

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



December 21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

10:30 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

"Be still and know that I am God."

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

Lanz

Psalm 46:10

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.)

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(Sue Sheffield, Marley Navin)

All sing: (Hymn 83 – "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus")

**By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Children of God, what are we waiting for? We wait for love. . .

Let us pray:

O God of steadfast love, you came to us in a manger, not with force but in vulnerability. You call us to love as you love, boldly, sacrificially, and without condition. Teach us to embody your love in word and deed, until the world knows we belong to you. Amen.

Hear the testimony of Scripture:

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."

We thank you for your endless, boundless love. Make us vessels of compassion, bearers of mercy, protectors of grace.

Come, Lord Jesus, and make love our witness.

*HYMN 105

"People, Look East"

BESANCON

(Verses 1, 3, 4, & 5)

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

How can we stand in the presence of God? Let us confess those places where we need to grow to prepare for Christ to come into our lives. Let us pray:

God of the loving heart, we confess before you the places in our hearts where we have refused your entrance: People we have refused to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of your Christ. Shine on the places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

*KYRIE

**You are the Lord, giver of mercy.
You are the Christ, giver of mercy.
You are the Lord, giver of mercy.**

This is the good news in Jesus Christ: We can stand before God, not through our own goodness, but through God's great kindness to us. Rejoice and be glad, for God comes to us! **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 TIME

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

(Page 35, *Glory to God Hymnal*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

THE HEBREW TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

J.S. Bach

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18-25

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"A Dream That Saved the World"

THE RESPONSE

*HYMN 119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(From the *Confession of 1967*)

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"Away in a Manger"

Raney

*DOXOLOGY/Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (606)

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

*HYMN 136

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

*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**

As the apostle Paul says in Philippians, "The Lord is near".

We are witnesses of the dawning of that great light
that has come into the world – Emmanuel, God with us.

**May we depart from this gathering with our faces set on the Sun,
so that our lives may serve as a reflection of God's light
in the midst of darkness,
that our very lives may announce the advent of the Messiah.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night"

Hayes

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Anne Hébert, Pastor

Jane Elzerman, Liturgist

Sally and Dennis Keeney, Ushers

Paul and Marcia Walters, March Dye, Greeters

Marley Navin, Sue Sheffield, Advent Candle Lighters

Diane Pharr, Online Digital Greeter

Michael Beery, Music Director

Polly Mauer, Pianist





Is there a reader on your Christmas list? Here's an idea for a gift to tuck underneath the tree. And the price is right!!

The book shelves in Edwards Hall in our lower level have loads of gently used books of all genres. They're priced at 50 cents for paperbacks and \$1.00 for the hardbacks. Coffee Table books are \$1.00 too. Big selection. Put your cash into the box if you will. The money goes to Presbyterian Women to use for things the church needs.

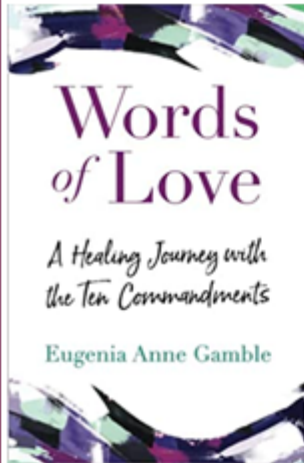
I hope you'll take a look at what we have. Big Christmas bargains for all!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

<p>Today 9:00 Adult Ed Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour 4:00 A.A./Al-Anon Serenity Group</p> <p>Monday, December 22 2:00 Grief Group</p> <p>Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve 3:30 Choir Rehearsal 4:30 Music Begins 5:00 Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>Thursday, December 25 Christmas Day</p> <p>Friday, December 26 9:00 Men's Breakfast - Platte River Inn</p> <p>Sunday, December 28 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour 4:00 A.A./Al-Anon Serenity Group</p>
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PRAYER LIST

<p>MILITARY: All of our US Military deployed and their families.</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKERS : Rev. Jerome Bizimana & the people of Rwanda Rev. Butros Zaour & family & Majd Lahham, Damascus, Syria</p> <p>MISSION CO-WORKERS: Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado Escobar, & their children: Cindy Yessenia, Anna Flor & Nathan—Frontera de Cristo; Douglas AZ Efi Latsoudi & Lesvos Solidarity, Greece</p>	<p>MEMBERS AND FRIENDS</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Bob Nelson Tim Bergstrom Britta Baarstad Joel Hough John Warren Robey Kristin Lehoullier Suzie Anderson Tamara Cas Cathy Lane Tim Quist Austen Rauch Cynthia Vaughn Mike Perry </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> The Navin Family Tim, Sarah, Tilly and Family Linda Koch Evelyn Sengelaub Laura and Bryan Sheffield Martha Campbell Gwen Baarstad Dottie Patterson Andrew Heglin Bobbie Edwards John Sappington Joyce Kirshner </td> </tr> </table>	Bob Nelson Tim Bergstrom Britta Baarstad Joel Hough John Warren Robey Kristin Lehoullier Suzie Anderson Tamara Cas Cathy Lane Tim Quist Austen Rauch Cynthia Vaughn Mike Perry	The Navin Family Tim, Sarah, Tilly and Family Linda Koch Evelyn Sengelaub Laura and Bryan Sheffield Martha Campbell Gwen Baarstad Dottie Patterson Andrew Heglin Bobbie Edwards John Sappington Joyce Kirshner
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Coming in January

The Ten Commandments are more than a list of ancient rules. In *Words of Love*, Eugenia Anne Gamble dives into each of the Ten Commandments and examines their application for modern-day Christians, going beyond the letter of the law to a spiritual truth pointing us toward wholeness and well-being.

Watch for signup information in the coming weeks.

Poinsettias are given by:



Gloria Boyd — In memory of Gretchen and Al Amstutz
Judy McQuilkin — In memory of Bob McQuilkin
Judy McQuilkin — In memory of Drew Trahan
Diane Pharr — In memory of Patricia Pharr Velnetske
Diane Pharr — In memory of Richard and Barbara Pharr
Virginia Gardner — In memory of Loved Ones
Sue Sheffield and Marley Navin — In memory of Cathy Moser
Sue Sheffield and Marley Navin — In loving honor of the Navin Family
Jeannine Chapman — In memory of Steve Chapman
Beth and Paul Olin — In memory of their son, David
Mary Heglin — In memory of George Marsh
Jill Claybour — In memory of Richard Claybour
Jennifer and Ernie Abel — In memory of their mothers