

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 9, 2018
10:00 AM



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Setting by Paul Manz

†CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

I feel peace in beautiful kinesthetic moments: In moments when we hold hands around the table for grace, or when you see siblings laughing at shared memories; In moments that we as a church share, when we baptize babies, or hear the choir sing in harmony; In moments when we hear God say again in scripture, “One day every valley will be lifted up,” and, “Darkness did not overcome the light.”

In such a broken world, peace can feel abstract, impossible, and naive.

And yet, we come to this sanctuary week after week and say, “The peace of Christ be with you,” because we believe that God sounds, feels, and looks like peace.

So family of God, we light this candle—the candle of peace—as a reminder that when we draw near to God, we are drawing near to peace.

*Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.*

Thanks be to God.
Amen.

†HYMN 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

†JOYFUL RESPONSE *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

**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!**

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.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Text: 12th Century Latin.
Music: 13th Century Plain Chant.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH

Each week of Advent we will sing a verse of Hymn 85 as part of our lighting of the Advent candles. This hymn underscores the “waiting” theme of the season.

TIME OF SILENCE

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

†SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The prophet Isaiah wrote, “They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” The peace of the one born the Prince of Peace be with you all.

And also with you.

You are invited to greet one another with a handshake, saying “The peace of Christ be with you.”

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

David McCowen

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Malachi 3:1-4

Pew Bible, page 838(OT)

MUSICAL OFFERING *Listen to the Voice of Gladness*

James Biery

GOSPEL READING Luke 3:1-6

Pew Bible, page 56(NT)

CHILDREN’S LESSON

SERMON *Terrible and Hopeful* Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

†HYMN 87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

GENEVAN 42

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, robed in splendor, veiled in mystery, ruler alike of darkness and light.

We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who was tortured and put to death, but whose radiance could not be quenched; whose touch brings a blaze of color to a dull, drab world: reviving the weary, healing the wounded, dazzling the satisfied.

We walk with God, guided by the light of God’s loving spirit, who enters the shadowed places of our hearts and leads us into truth and life.

We wait for God, and for the fulfilment of God’s promises, for the time when darkness will hold no fear and the light will no longer blind, but creation will be made whole once more and God’s peace will reign forever.

Amen.

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

Magnificat

Marcel Dupré

†Offertory Response *What Can I Give Him*

CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

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.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

Drawing on Isaiah 40:1-5 and Luke 3:4-6, this classic German hymn focusses on the preaching of Christ’s forerunner, John.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Today’s affirmation comes from *Candles and Conifers*, a resource from the Wild Goose Worship Group out of Iona, Scotland. Written as a creed for Advent, it draws on the images in this season’s scripture readings: waiting, darkness and light, hope and peace.

OFFERTORY

The text for today’s offertory comes from Luke 1:46-55, Mary’s song of praise.

†Prayer of Dedication

GOING TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

†HYMN 163

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

ABERYSTWYTH

†INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

†BENEDICTION IN WORDS

†BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Canticle of the Turning

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

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 those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
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.

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

Fugue on the Magnificat

Johann Pachelbel

CANTICLE OF THE
TURNING

Each week during Advent our response to the benediction in word will be a stanza from this powerful Advent hymn, which is a paraphrase of the *Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55).

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Camille LeBron Powell, Pastor
John McCrosky, Director of Children and Youth Ministries
David Lukens, Director of Music
Edward Weaver, Associate Director of Music and Organist
Ann McKinney, Director, St. Andrews School
Gretchen Perkins, Administrative Assistant



CALENDAR

Sunday, December 9th

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Worship
11:30 AM Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting
4:00 PM Chancel Bells
5:00 PM Youth Choir
6:00 PM Youth Group/Dinner

Monday, December 10th

6:30 PM Chrismon Making
8:00 PM AA/ALAnon

Tuesday, December 11th

Wednesday, December 12th

5:45 PM Big Table
7:30 PM Chancel Choir
8:00 PM AA/ALAnon

Thursday, December 13th

Friday, December 14th

9:00 AM Church at Prayer
8:00 PM AA/ALAnon

Saturday, December 15th

10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal for Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 16th

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Worship
6:30 PM Lessons & Carols, 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. Please update the office about any changes in the condition of your loved ones.

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

Sharon Shenkman-North Decatur HRC, Evelyn Wallace-at home, Clyde & Jane Wentz-The Phoenix at Tucker, Sue & Bona Puckett-The Phoenix at Tucker Orin & Barbara Mattheis-Regency House, Linda Weaver at home

WELCOME

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

Please note your presence in the registry of friendship so that members of our church family may welcome you.

Your presence is a joy for us.

Nursery Care is available in the Education Building, Room 107.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Big Table Join us this Wednesday evening for dinner at Big Table at 5:45. We will have advent programs for all ages from 6:30-7:30.

Chrismon Making All ladies are invited to help in making Chrismons for this year. It is a St. Andrews tradition that each family that attends Christmas Eve services at SAPC receives a Chrismon ornament to take home. Please join us on Monday, December 10th at 6:30 PM in the church library.

Youth News Join us for Youth Choir at 5:00 and Youth Group at 6:00 PM today. Bring a friend and get ready to have a blast.

Lessons and Carols Join us Sunday, December 16th at 6:30 pm for a candlelight Worship service of Scripture and music for all ages, preparing for the celebration of our Lord's birth with carols for choirs, instruments, handbells and the congregation. A Christmas Cookie Celebration will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your friends and neighbors and share the good news of Christ's coming. Nursery Provided.

Christmas cookies are needed by the dozens and dozens for the reception following Lessons and Carols on December 16. Donated cookie tins are also needed. Contact Paige Kubik at paigemk@gmail.com or 404-895-4210 with any questions.

Community Service Opportunity Our congregation provides dinner for up to 30 men on the 4th Sunday & the 5th Friday of the each month at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Please see our website for more details. Feel free to attend with one of our scheduled groups to become familiar with the facility and meal service. Questions, please contact Mike Bearden: michaelrbearden@bellsouth.net.

The Gospel Reading Project aims to get people reading their Bibles and to build friendships among our congregation's members. One way we hope to reach these goals is through reading groups. These groups will meet weekly for no more than 1 hour, be self-directed, and have a host to help convene the group. Please see our website for more information. Resource materials are available in the narthex, church office, and electronically. <http://sapctucker.org/a-closer-walk/>

Longest Night Worship Service The service will be Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30 PM. Preceded by dinner with Big Table in the Fellowship Hall at 5:45 PM. Through visual art, poetry, prayer, song and candle-lighting ~ as we approach the longest night of the year, we will pause from the hustle and bustle of the season to honor those who struggle and to witness to the light that has come, and is coming into the world. This service will create a safe and sacred space for those who are struggling to feel the joy and light of the holiday season due to loss of any kind. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve Services will be held at 5:00 and 11:00 PM on December 24th.

CONNECT AT ST. ANDREWS

Facebook- [facebook.com/sapctucker/](https://www.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](https://www.instagram.com/standrewspresbyteriantucker/) Follow us- pictures and updates

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