

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2022

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Puer Nobis Nascitur
A Child is Born for Us

John François Dandrieu

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

I have good news!

I have good news!

Christ is born!

Christ is born!

Joy is alive!

Joy is alive!

God is here.

God is here.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Amen.

HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;

O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

REFRAIN: O come, let us adore him; (3x) Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,

born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

very God, begotten, not created! REFRAIN

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest! REFRAIN

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! REFRAIN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Holy God, too often we feel as if change is hopeless. The problems of this world feel too big, the path forward is unclear, and we are not confident that we can truly make a difference. We give up hope.

Together we pray:

Forgive us for extinguishing hope.

Holy God, too often we believe that peace is a thing of fairy tales. Our spirits are anxious. Our bodies are weary. Our world is fractured. Instead of praying for peace—both in ourselves and in our society—we assume that peace is no longer on the table. We give it up. Together we pray:

Forgive us for extinguishing peace.

Continued

Holy God, too often we paint joy as naive—a luxury reserved for children and pets. We forget that you ate with friends, that you went to weddings, that you laughed and rested and hiked mountains. We forget that you knew joy, and that you want joy for us in this fractured world. Forgive us for turning away from your light. Together we pray:

Forgive us for extinguishing joy.

Holy God, too often we treat love like a vending machine. We put some coins in and assume that we'll get something back. However, in our wiser moments, we know that love is not meant for keeping score. Love is meant to overflow, to spill out to our neighbors, to transform our world. Forgive us for holding love so tightly. Together we pray:

Forgive us for extinguishing love.

Family of faith, sin separates us from things like hope, peace, and joy. Sin wiggles its way between us and love, both love of neighbor and love of self. Fortunately for us, God had something else in mind. God sent God's only son to this world so that we could see another way. So friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: no matter how many times we turn our back on hope, or extinguish peace, or snuff out joy—no matter how many times we let love burn out—God continues to light our way. We are forgiven.

We are seen. We are loved.

The good news of this day—the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of this day—exists for you.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

JOYFUL RESPONSE

Come Christians All, Rejoice

IN DULCE JUBILO

Come Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door and we are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Carol Gordon

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:15-21

POETIC READING

John 1:1-5

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Like Mary,
 we believe in cherishing good news.
Like the angels,
 we believe in singing God's praise.
Like the shepherds,
 we believe that God's presence in our life is something worth talking about.
Like generations before,
 we believe that God is with us.
Like the generations to come,
 we believe that God is with us.
God is here. God is love.
 We believe. Thanks be to God!

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

Offertory Response

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

LAST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

GOING TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

BENEDICTION IN WORD

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

Go Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. (*Refrain*)

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Camille LeBron Powell, Pastor
Ashley Lewis, Coordinator of Congregational Vitality
David Lukens, Director of Music
Edward Weaver, Associate Director of Music and Organist
Pat Baker, Director of Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries
Lonnelle Bruce, Director, St. Andrews School
Gretchen Perkins, Office Manager
Helen Hoang, Finance Administrator

Music Notes

The composer of the Opening Voluntary is unknown and the earliest known copy of the melody, Puer Nobis Nascitur ((A Child is Born for Us)), is found in a manuscript volume dated in the mid 14th century known as the Moosberg Gradual. In the Glory to God hymnal, the tune is married with an Epiphany text by Charles Coffin (1676-1749) This setting is from a collection of organ noëls by Jean François Dandrieu (1682-1739), a highly regarded French Baroque composer, harpsichordist and organist. Born into a Parisian family of artists and musicians, he was a gifted and precocious child, and gave his first public performances when he was 5 years old, playing the harpsichord for King Louis XIV of France, and his court. These concerts marked the beginning of Dandrieu's very successful career.

As one part of the church of Jesus Christ, we are inspired and guided by Christ's vision of God's realm – one that includes all who seek to love God and neighbor.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church welcomes all people, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic situation, family status, mental or physical abilities to become part of the membership and ministry of the church. We welcome all of each of you.