

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



January 1, 2023

1st Sunday of Christmas

January 1, 2023

10:30 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

"See Amid the Winter's Snow"

JOHN GOSS

"Be still and know that I am God."

Psalm 46:10

(Please use this time to prepare for worship in silence.)

WORDS OF WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

PASSING THE PEACE

"...I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Matthew 25:35b

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

(The people may greet each other in the spirit of Christ.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

The year has thinned, the light is weaker, and the season is waning.

Yet here we are in the place of life, for this people of God believes in prospects beyond time and season.

We might live in the echo of stables and incarnation, holding onto faith in these last days,

Yet what do we do but dream and perform acts of renewal and rebirth, of baptism and hope, of seeking new life shaped in Jesus Christ.

So let us gather in what the world sees as the cusp of the year, yet we know as another day in the eternity of Christ's love.

As God's beloveds, we celebrate who we are and who we are yet to be.

Come let us gather together and worship the Divine Mystery!

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN 5

"God, the Sculptor of the Mountains"

JENNINGS-HOUSTON

CONFESSION AND PARDON (Please be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

As we begin a new year, O God, we confess our sin in the year that is past.

We have often sought our own welfare and not the welfare of others. We

have complained about the state of the world while doing little to change it. We have spent time worrying and talking instead of praying and listening. We have invested energy in our appearances instead of being invested in the renewal of our hearts. Forgive us, we pray, and make us new persons in Christ Jesus.

(In this time of silent confession, take a moment to write down something on the paper provided in your bulletin. Write something you would like to turn over to God from the past year. Then as an act of confession and release, come forward to place your piece of paper in a bowl of water.)

KYRIE

**Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

In mercy God forgives and dissolves all our sins. We are granted genuine repentance through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional) (Page 35, *Glory to God Hymnal*)
SINGING WITH THE CHILDREN: "Jesus Loves Me" (Hymn 188)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Angels"

THE HEBREW TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 1:1-5

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"In the Beginning"

THE RESPONSE

*HYMN 108

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"
(Verses 1, 2, 3 & 6)

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (In Unison)

(From *A Declaration of Faith*, 2.1)

God created all the worlds that are and upholds and rules everything. We affirm that the universe exists by the power of God's Word and Spirit. God has chosen to give it reality out of the love we have come to know in Christ. God still works through the processes that shape and change the earth and the living things upon it. We acknowledge God's care and control in the regularity of the universe as well as in apparently random happenings. There is no event from which God is absent and God's ultimate purpose in all events is just and loving. That purpose embraces our choices and will surely be accomplished. The Creator works in all things toward the new creation that is promised in Christ. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI (Page 581)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"Sweet Little Boy, Jesus"

arr: J.J. NILES

*DOXOLOGY/Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (Hymn 607)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

THE SENDING

*HYMN 110

"Love Has Come"

BRING A TORCH

*COVENANT OF THE CONGREGATION (Unison)

Let us go forth into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return to no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all persons, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

*Those who are able, please stand.

This Week at St. Andrews:

<p>Today 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:45 Coffee Hour 4:00 A.A./Al-Anon Serenity Group</p> <p>Monday, Jan. 2 Church Office Closed</p> <p>Tuesday, Jan. 3 4:00 Worship Mtg</p> <p>Wednesday, Jan. 4 10:00 Knitting Group 1:00 Centering Prayer Group NO Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Thursday, Jan. 5 10:00 Adult Ed Mtg</p> <p>Friday, Jan. 6 9:00 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>Sunday, Jan. 8 10:30 Worship 11:45 Coffee Hour 4:00 A.A./Al-Anon Serenity Group</p>
--	---

DISCIPLE



BECOMING DISCIPLES
THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Imagine. . .the members of the body of Christ shaped by a shared knowledge and understanding of the whole biblical story and its connection to their story.

Imagine. . .a congregation whose life together is nourished by the fruits of transformational Bible study.

Imagine. . .DISCIPLE Bible study, not one program among many but the soil in which all the ministries of the church root and grow.

Imagine. . .a church where every adult has read and studied the Bible from Genesis through Revelation and has spent time prayerfully considering their gifts as disciples and their roles as servant-leaders.

Imagine. . .a congregation led by laypersons with a deep awareness of the nature and purpose of the church developed through their study of Scripture.

Imagine. . .a church that expects every member not simply to show up every week but to grow every day as a disciple of Christ and to look for ways to be equipped for ministry.

Imagine. . .a church focused in addressing the “why” questions of God’s purposes before engaging in the “how-to” questions of church practices.

Beginning in January 2023, we will engage in such imagining as we explore the New Testament through the format of DISCIPLE Bible Study. At least 45 people at St. Andrews have taken part in this study and have benefited from it. Our class will meet weekly on Tuesdays from 3pm to 5pm. Our first session will be Tuesday, January 17 and our last class will be Tuesday, May 16.** The cost of the study manual is \$20 with the Adult Ed Ministry Team paying the remaining cost. The class requires daily reading that is not overwhelming and it is well guided in the study manual. In addition to signing up, please let Deb know if you need a Study Manual. Some may have completed part of the study already and will not need a manual.

This is a great way to explore the New Testament. We will learn and pray together, and seek God’s guidance as we explore the journey of the faithful from ancient biblical times. **Watch your email for sign-up information.**

**A Zoom option may be available on Wednesdays from 10am to Noon if there are at least 5 people who select this option.