

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2023

10:00 AM



### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Chant de Paix*  
Song of Peace

Jean Langlais

†CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Welcome to worship.

**Welcome to worship.**

I am glad you're here.

**I am glad you're here.**

Surely God is in this space.

**Surely God is in this space.**

I see God in your face.

**I see God in your face.**

Let us worship together.

**Let us worship together.**

How does a weary world practice peace?

**By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.**

By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.

By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

**By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.**

There are a million ways to practice peace.

**With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.**

†HYMN 86

*The People Who Walked in Darkness*

ISAIAH 9

CONFESSING OUR SIN

God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news.

**We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.**

Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

**We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.**

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

**Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection.**

*(Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.)*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

WELCOME

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.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

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

SILENCE

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

†JOYFUL RESPONSE *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

ST. LOUIS

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:  
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

**HEARING GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

LaVerne Byas-Smith

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Pew Bible p. 627(OT)

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

Arr. Howard Helvey

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 1:24-45

Pew Bible p. 52(NT)

**CHILDREN’S LESSON**

**SERMON**

*We Find Joy in Connection*

Rev. Dr. Camille LeBron Powell

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

†HYMN

*I Can Celebrate You*

tune: “In the Bleak Midwinter”

I can celebrate you, I can hold your joy  
When the load is crushing and you’ve lost your voice  
I can celebrate the promise your life holds  
When the weariness bears heavy on your soul  
I can recognize good fruit that you will bear  
When your own self-doubt hides gifts you have to share  
I can recognize your Christ-light deep within  
Every gift that God has sown waiting to begin  
We can hold each other in our joy and fear  
Knowing that the Spirit moves when we are near  
We can hold each other, lift each other up  
Filling one another from the Spirit’s cup

**VITAL CONGREGATIONS SURVEY**

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

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

†**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**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**Invitation**

**Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

I CAN CELEBRATE YOU

Anna Strickland, of Sanctified Art, wrote this original hymn text, connecting images from scripture and our Advent theme to go with a familiar Christmas hymn tune.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Many In the act of remembering that is the Lord’s Supper, we receive and trust the love of Christ present to us and to the world. Through it, we are renewed and empowered to be the church, the body of Christ, in the world.

The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper. Access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.

All are invited to the Lord’s Table to receive Communion, which is served by intinction. Congregants proceed via the center aisle to receive the bread (gluten-free bread and individual cups of juice are available at the center station), which they then dip into the chalice of nonalcoholic grape juice. Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

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.

**Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup**

**Communion of the People**

**Prayer After Communion**

**GOING TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD**

†HYMN 515

*I Come With Joy*

DOVE OF PEACE

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

†BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

*Trio on Gloria*  
*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Michael Helms

If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, we will come to you in your seat.

ADVENT THEME AND LITURGY

This Advent season we are following the theme, "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" 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 and Candle Lighting Liturgy, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation of Faith are adapted from prayers written by Sarah (Are) Speed of A Sanctified Art.

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.

I COME WITH JOY

The Lord's Supper is a joyful feast of the people of God. This hymn encourages and invites us to gather at the Lord's table with joy and receive the meal as the gift that it is.

**CHURCH STAFF**

The Rev. Dr. Camille LeBron Powell, Pastor  
LaVerne Byas-Smith, 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, Financial Administrator

*We have a dedicated page on our website for all our Christmas and Advent events and services.*



## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

8:45 AM Sunday School - All Ages  
10:00 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Chancel Bells  
11:15 AM Diaconate  
4:00 PM Light of Grace:  
The Christmas Story

### **Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 PM AA Meeting

### **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM Presbyterian Women  
7:00 PM Education Ministry

### **Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

12:30 PM Lunch and Learn  
7:00 PM Management Ministry  
7:30 PM Chancel Choir

### **Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 PM Advent Study- Zoom

### **Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM Church at Prayer  
8:00 PM AA Meeting

### **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM Advent Study  
6:00 PM Wedding, Cristo  
Congregation

### **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

8:45 AM Sunday School - All Ages  
10:00 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Chancel Bells  
6:00 PM Lessons and Carols  
7:00 PM Christmas Cookie  
Reception

## PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

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

**Tom Evans**

**Linda Weaver**

**Jan Kopic**

**The family of Elinor Bryan**

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

**Milly Ball** The Atria

**Peggy Benedict** at home

**Henry Tribble** The Villages

**Ron Weber** at home, **Betty Weber**  
Manor Lake

**Linda Weaver** at home

**Ted & Peggy Heffner** Blueridge  
Assisted Living

## WELCOME

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

Please note your presence on the list in the narthex so that members of our church family may welcome you. Your presence is a joy for us.

The Nursery, located in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Heffner Hall, has two dedicated childcare helpers who will stay with young children during worship. For school-age children, the PRAYground is available, near the front of the sanctuary, offering educational and interactive materials, and the Parlor is available for anyone needing a quiet moment outside of the sanctuary.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Light of Grace Presents:** The Christmas Story, this afternoon at St. Andrews at 4:00 PM. Light of Grace is a ministry for adults with special needs. They sing, sign, dance and share the love of Jesus wherever they go. You won't want to miss this special event!

**Nominating Committee** The Nominating Committee has begun the process of identifying and nominating a slate of elder and deacon candidates to present to the congregation later this fall. Please contact Camille or the church to nominate someone (either self or other.)

**Christmas Joy Offering** Next Sunday in Worship, we will take our annual Christmas Joy Offering which benefits the PC(USA) Board of Pensions, providing assistance to retired church workers and clergy and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges serving communities of color. Please put "Christmas Joy" on the memo line of your check, or use the envelopes available in the Narthex.

**Lessons and Carols** is a candlelight worship service of Scripture and music to celebrate the Lord's birth. This service involves carols for choir singers, instruments, handbells, and the congregation. A Christmas Cookie Celebration will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a batch of your favorite cookies to share if you wish to. Also, bring your friends and neighbors to enjoy the service and celebrate the good news.

**"Skivvies & More" Collection** We are collecting items for the men at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries December 10th - 17th. White t-shirts, boxers & briefs in sizes M-XXL are needed (No socks this year). Other items requested this year are adult backpacks, shower shoes, wallets and gloves. Please bring your donations of new, unwrapped items to the collection boxes in the narthex or outside the office door in the courtyard.

**Presbyterian Women** The PW are having a potluck lunch at their December meeting this Tuesday, December 12th at 10:00 AM. All the women of the church are welcome to attend.

### **Advent Studies**

During the Sunday School hour, the Sunday Morning Together class is studying *Advent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield.

We are studying *Names for the Messiah* by Walter Bruggemann on Zoom Thursdays at 7:00 PM, or in person in the Meeting Room, Saturdays at 10:00 AM.

## CONNECT AT ST. ANDREWS

**Facebook-** facebook.com/sapctucker/ *Like and follow us – for photos and announcements.*

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

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

**Weekly Email and Monthly Newsletter-** office@sapctucker.org *to be added to our list,*

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