

Saint Andrew's United Church

We are called to be the united church. Mission is our home. We foster belonging; provide spiritual accompaniment; and ask the deep questions.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18th, 2026

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

++ Please rise in body or spirit

MV = More Voices; VU = Voices United;

TLUS = Then Let Us Sing

Note: In observation of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we are using (and lightly adapting) an ecumenical worship service created by the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church, and modeled on their Sunrise Service.

This service will be quite unfamiliar to most of us. You are in charge of your own participation; we encourage you to enter into it as fully as you feel able, for the worldwide body of Christ is united in diversity, not in uniformity.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING:

God be with you.

And also with you.

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

We worship on the unceded territory of the Halq'emeylem-speaking peoples.

INVOCATION:

May the name of the Lord be blessed forever, for his name is before the sun.

**All the nations of the earth will be blessed through him
and all generations will extol him.**

Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, the only worker of wondrous deeds, the holy name of his glory is forever blessed. The whole world will be filled with his glory.

Amen! Amen!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Now and always and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

Again in peace let us beseech the Lord. Heed our prayers, raise us to life and have mercy on us.

Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Now and always and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING:

HYMN: VU 434 – “O Laughing Light”

LITANY:

From Sunrise in the East to Sunset in the West, and throughout the entire Christian world, wherever people call on the name of the Lord in holiness – by their prayers and intercession may the Lord have mercy on us. Let us beseech God to deliver us from sin and from the temptations of the world. May the Lord accept the vows and supplications of our hearts and count us worthy of his faith and his commandments together with all of his saints. Almighty Lord our God, raise us to life and have mercy on us.

Raise us to life, O Lord.

That God may usher forth this sunlit morning and guide the day ahead in peace; with faith, let us beseech God.

Grant it, O Lord.

For an angel of peace to be our guardian, let us ask God.

Grant it, O Lord.

For the pardon and forgiveness of our transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

Grant it, O Lord.

For the great and mighty power of the holy Cross to help us, let us ask the Lord.

Grant it, O Lord.

Once again, for our true and holy faith, all together, let us beseech the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us commit ourselves and one another to the almighty Lord our God.

We commit ourselves to you, O Lord.

Have mercy on us, Lord our God, in your great mercy. Let us all say together as one:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER AND SHARING THE PEACE:

From Sunrise in the East to Sunset in the West, blessed are you, O Lord, because you are King, and your name is revered throughout the universe. Let our psalmody resound sweetly in your hearing. Let justice dawn from your righteousness and rise over our frailty, and may your most holy name be glorified. And let us become worthy to abide by your commandments and to sing praise and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Leader may make the sign of the Cross, while saying:

Peace to all.

And with your spirit.

The people may exchange a suitable greeting of peace.

Let us bow down to God.

Before you, O Lord.

Everlasting God, Eternal God, you dawned as light in this world and you illumined us from the darkness of our sin. Infinite God, you came into our finite existence, abundantly pouring out the gifts of

the Holy Spirit on your creatures. Now and for all eternity you are extolled, most great God, with the Father and the most Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

If any children are present.

SCRIPTURE: Reader: Cathy Waller

Ephesians 4:1-13

Alleluia. Alleluia.

**For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.**

Alleluia. Please rise in body or in spirit.

Peace to all.

And with your spirit.

Cathy: Listen attentively to the holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord our God.

Cathy: Attention! God is speaking.

John 12:31-36

Glory to you, our Lord Jesus Christ.

[The congregation is seated.]

SERMON

PRAYER:

Gracious Lord, God of all,
Guide for the lost, Light for those in darkness.
Our eyes turn to you, hear our prayers.

May the sun of your glory shine forth, giving life and light to all, from the East to the West, and from the North to the South. Let the morning rays of your eternal spring awaken us who await your coming.

O Jesus Christ, Light from the Light, dwell within us, who have come together to worship your holy and precious name. Let your life-giving radiance kindle within us a deeper love for one another. May your brilliant light stir us to ever more flourishing unity. Like diverse flowers in the garden of your Kingdom, may your divine brilliance cause us to bloom in harmony. And so, all as one, may we always joyfully praise and glorify you, and the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm

The two sides of the assembly recite or chant verses of the psalm alternately, with all joining together on the response.

Cathy: Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.

A Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.

Side₁ The Lord is king. Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!

Side₂ Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

A Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.

Side₁ Fire goes before him,
and consumes his adversaries on every side.

Side₂ His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.

A Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.

Side₁ The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.

Side₂ The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
and all the peoples behold his glory.

A Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.

Side₁ All servants of images are put to shame, those who make
their boast in worthless idols;
all gods bow down before him.

Side₂ Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O God.

A Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.

Side₁ For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

Side₂ You who love the Lord, hate evil; he guards the lives of his
faithful;
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

A Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.

Side₁ Light dawns for the righteous
and joy for the upright in heart.

Side₂ Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

**A Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.**

HYMN: VU 606 – “In Christ There is No East or West”

THE NICENO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED:

Bathed in the light of the Wisdom of Christ,
together, let us confess our common faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
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 all, and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
On the third day he rose from the dead in accordance
with the scriptures.
He ascended to 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.
Who, with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
We confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the age to come. Amen.**

PRAYER:

Again, in peace, let us beseech the Lord. Let us glorify Almighty God, who has shined his light upon his creatures. Now, may he once more shine his abundant mercy upon those who glorify his name in song. Almighty Lord our God, raise us to life and have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Gracious and almighty Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, you are the true Light, who cast out the darkness of sin, and shined into our hearts the joy and hope of your eternal Kingdom.

Lord, have mercy.

Loving Lord, accept the prayers of all your faithful children throughout the world, who call out to you with one mind, one voice, and one heart. Through your beloved disciple John, you promised that if we walk in your light, then we will have communion with one another, and your precious blood will cleanse us of all sin. Bring us that blessed communion, O Saviour!

Lord, have mercy.

Grant us peace, O Loving Lord, and remove the scourge of civil unrest and violence from the face of the earth. Change the hearts of all who make war and touch the wounds of all who are afflicted by war. Comfort all prisoners of war and speedily bring them home. Let the light of your love shine in all the dark places of our world and hasten the day when all peoples may dwell in peace with justice.

Lord, have mercy.

O Refuge and Shelter, Lord Jesus Christ, look with compassion on refugees throughout the world, who suffer the agony of displacement and the loss of their homes. Move us to manifest our communion with you, with them and with each other through gestures of hospitality and loving help.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, our Saviour, we pray for the people of Armenia and Artsakh, and their kindred throughout the world, who long ago turned to your light through the preaching of the Apostle Thaddeus and the miraculous witness of St. Gregory the Illuminator.

Lord, have mercy.

Shine the light of your righteousness and wisdom on all your creatures. Make us children of light and children of the day, so that we may always live our lives reverently, and become for all the world, worthy lampstands for your life-giving light.

Lord, have mercy.

For you are our Saviour, and to you be glory, dominion and honour, now and always and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

HYMN: VU 79 – “Arise, Your Light is Come”

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

Blessed is our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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 forever and ever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

END OF WORSHIP

BEGINNING OF SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY



*St. Andrew's is a member
of Affirming United*

