

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 16, 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 *Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying* Paul Manz

INTROIT *Prepare the Way of the Lord* *Glory to God Kids*

†CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We sing, "Joy to the world!"

**Joy to the world.**

The whole world. The world God has in God's hands.

**The world that seems to be shrinking and spinning faster every day.**

The world of seas and mountains, rivers and streams.

**The world of honeysuckle and evergreen, morning snow and firesides.**

Joy to the world!

**Joy to this world—**

To every person and to every dream. Joy to you.

**Joy to me.**

Joy to the world—

**For love is real, and God is here.**

*Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.*

*Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.*

The sun will shine.

**Darkness will not overcome it.**

Joy to the world!

**Joy to this world. Amen.**

†HYMN 804 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* MARION

CONFESSING OUR SIN

God, our fears and prejudices run deep. Sometimes we can only see our own point of view. We stick with those who are like us, rarely venturing out side our comfort zones. We do not hear those crying for justice and true peace. We blame those who are suffering and in need, instead of standing by them. We deny the power of your gospel to unite us with those who are different from us. But Lord, gratefully we are always invited to change, to turn, to repent. Lord, give us eyes to see and ears to hear. Open us to new possibilities of life for all of your people, and use us to enact the new life given in Christ.

*Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.*

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

16th century German Carol based on Matthew 25:1-13. Refer to Hymn 349.

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.

REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART

This hymn is appropriate on the third week of Advent, when we focus on "joy". This is a joyous hymn celebrating the gift of song. It also conveys the understanding that what we do in worship carries out into our lives beyond the sanctuary. Therefore, song is an essential companion on the Christian journey.

TIME OF SILENCE

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

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

†JOYFUL RESPONSE

*Come Christians All, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

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

†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

Charlton Allen

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Zephaniah 3:14-20

Pew Bible, page 826(OT)

MUSICAL OFFERING *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Michael Larkin  
Text: Johann Olearius

GOSPEL READING Luke 3:7-18

Pew Bible, page 88(NT)

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

*Herpetology and Theology:  
How to Get Ready for Jesus* Rev. Chad Wright Pittman

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN 96

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

WINCHESTER NEW

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; he resurrection of the body; and the life ever lasting. 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**

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Dietrich Buxtehude

## 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."

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Following the proclamation of the Word, the congregation is given the opportunity to respond to hearing God's Word by affirming what the church believes and expressing our faith. This gives us the opportunity to say what we believe about God and what God has done in history. Our faith statements should reflect the deep commitment of our lives.

## OFFRETORY

Refer to Hymn 102.

†**Offertory Response**      *What Can I Give Him*  
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.

CRANHAM

†**Prayer of Dedication**

GOING TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

†**HYMN 79**      *Light Dawns on a Weary World*      TEMPLE OF PEACE

†**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**      *Variation on HYFRYDOL*      Charles Callahan

LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD  
With the imagery of light, love, and hope, this hymn reflects themes of the season. We sing of creation rejoicing and the hope for joy, peace, and God's *shalom*.

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).

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC  
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus.

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

The  
*Longest Night*  
A service of light in the  
midst of darkness

Wednesday, December 19  
Dinner 5:45 Service 6:30 pm

 Saint Andrews  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
sapctucker.org

## CALENDAR

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

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship  
6:30 PM Lessons & Carols,  
Cookie Reception

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

8:00 PM AA/ALAnon

### **Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM Presbyterian Women

### **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

5:45 PM Big Table  
6:30 PM Longest Night Service  
7:30 PM Chancel Choir  
8:00 PM AA/ALAnon

### **Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

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

### **Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

### **Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship

### **Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 PM Worship  
11:00 PM Worship

## 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.

**Earl Meeks**

### 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

**Welcome** We welcome The Rev. Chad Wright Pittman in worship leadership today. He is the City Director for DOOR Atlanta, where he works to connect churches to local mission and service opportunities.

**Lessons and Carols** Join us Today at 6:30 PM for a candlelight Worship service for all ages of Scripture and music 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.

**Presbyterian Women** All of the women of St. Andrews are invited to join the PW for their December meeting on Tuesday, December 18 at 10:00 AM in the meeting room. We will have bible study, followed by lunch at Mary O'Brien's house. Contact Jackie Harper with any questions, 770-934-3463.

**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 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Family Service** Come sing carols and hear the Christmas story told by our children and youth. **10:30 p.m. Organ Prelude** Candlelight organ prelude of carols telling the Christmas Story. **11:00 p.m. Communion Celebrating Christ's Coming** Celebrate with Word, the Lord's Supper, and Candlelight.

**Thank you St. Andrews** You donated \$647 to the Christmas Joy offering, providing assistance to current and retired church workers in times of need, and to developing future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

**Holiday Office Hours** The office will be closed December 24th-January 1st. Any pledges or contributions you wish to apply to 2018 must be in the offering by Sunday, Dec. 30th, or post-marked by December 31st. Please contact our finance administrator, Debbie Hutto, with any questions. 770-938-2833 ex. 104 or [finance@sapctucker.org](mailto:finance@sapctucker.org).

**Lamplighter Deadline** Articles and announcements are due to the office on December 18<sup>th</sup> for the January Lamplighter.

## CONNECT AT ST. ANDREWS

**Facebook-** [facebook.com/sapctucker/](https://www.facebook.com/sapctucker/) Like and follow us – for photos and announcements.

**Website-** [sapctucker.org](http://sapctucker.org) Church Calendar, Sunday School Page, Youth News, Sermon Archive

**Instagram-** [st.andrewspresbyterianatucker](https://www.instagram.com/st.andrewspresbyterianatucker/) Follow us- pictures and updates

**Weekly Email and Monthly Newsletter-** [office@sapctucker.org](mailto:office@sapctucker.org) to be added to our list.