

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 12, 2021
10:00 AM



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Setting by Paul Manz

INTROIT *For You O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

REFRAIN: **For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you.**

O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits;
our thirsty hearts are yearning for your word;
come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts. REFRAIN

†CALL TO WORSHIP

A voice calls out in the wilderness.

It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace.

We could choose to ignore it.

We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.

Instead, we come into this space.

We let the world grow quiet. We listen.

A voice calls out in the wilderness.

Do you hear it?

We hear it. In listening, we worship.

Let us draw near to God.

†HYMN 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings! | 3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay. |
| 2. Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there. | 4. Stretch forth your hand; our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine. |

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Sung Response

As We Light the Candle

PICARDY

As we light the candle of joy,
We await the Christ yet to come
Finding joy in our Creator,
Led by a Spirit that roams,
Christ come to us, upon our earth do dwell,
May we carry joy close to home.

Text Rev. John Kupar

WELCOME

The service begins with the first note of the Opening Voluntary.

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

† When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit, as able.

ADVENT THEME AND PRAYERS

This Advent season we are following the theme, "Close to Home" from A Sanctified Art, LLC. A Sanctified Art believes God speaks to us through many mediums and that creativity is an integral part of worship. They create curriculum and worship resources, including the Advent Devotionals found in the Narthex. The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Candle Lighting Liturgy are by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed of A Sanctified Art.

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Expansive God, We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray... *Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.*

SILENCE

The time of silence allows you to speak or listen to God as you best need this morning.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God could not love us any more or any less than God already does.
So rest in this good news:

**We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved.
The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nancy Berlin

SCRIPTURE READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

MUSICAL OFFERING *The People Who Walked in Darkness*

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

Arr. Jayne Southwick Cool

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-18

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

A Home for All

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

After each scripture reading the reader will say, "The Word of the Lord." All are invited to respond, "Thanks be to God."

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN 301

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

REFRAIN: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (REFRAIN)

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: (REFRAIN)

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (REFRAIN)

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (REFRAIN)

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are an Advent people, a people of hope.

For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait.

We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed.

Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist. We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.

But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end.

The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be.

And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS OF GOD'S CHURCH, COMMUNITY & WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Dietrich Buxtehude

Come Now Savior of the Nations

†Offertory Response *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* TALLIS' CANON

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

†Prayer of Dedication

GOING TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

†HYMN 94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

JEFFERSON

Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.

Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline, hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Heavy clouds that block the moonlight now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor, gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness; hearts grow warm to welcome him.

Christ, eternal Sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance hours of yearning, hurt, and need.

In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view:
child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you.

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Continued

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Because we have been forgiven in Christ, we can forgive one another. We demonstrate this by sharing Christ's peace with one another.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 12th

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Worship
11:30 AM Chancel Bells
7:00 PM Fellowship Hour (Zoom)

Monday, December 13th

Tuesday, November 14th

10:00 AM PW Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 15th

12:30 PM Lunch and Learn
7:30 PM Choir

Thursday, December 16th

Friday, December 17th

9:00 AM Church at Prayer
8:00 PM AA/ALAnon

Saturday, December 18th

Sunday, December 19th

9:00 AM Sunday School (Zoom)
10:00 AM Worship
11:30 AM Chancel Bells
1:00 PM Session Meeting
6:30 PM Longest Night
7:00 PM Firepit Fellowship

PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

If you have a prayer concern, please complete a Prayer Request Card, and place it in the offering plate. Please update the office about any changes in the condition of your loved ones.

Paul Ellingson

John Artley

Lynn Kozlosky

In the Nursing Home, Home Care, or Assisted Living:

Peggy Benedict at home
Elinor Bryan - Westminster Village
Del Rey Humphreys-Sunrise
Sue Puckett-Camelia Place
Evelyn Wallace-at home
Ron Weber at home, Betty Weber
Camelia Place

†**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENNI EMMANUEL

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Setting: Dale Wood

WELCOME

Welcome to St Andrews. Your presence is a joy for us.

We invite you to join St Andrews, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), in ministry and in worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Hour this Evening Narthex Fellowship time has moved from after worship Sunday mornings to the second Sunday of the month from 7:00-8:00 pm. Our theme will be favorite Christmas Hymns. Click here to join on a computer, tablet or smart phone. To join by telephone, call: +1-312-626-6799, and enter the meeting ID: 219 872 595.

Presbyterian Women Tuesday, December 14 at 10 a.m. All of the women of St. Andrews are invited to join us on Zoom for the December meeting with our book study, *What My Grandmother Taught Me*. Go to zoom.us or click the link in your email to join on a computer, tablet, or smart phone. Meeting ID: 833 6472 9639 Passcode: PWCircle. (To dial in, call 301-715-8592 Passcode: 02433865)

Skivvies and Shower Shoes for Clifton Sanctuaries Our congregation is collecting donations of underwear, undershirts and shower shoes (flip-flops) in support of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries through December 24th. There are 2 ways to give:

1. Purchase new men's t-shirts, underwear, and shower shoes and drop them off at church, unwrapped, from Sunday, November 28-December 24. There will be collection bins in the narthex and in the breezeway by the office.
2. Make a donation to St. Andrews on-line, or by check. Please put Skivvies & Shower Shoes in the memo line of your check. Online, please choose Mission and fill in Skivvies & Shower Shoes.

Contributions needed: white short-sleeve tee shirts and underwear (many prefer briefs; in sizes M, especially L and XL, and XXL); adult briefs/diapers are also appreciated.

Longest Night Sunday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m., Courtyard. As we approach the longest night of the year, we will pause to honor those who struggle and through scripture, prayer, silence, and candle-lighting we bear witness to the light that has come, and is coming, into the world. This brief service will create a safe and sacred space to lament and grieve the many losses we've experienced in this year and years past. Bring a lawn chair, or we will have folding chairs available. All are welcome.

Firepit Fellowship The Engagement Ministry is planning a s'mores firepit fellowship on Sunday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the parking lot by Heffner Hall after the Longest Night Worship Service. Come make s'mores and enjoy some socially distant fellowship with your church family.

CONNECT AT ST. ANDREWS

Facebook- facebook.com/sapctucker/ *Follow us for photos and announcements*

Website- sapctucker.org *Church Calendar, Youth News, Sermon Archive*

Instagram- st.andrewspresbyteriantucker *Follow us- pictures and updates*

Weekly Email and Monthly Newsletter- *email the office to be added to our list*

Contact Us- 770-938-2833, office@sapctucker.org