing, seeing, breathing any lifted from the no of all nothing human merely being doubt unimaginable You?
now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes of my eyes are opened*

Meg Frazier, conductor; Steven Blackmon, piano; Ben Hurt, violin; Byron Tauchi, violin; Richard Woehrle, violin;
Jon Gerhardt, cello; Bill Schettler, bass; James Atwood, percussion; The Chancel Choir

•*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Jack Wilson, first grade
Worship Workshop

From our homes and from our houses,

God has gathered us together.

In our coming and in our going,

God goes ahead of us, God goes beside us, God goes behind us.

In the details of this day,

The love of God entangles us.

At our end and our beginning,

God surrounds us and brings us home.

•*PRAYER OF THE DAY (unison)

O Lord our God, you always watch over us and know each of us and our particular joys and sorrows. As we gather together to worship you in this sacred space, assist us each to receive your love and your guidance in our lives. Refresh us, one and all, with unexpected and unmerited mercies. Start us, each one of us, with new invitations for our obedience to Jesus Christ, for this day and this week. As we offer you our praise, adoration, and worship, work your miracles among us this day: bless our seeking, meet our manifold needs, and commission us anew for endeavors that will bear the fruits of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

•†*HYMN 410

“God Is a Calling Through a Whisper”

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

•CALL TO CONFESSION

Sarah Chancellor-Watson

•PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Good and gracious God, in your wisdom you have made us, by your mercy you sustain us, and through your love you continually reach out to us. As we come before you thankful for your grace and acknowledging the ways we fall short of your grace, we pray you will meet each one of us with your loving mercy this day. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Meet our faith with your good gifts and meet our doubts with renewed trust. Forgive our sin confessed and also forgive our sins of negligence, ignorance, and omission.

By your Holy Spirit, forgive what we have been and cleanse our minds and hearts with new love. Deliver us from demeaning temptations and direct us in using the opportunities before us to serve Jesus Christ. In Christ's grace and mercy, we ask for your forgiveness, mercy, and fullness of life. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Blackmon

•ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING (response: **Thanks be to God.**)

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

†MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

Katie Brendler

•SECOND READING (response: **Thanks be to God.**)

Matthew 5:21-37

•SERMON

“Rapid Intensification”

Chris Currie

•*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church, 1983

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of people long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(cont.)

•*GLORIA PATRI, Hymn 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER (Hymnal, p. 35)

•THE OFFERING

Offertory

“Sacred Heart”

Gjeilo

Where charity and love are, God is there. Love of Christ has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice in him and be glad.

Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And from a sincere heart let us love one.

At the same time, therefore, are gathered into one. Lest we be divided in mind, let us beware.

Let evil impulses stop; let controversy cease. And in the midst of us be Christ our God.

At the same time we see that with the saints also, thy face in glory, O Christ our God, the joy that is immense and good, unto the world without end.

*Doxology, Hymn 606

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

•SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (8:30 service only)

SENDING

•*HYMN 481

“I Believe in God the Father”

GENEVAN 42

•*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“A Scottis Blyssing”

Blackmon/Willcox

•*VOLUNTARY

IN TODAY’S WORSHIP

TODAY’S USHERS for the 8:30 service are Mayson Buffington, Miriam Hollar, Thomas Schulingkamp, and Wesley Simon; and for the 10:30 service are Buddy and Luanna Cambas (captains), Danny Franklin, Harper Johnson, Derrick Heyl, Ann Maier, Bebe Marchal, Kate Prechter, and Nicholas White.

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elaine H. Gelpi by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Brinson and Family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE THAT NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, we will have one unified service at 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The service will be livestreamed to our YouTube page. There will be no Sunday School or childcare.

ALL ARE INVITED TO THE IRIS/TUCKS WATCH PARTY on Saturday, February 18th from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Neely and Steve Griffith’s home, 2808 St Charles Avenue. Registration is required and the cost is \$20/adult (ages 19 and older). There is no cost for children. Register on our 40/50 page at scapc.org/40-50. All ages welcome! Please include all houseguests attending.

CALL FOR SESSION NOMINATIONS: As a governing body, the Session of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church needs people who are strong in faith and generous in spirit. Being elected an Elder by the congregation is an opportunity to serve Jesus Christ in leadership. Nominees for the Session Class of 2026, which is a three-year term, must be active church members who participate in worship regularly, support the church’s stewardship campaign financially, and use their time and talents to support the mission of the church. Will you answer the call to service for our thriving church? Or do you know of another member who would be an asset to our Session? Go to scapc.org/nomination to submit your nomination(s). The due date for nominations is Sunday, February 26th.

HELP GUIDE OUR NEW MEMBERS: The Membership Committee is seeking volunteers to serve as “Navigators” to provide support to new church members and help them assimilate into the life of the congregation. Navigators will be partnered with new members of similar age and interests. The Membership Committee is excited to launch the Navigator Program as yet another way to welcome new members and get them involved in church life. For more information, please call Margo Phelps at 504-813-7764 or email her at msp1161@aol.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:30-10:15 A.M. | CLASS DETAILS AT SCAPC.ORG/SUNDAY-SCHOOL

ADULT CLASSES:

“**John Knox & How the Scots Invented the Modern World**”: led by John Dunlap and Chris Currie
February 12-March 19 | Land Building Lakeside Room and Zoom

Due to the contributions of John Knox and the reform movement that gave birth to the protestant church in Scotland, an environment was created that nurtured a literate society, education for all, a faith that asks questions and seeks understanding, free thought and inquiry, a larger commitment to the ethical vision of society, and a say in the affairs of government. Learn more about the legacy of the Scots!

“**God, Improv, & The Art of Living**”: Book by MaryAnn McKibben Dana | January 8-April 30 | 2nd floor conference room
This book blends personal stories, pop culture and Scripture into a smart, funny down-to-earth guide to the art of living.

PASTORAL RESIDENCY: MEET ASHLEY!

In the fall of 2021, SCAPC was invited by Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (APTS) to be a pastoral residency site. Pastoral residencies give seminarians opportunities to gain skills in supportive ministry environments before embarking on longer term calls. We are pleased that ASHLEY BROWN will be our Pastoral Resident from August 2023-August 2025. Ashley is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a BA in International Studies and will graduate from APTS in May. She joins us in worship today, so let’s give her a warm welcome! To learn more about the pastoral residency program and Ashley, visit scapc.org/resident.



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