

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2022

10:00 AM



### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

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

†CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

May its light remind us of the many sources of joy in our lives,  
and may that joy not only draw us closer to one another, but closer to God.  
Amen.

†HYMN 104 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

CONFESSING OUR SIN

God of mercy,  
a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,  
to assume the best in others,  
to give the benefit of the doubt.  
A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't.  
Fear and greed kick in.  
Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.  
Comparison and critique lead the charge.  
Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.  
Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.  
Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.  
Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,  
and the wisdom to choose a better way.  
*Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

†JOYFUL RESPONSE *Come Christians All, Rejoice* IN DULCE JUBILO

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

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Tom Evans

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 35:1-10

MUSICAL OFFERING *Prepare the Way of the Lord* William Rowan

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:18-25

#### 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 Plainchant

#### ADVENT THEME AND LITURGY

This Advent season we are following the theme, "From Generation to Generation..." 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. sanctifiedart.org

#### SILENCE

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

#### SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

Based on Isaiah 40:4-5

## CHILDREN'S LESSON

### SERMON

*We Can Choose a Better Way* Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### †HYMN 83

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

STUTTGART

### †AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges.

We believe in a God who opens the door to new life  
and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.

We believe in a God who believes in us- believes that we can make a difference,  
that we can choose grace over comparison,  
love over hate,  
peace over war.

And so we strive to live our lives in love.

We strive to listen as Joseph listened,  
and to be the people that God calls us to be.

It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

This we believe. 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 Response

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

## GOING TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

### †HYMN 100

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

### †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

*Postlude on* STUTTGART

Raymond Haan

### 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.

### MY SOUL CRIES OUT WITH A JOYFUL SHOUT

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.

### 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. Camille LeBron Powell, Pastor  
Ashley Lewis, 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  
Lonneta Bruce, Director, St. Andrews School  
Gretchen Perkins, Office Manager  
Helen Hoang, Financial Administrator



Advent Book Study  
*Light of the World* by Amy-Jill Levine  
online Wednesdays, 12:30 pm  
or in person Saturdays, 11 am

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WORSHIP  SUNDAYS  
10 AM

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Light of Grace presents  
The Christmas Story  
December 11, 4 pm

Lessons and Carols  
December 18, 6:30 pm

The Longest Night  
and Firepit Fellowship  
December 21, 6:30 pm

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CANDLELIGHT  SERVICES DECEMBER 24  
5 PM & 11 PM

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December 25, 10 am  
Christmas morning Worship will be  
online: YouTube.com/@sapctucker

For more information, please see our website:  
[sapctucker.org/advent-and-christmas/](http://sapctucker.org/advent-and-christmas/)

*As one part of the church of Jesus Christ, we are inspired and guided by Christ's vision of God's realm – one that includes all who seek to love God and neighbor.*

*St. Andrews Presbyterian Church welcomes all people, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic situation, family status, mental or physical abilities to become part of the membership and ministry of the church.*

*We welcome all of each of you.*

*Approved and adopted by the Session of St. Andrews, August 2019*

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Chancel Bells  
11:15 AM *Not Carrying it Alone* Class  
4:00 PM Light of Grace Presents  
The Christmas Story

### **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM Crismon Making  
8:00 PM AA Meeting

### **Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

12:30 PM Advent Study (Zoom)  
4:30 PM Light of Grace  
7:30 PM Chancel Choir

### **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

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

9:00 AM OACM Day Trip  
8:00 PM AA Meeting

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

11:00 AM Advent Study

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

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship  
11:00 am *Remembering Your Story*  
Class  
1:00 PM Session  
6:30 PM Lessons and 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, or contact the office. Please update the office about any changes in the condition of your loved ones.

**Congratulations to the Brilling family on the birth of Charlie Lee Brilling on November 22nd**

**Marcia Noble's daughter, Michelle**

**Robert Hall**

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

**Millie Ball** at home  
**Peggy Benedict** at home  
**Elinor Bryan** Westminster Village  
**Henry Tribble** The Villages  
**Ron Weber** at home, **Betty Weber**  
Camelia Place

## 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.

Families are welcome to use the parlor in the narthex during worship. Books, quiet games, and comfy seating are available, and you will be able to view a live stream of the service. For those who wish to stay in the sanctuary, the PRAYground is available, offering educational and interactive materials.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Advent Devotionals** are available in the Narthex and in the courtyard by the office door.

**"Socks & Skivvies" Collection** We are collecting new underwear and undershirts for the men of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries through December 18th. Socks are not needed, but they do need men's underwear and white t-shirts in sizes M-XXL. Bring donations to the tree in the narthex, or to the collection bin in the breezeway by the church office door through December 18th.

**Not Carrying It Alone** Join your St. Andrews community today after worship for a time of reflection and remembrance as we seek to bear the weight of grief collectively. You are invited to bring one or more artifacts that represent your grief. While no words are required, those who wish to talk about their experiences will be invited to do so. In sharing, remembering, and lamenting, we hope to embrace the reminder that no one is carrying their burdens alone.

**Light of Grace** Plan to join us today at 4:00 PM, and bring your friends and neighbors for Light of Grace's performance of *The Christmas Story*. The angels will dance – the choir will sing and sign – and the Scriptures will be recited by the members of Light of Grace, a ministry for persons with Special Abilities.

**Advent Book Study** Our study of *Light of the World* by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine has begun. Join us on Zoom on Wednesday at 12:30 PM or in the Meeting Room on Saturday at 11:00 AM.

**Crismon Making** Join us in Heffner Hall on Monday, December 12th at 10:00 AM to make this year's Crismons. Contact Margaret Williams, with any questions.

**Lessons and Carols** is a candlelight worship service of Scripture and music to celebrate the Lord's birth. A Christmas cookie celebration will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a batch of your favorite cookies to share if you wish. Also, bring your friends and neighbors to enjoy the service and celebrate the good news of Christ's coming. Sunday, December 18th, 6:30 PM.

**Advent and Christmas at SAPC** There are a lot of wonderful events coming up at St. Andrews. We have dedicated a page on our website with details: <http://sapctucker.org/advent-and-christmas/>. There are also postcards in the narthex to use to invite your neighbors.

## 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.andrewspresbyteriantucker](https://www.instagram.com/standrewspresbyteriantucker) Follow us- pictures and updates

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

**Contact Us-** 770-938-2833, [office@sapctucker.org](mailto:office@sapctucker.org)