

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 15, 2019
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 the Night is Flying* J.S. Bach

†CALL TO WORSHIP

What can't wait?

Hope for a better day.

What can't wait?

Peace and repentance, among and within us.

What can't wait?

Joy and delight! Our cup runs over.

What can't wait?

Love for self, love for neighbor, love for Creator, and love for creation.

Joy told me to tell you- she's at the door. She delights in who you are.
She's inviting you to dance. I pray and pray you'll let her in

Let us worship Our God of Justice, Love and Peace. Amen.

†HYMN 86 *The People Who Walked in Darkness* ISAIAH 9

CONFESSING OUR SIN AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

...I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for joy.

**In a world where suffering and violence plague the news,
I will choose to delight in that which is good.**

When the realities of the world leave us feeling hopeless, God renews us; When our fear becomes immobilizing, God comforts us; and when our stability leads us to apathy and inaction, God forgives us. Confident in God's grace, let us confess, before God and one another, the ways we fallen short.

In front of God and this church, we confess-

We are quick to complain, quick to criticize and conform. We are quick to forget, quick to doubt and deny. Instead of singing praise, we often stay silent. Forgive us when we choose criticism over community and despair over delight. Realign us with your vision of hope, peace, joy, and love. Guide us as we seek to follow Your light, which shines in all creation...

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.

†CHORAL PETITION 92 *While We are Waiting, Come* WAITING

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

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.

ADVENT THEME AND PRAYERS

This Advent season we are following the theme, "What Can't Wait" 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, Prayer of Confession, and Candle Lighting Liturgy are adapted from prayers written by Sarah Are of A Sanctified Art.

SILENCE

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

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

This week, we light the candle of joy to remind us that darkness does not have the last word.

May this light guide and inspire us as we work to spread God's joy and delight through this world. Amen.

†SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Joy told me to tell you- she's at the door. She's inviting you to dance. I pray and pray you'll let her in. Delighting in the holy dance that is community...let us share the peace of Christ with one another and with the world. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

You are invited to greet one another with a sign of peace, saying "The peace of Christ be with you."

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merle Westbrook

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 35:1-10

Pew Bible, page 602(OT)

MUSICAL OFFERING *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

Howard Helvey

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:46b-55

Pew Bible, page 2(NT)

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

Delight Can't Wait

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE OF PEACE

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

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory

Magnificat

Marcel Dupré

†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

THE 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 up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to lift up thanks and praise.

...We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together, saying:

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."

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.

OFFERTORY

Song of Mary - Luke 1:46-55

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 church members. With the knowledge that we can never earn the grace we receive

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

Communion Song *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* O-SO-SO

Come now, and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec - on - cile all peo - ple.

Prayer after Communion

GOING TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

†**HYMN 100** *Canticle of the Turning* STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

†**INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

†**BENEDICTION IN WORDS**

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC *Fugue on the Magnificat* Johann Pachelbel

through Christ, we believe that anyone with the desire to come to the table demonstrates a desire to know Christ, and is welcome. 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 cup in order 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 today. Congregants proceed via the center aisle to receive the bread (gluten-free bread is 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.

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING
 This powerful Advent hymn is a paraphrase of the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) and incorporates many other images from scripture. The first three stanzas are addressed to God and the fourth is addressed to other people within the faith.

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
- Pat Baker, Director of Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries
- Bonnie Gladden, Director, St. Andrews School
- Gretchen Perkins, Office Manager
- Debbie Hutto, Financial Administrator
- Kristen Sommerfeld, Seminary Intern

Join us in Worship & Fellowship

WHAT CAN'T WAIT

Advent 2019

WWW.SAPCTUCKER.ORG

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15th

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Worship
4:00 PM Chancel Bells
4:00 PM Youth Trip

Monday, December 16th

8:00 PM AA/ALAnon

Tuesday, December 17th

10:00 AM Presbyterian Women

Wednesday, December 18th

5:45 PM Big Table

Thursday, December 19th

Friday, December 20th

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

Saturday, December 21st

10:00 AM Rehearsal Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 22nd

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Worship
6:30 PM Lessons and Carols Reception

Monday, December 23rd

8:00 PM AA/ALAnon

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00 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.

Lisa Bunce

The family of Bona Puckett

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

Sharon Shenkman-North Decatur
HRC, Evelyn Wallace-at home
Clyde Wentz-The Phoenix at Tucker
Sue Puckett-Camellia Place
Barbara Mattheis-Regency House
Ron and Betty Weber 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.

Our youngest worshippers are invited to our Prayground, a worship area in the front of the sanctuary where they are able to engage in quiet activities while learning the rituals of worship. On Sundays with communion, the children will return to their families after the sermon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Services will be at 5:00 and 11:00 PM, with an organ prelude preceding the later service.

Youth The youth will meet at 4:00 PM for a trip downtown to Atlanta's Crisctkindlemarkt. Bring money for supper and shopping and a friend. Contact John McCrosky with any questions, john@sapctucker.org. We should return to the church at 8:00 PM.

Little Light Join Little Light and all of their friends this afternoon at 2:30 PM for their presentation of *The Christmas Story*. The performance will be held at Briarlake Baptist Church in the sanctuary. Admission is free. (3715 Lavista Rd. Decatur)

Parking Lot Rental Our west parking lot, by the office building, has been rented to a movie company on December 17, 18, and 20. If you are planning to come to SAPC those days, please park in the east lot, by the sanctuary.

Big Table Big Table for Advent concludes on Wednesday, December 18 at 5:45 PM. Join us for our inter-generational dinner, fellowship, and learning. All ages are welcome. Dinner is from local restaurants for a cost of \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids age 5-12, and free for kids under 5. Family max for dinner is \$20. Please contact the office, or Merle Westbrook to let us know you're coming, 770-934-4735.

A Socks and Skivvies Tree to support Clifton Sanctuary Ministries is in the Narthex from Dec 15-29. Contributions needed include: socks (white crew and dark dress socks of sizes 10-13); white short-sleeve tee shirts and underwear (many prefer briefs; in sizes M, especially L and XL, and XXL). Please do not wrap as Christmas presents, gifts maybe placed in the donation box by the tree, and will be delivered in early January. Questions: contact Joshua Price, 770-921-1231.

Presbyterian Women All the women of St. Andrews are invited to attend the next meeting of the Presbyterian Women on Tuesday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room. After Bible Study, there will be a covered dish lunch at Deanna McFarlan's home.

Lessons and Carols Join us next Sunday, December 22 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 Heffner Hall. Bring your friends and neighbors and share the good news of Christ's coming. Nursery Provided.

Lessons and Carols Cookie Reception Christmas cookies are needed by the dozens and dozens for the reception following Lessons and Carols on December 22. All of the remaining cookies will be festively wrapped and delivered to various shelters and ministries in the area. Donated cookie tins are also welcome for the repackaging! Contact Heather Morse 770-395-6531 to sign up.

Holiday Office Hours The office will be closed December 24th-27th and January 1st-3rd.

Year-End Contributions Any pledges or contributions you wish to apply to 2019 must be in the offering by Sunday, Dec. 29th, in the drop slot in the office by December 31st 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.

Lamplighter Deadline Articles and announcements are due to the office on Friday, December 20th for the January Lamplighter.