

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2023

10:00 AM



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

A Virgin Most Pure

Setting: Raymond Haan

†CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

God How does a weary world rejoice?

We sing songs of hope.

We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary's song.

We gather for worship.

We hope.

We hope.

Against all odds, we hope.

Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

As we turn to lighting the advent candles, I ask you:

How does a weary world practice love?

By sending cards, and picking up the phone.

By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others.

By learning people's stories and finding common ground.

By advocating for justice, and saving a place at the table.

There are a million ways to practice love.

So today we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge.

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

†HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Holy God- More days than not, hope feels like the rain.

We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely.

Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow.

We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people.

Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world.

With open hearts, we pray, *(Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.)*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

I am God's beloved.

I am God's beloved.

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.

COME THOU LONG

EXPECTED JESUS

This familiar hymn is often associated as a signal of the advent season, though there is little focus on the nativity. The lyrics remind us of the larger mystery to be celebrated in Christ's birth: freedom from fear and death.

SILENCE

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

I am forgiven.

I am forgiven.

I am blessed and sent to serve.

I am blessed and sent to serve.

This is the good news of the Gospel. This is a hope we can hang our hats on.

Thanks be to God for God's unending love. Amen.

†JOYFUL RESPONSE

Love Will Come!

BRING A TORCH

Love will come - a light in the darkness!

Love will fill the Bethlehem skies.

Soon, all heaven will come to proclaim it

Soon, their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!

Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Margaret Williams

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

Pew Bible p. 53(NT)

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Angel Gabriel

Arr. Jeremy Young

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:67-80

Pew Bible p. 54(NT)

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

We Sing Stories of Hope

Rev. Dr. Camille LeBron Powell

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN

Lullaby of Praise

Johann G. Ebeling

Please see the insert

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that hope can change the world.

We believe that God uses ordinary people, like an unwed teenage mother, for extraordinary good.

And we believe that each of these ordinary people can make a difference.

We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound.

We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope.

But we choose hope anyway.

In the face of hardship, we hope together. We hope with God.

We hope for a better world. This is our song.

We believe; help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

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

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

†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

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.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

LULLABY OF PRAISE

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

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.

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 88 vs. 1, 5-7 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

†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 *Fugue on the 'Magnificat'* Johann Pachelbel

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

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.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

This quintessential Advent hymn has one of the longest histories of any postbiblical text in our hymnal. The original structure of "O Antiphons" in each stanza highlights different messianic titles. The Biblical names for Jesus that remain in the current hymn include: Emmanuel, Wisdom, Lord of Might, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Rising Son (Dayspring), and King (Desire) of Nations.

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

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 24th

8:45 AM Sunday School - All Ages
10:00 AM Worship
4:30 PM Cocoa and Crafts
5:00 PM Candlelight Worship
10:45 PM Organ Prelude
11:00 PM Candlelight Worship

Monday, December 25th

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, December 26th

Wednesday, December 27th

Thursday, December 28th

Friday, December 29th

10:00 AM Memorial Service for
Elinor Bryan
8:00 PM AA Meeting

Saturday, December 30th

Sunday, December 31st

8:45 AM Sunday School - All Ages
10:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Lunches for Clifton

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

Christy Meeks

**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

Christmas Eve Worship We hope you will join us for worship this evening.

Christmas Eve Offering This evening the offerings at our Christmas Eve services will be donated to the Calvin Center in Hampton, Georgia. For 60+ years Calvin Center (originally named Camp Calvin) has been a place where kids have come for the adventure of summer camp and horseback riding, while others have come to retreat and find rest and renewal surrounded by nature on the beautiful campus. Over the years St. Andrews youth have participated in service days and mission retreats here, while our adults have enjoyed numerous music and Presbyterian Women retreats as well. Of special note, SAPC member Paul Burns is currently the Facilities Director who lovingly tends to the 536-acre campus. Calvin Center offers a welcoming sanctuary for re-creation and Christian nurture.

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.)

Church Office Closed St. Andrews' office is closed December 25-January 1st.

Year-End Giving In order for your gift to be applied to 2023, you can give the following ways:

In Worship on Sunday, December 31st

By Mail- postmarked by 12/30/23

Online- paid by 12/27/23

Drop off- office mail slot by Sunday, 12/31/23. The mail slot is located to the left of the office door on the courtyard side of the church office building, below window that looks into Gretchen's office.

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