

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

10:00 AM



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*

Paul Laubengayer

†CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

**inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful,
connected or curious, and everything in between.**

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

As we turn to lighting the advent candle, I ask you: How does a weary world hope?

**By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night,
and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.**

By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

There are a million ways to practice hope.

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

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

†HYMN 88 v. 1-4

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Remind us that your good news knows no bounds.

(Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God's love keeps showing up for us. So say this with me:

We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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.

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.

SILENCE

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

†JOYFUL RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yes in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Charlton Allen

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Pew Bible p. 511(OT)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Listen to the Voice of Gladness

James Biery

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:5-23

Pew Bible p. 52(NT)

CHILDREN’S LESSON

SERMON

We Acknowledge Our Weariness

Rev. Dr. Camille LeBron Powell

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

†HYMN

Weary World Rejoice

To the tune of Silent Night

1.) Weary world, God’s own vine
Tears our only bread and wine
Crying out to be restored
Desperate for a break from war
Weary world rejoice
Come and raise your voice

3.) Weary world, out of hope
Disbelief is how we cope
We’ve left faith to rot and rust
Dreams are covered in layers of dust
Weary world rejoice
Come and raise your voice

2.) Weary world, broken and bruised
Name of God so misused
Can we see the light of Christ
Glowing in each person we spite
Weary world rejoice
Come and raise your voice

4.) Weary world, waiting still
Holding our breath until
Christ returns in truth and grace
Will we recognize his face?
Weary world rejoice
Come and raise your voice

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who hears our prayers,
who knows the shape and form of our weariness.
We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us,
not just survival and existence.
We believe in a God who looks ahead,
who is not done dreaming for the world—
a God who sends hope in the form of people and change,
movements and Spirit.
And so we return to this space.
We bring our joy and our weariness like two sides of the same coin,
and we trust that God is already at work.
Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers.
Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

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

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

WEARY WORLD REJOICE

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

†**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.

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 79**

Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE 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**

People, Look East!

Kristina Langlois

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.

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.

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 3rd

8:45 AM Sunday School - All Ages
10:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Chancel Bells
11:15 AM Engagement Ministry

Monday, December 4th

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, December 5th

Wednesday, December 6th

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

Thursday, December 7th

5:00 PM Light of Grace
7:00 PM Advent Study- Zoom

Friday, December 8th

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

Saturday, December 9th

10:00 AM Advent Study

Sunday, December 10th

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

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

Christy Meeks, daughter-in-law of Burrelle

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, next Sunday 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. Members of the congregation who wish to suggest someone (either self or another member) for these positions should complete the Nominating Committee Suggestion Form found in the Narthex, or email Camille or the church office.

"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.) Additionally we are collecting 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.

Advent Studies

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

We will also be 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.

Advent Devotionals and Calendars are available in the Narthex and in the breezeway by the office. There are also small flyers available with our Christmas and Advent information. Please take one and invite your friends, family, or neighbors to join us.

Welcome Anna Price as our guest organist this morning. Please welcome her after worship today. Ed Weaver is in Annapolis as harpsichordist for performances of Handel's *Messiah*.

Christmas & Advent Web Page Back by popular demand, we have a dedicated page on our website for all our events and services during Advent and Christmas. Use the camera on your cell phone to scan the code, or go to: <https://sapctucker.org/advent-and-christmas/>



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