

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 19, 2021
10:00 AM



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Lewis Redner
Chancel Bells Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

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.*
Come, let us bow before the God who made us;
let every heart be opened to the Lord,
for we are all the people of God's hand. REFRAIN

†CALL TO WORSHIP

We are seeking—
*deeper faith, a place to belong,
the feeling that God is here in this room.*

We are seeking—
*joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit,
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.*

We are seeking—
*the freedom to be, the courage to love,
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.*

We are seeking, but here in this space,
We are found.

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.
God is here. We are found. Amen.

†HYMN 100

Canticle of the Turning STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

REFRAIN: My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. REFRAIN

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. REFRAIN

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.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. REFRAIN

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Sung Response

As We Light the Candle

PICARDY

As we light the candle of love,
We await the Christ yet to come.
Loving our Creator and neighbor,
In faith we do not live alone.
Christ come to us, upon our earth do dwell,
May we carry love close to home.

Text: Rev. John Kupar

CONFESSING OUR SIN

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary. God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray...

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God's love.

Rest in this promise:

If we get lost,
we will be found.

If we mess up,
we are forgiven.

If we withhold love,
God is lavish in loving us.

We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Carol Gordon

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-45

MUSICAL OFFERING

Hodie Veni Christe

Carl Nygard, Jr.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

Seeking Sanctuary

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

SILENCE

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

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

*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 vio-
 lence 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

Trio on GLORIA

Michael Helman

†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 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

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| <p>1. Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
 for angels herald its dawning.
 Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
 behold! the Child of our longing.
 Come as a baby weak and poor,
 to bring all hearts together,
 he opens wide the heavenly door
 and lives now inside us forever.</p> <p>2. To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
 Emmanuel comes a-singing;
 his humble song is quiet and near,
 yet fills the earth with its ringing;
 music to heal the broken soul
 and hymns of loving-kindness.
 The thunder of his anthems rolls
 to shatter all hatred and violence.</p> | <p>3. In darkest night his coming shall be,
 when all the world is despairing,
 as morning light so quiet and free,
 so warm and gentle and caring.
 Then shall the mute break forth in song,
 the lame shall leap in wonder,
 the weak be raised above the strong,
 and weapons be broken asunder.</p> <p>4. Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.
 Though dark the winter and cheerless,
 the rising sun shall crown you with light
 be strong and loving and fearless.
 Love be our song and love our prayer
 and love our endless story;
 may God fill every day we share
 and bring us at last into glory.</p> |
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†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

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 19th

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

Monday, December 20th

Tuesday, November 21st

Wednesday, December 22nd

7:30 PM Choir

Thursday, December 23rd

Friday, December 24th

5:00 PM Worship
8:00 PM AA/ALAnon
10:45 PM Organ Prelude
11:00 PM Worship

Saturday, December 25th

Sunday, December 26th

9:00 AM Sunday School (Zoom)
10:00 AM Worship (Online Only)

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* VENI EMMANUEL

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* 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

Longest Night Today at 6:30 PM in the 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. All are welcome.

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

Christmas Eve Worship Both services will be available on our YouTube Channel.

5:00 PM Candlelight Family Service: Everyone is invited to gather for worship in Heffner Hall for our early, casual Christmas worship as we sing carols and hear the Christmas story.

10:45 PM Organ Prelude: Candlelight organ prelude of carols

11:00 PM Communion Celebrating Christ's Coming: Celebrate with Word, the Lord's Supper, and Candlelight.

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.

Sunday, December 26 Join us online for the First Sunday of Christmas, as Light of Grace leads us in worship. There will be no in person option on 12/26.

Holiday Hours, Etc. Items for the January Lamplighter are due to the office December 22nd. St. Andrews' office will be closed December 27-31. There will be no Lunch and Learn on December 22 or 29. Church at Prayer will not meet on December 24 or 31.