

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



December 1, 2024

1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

10:30 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"
"Be still and know that I am God."

HAYES
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

As farmers wait for rainfall, as prisoners wait for freedom,

We wait for the coming of God.

As exiles yearn for home, as peacemakers yearn for justice,

We long for the coming of God.

As travelers search for shelter, as disciples look for answers,

We prepare for the coming of God.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise:

**I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David;
and he shall execute justice and righteousness.**

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. Significantly, the church has always used that language – the *coming* of Christ – because it speaks to a profound truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

The first candle is lit.

ALL SING:

"Bob McQuilkin's Advent Song"
**We celebrate the hope Christ brings,
the solemn Advent carol sings,
of God's good purpose yet to be,
assured as we wait patiently.**

TALLIS' CANON

PRAYER (Unison)

**Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,
we open all the difficult places in our lives and memories
to the healing light of Christ.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ.
Amen.**

*HYMN 82

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

In this season, so many voices wish to claim our attention, our time, and our money. Here, we know the one Voice who claims our whole lives: soul, body, heart, and mind. In humility, let us confess our faults to the Voice who proclaims our forgiveness.

Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped. We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see. We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear. We are numb to inconvenient truths. Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors. Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue. Sharpen our minds clouded by worries. Sober our lives addicted to privilege. Show us the signs of your coming, that we may stand before you, the Son of Man, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

*KYRIE

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

As sure as the fig tree blossoms, so sure is the salvation of God, poured out for the world in Jesus Christ our Lord. Believe the good news. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.**

*RESPONSE 113 (Refrain)

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

(Page 35, *Glory to God Hymnal*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

THE HEBREW TESTAMENT READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

This is the promise of God to our ancestors and to us.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE 88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(Verses 1 & 2)

VENI EMMANUEL

THE EPISTLE READING: I Thessalonians 3:9-13

The Word of God for the people of God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Every Valley" HANDEL

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:25-36
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Putting the Pieces Together"

THE RESPONSE

*HYMN 357 "The Days Are Surely Coming" LLANGLOFFAN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from *The Confession of 1967, 9.19*)
Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY "O Lord of Light/Of the Father's Love Begotten" OLIVER
*THE DOXOLOGY/Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (606)
*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

THE EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Responsive, Congregation please read **bold** print.)
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God...

joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior...

we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us...we bless you, God of glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE MEAL

(To receive communion when you come forward, please open your hands and a portion of bread will be given to you to partake. (If you prefer gluten free, please tell the server.) Then pick up a small cup from the tray and partake. As you return to your seat, there will be a basket in which you can place your cup. If you would like a server to come to you, please raise your hand.)

COMMUNION HYMN 525 "Let Us Break Bread Together" LET US BREAK BREAD

COMMUNION HYMN 92 "While We Are Waiting, Come" WAITING (Cason)

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

God, our Provision, we rejoice that you satisfy our needs. By your presence in this meal you have fed us and strengthened us, as a mother nourishes her baby. In this waiting season fill us with hopeful expectation that we may see the signs of your kingdom all around us and rejoice in your coming salvation and glory. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 104

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*COVENANT OF THE CONGREGATION (Unison)

This Advent, in anticipation of the birth of our Savior, let us mend a quarrel. Build peace. Seek out a forgotten friend. Encourage youth. Keep a promise. Forgo a grudge. Listen. Be kind, be gentle. Laugh a lot. Express our gratitude. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak our love. Speak it again. Speak it still once again!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE


"Watchmen Tell Us of the Night"

PARRY

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

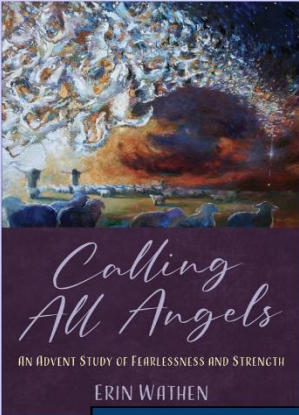
The Rev. Dr. Anne Hébert, Pastor
Jack Harnish, Liturgist
Erik and Caroline Nielsen, Ushers
John and Barb Lund, Greeters
Pat and Scrib Sheafor, Communion Preparers
Virginia, Jessica and David Gardner, Advent Readers
Michael Beery, Music Director
Polly Mauer, Pianist

<p>Today 9:00 "Calling All Angels" Advent Study 10:30 Worship—1st Sunday of Advent 11:30 Coffee Hour 4:00 A.A./Al-Anon Serenity Group</p> <p>Monday, December 2 2:00 Grief Group</p> <p>Tuesday, December 3 1:00 Worship Mtg</p> <p>Wednesday, December 4 10:00 Knitting Group 12:30 Centering Prayer Group 4:30 NO Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Thursday, December 5 6:00 Benzie Chorus Rehearsal</p> <p>Friday, December 6 9:00 Men's Breakfast at Platte River Inn 7:00 Benzie Chorus Concert</p> <p>Saturday, December 7 9:30 Hanging of the Greens 6:00 Advent Gathering and Carol Sing</p>  <p>Sunday, December 8 9:00 "Calling All Angels" Advent Study 10:30 Worship 11:30 Congregational Mtg 11:45 Coffee Hour 4:00 A.A./Al-Anon Serenity Group</p>
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Hanging of the Greens
DEC 7
9:30 AM

Come help decorate St Andrews for the Advent and Christmas season! The coffee pot will be on, there will be a light lunch provided at Noon. Everyone is welcome to participate in this happy tradition. Mark your calendars to be part of the fun!



Calling All Angels
By Erin Wathen

Join the discussion at 9AM on Sundays during Advent (Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22). We will plan to meet in Edwards Hall.

Books for this study are available in the church office. Cost is \$10.

Watch your emails for Sign-up.

Step into Advent with this captivating study and devotional, where angelic encounters come to life, echoing the timeless message of overcoming fear.



Fellowship
CHRISTMAS GATHERING
and CAROL SING

SATURDAY

DEC 7

6:00 PM

in Edwards Hall

Please sign up in the
Gathering Space to bring an
appetizer or dessert. Join us for
a festive evening of fellowship
and songs.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



Thank you to Erik Nielsen, Tim Quist, Will and Al Amstutz, and Joe Butyen for the beautiful design and wood for our new Advent Candle Holder.

Come and enjoy the Worship Service on December 15 when the Choir will sing a beautiful Christmas Cantata.



GETTING THROUGH YOUR GRIEF
ALLAN HUGH COLE JR.

GRIEF GROUP

GOOD MOURNING

By Allan Hugh Cole, Jr.

MONDAYS AT 2PM

Allan Hugh Cole offers a plan of "good mourning" --a way to work through the loss and rebuild life with new strength. Cole describes what it takes to be engaged in good mourning instead of endless suffering and demonstrates how faith and prayer can be practical tools in rebuilding life after loss.