

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



"Mary Visits Elizabeth"
Steve Gamba, Artist

December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

10:30 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Be still and know that I am God."
(Please use this time to prepare for worship in silence.)

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

All creation holds its breath.

The time is almost here.

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

Anticipation is building all around.

Prepare your hearts – the grace of God takes on human form.

Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

We gather to make our hearts ready for the coming of Christ, our true hope.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader: We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

The fourth candle is lit.

ALL SING:

"Bob McQuilkin's Advent Song"

TALLIS' CANON

**We light the candle of Christ's love,
which is our blessing from above.**

**We all are sheltered in God's care,
and see in Christ our gifts to share.**

PRAYER (Unison)

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.

As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination.

Show us the creative power of hope.

Teach us the peace that comes from justice.

**Fill us with the kind of joy that must be shared,
magnifying your love within us.**

**Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Amen.

*HYMN 143

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”
(Verses 1, 2 & 4)

REGENT SQUARE

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

In the world and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge before God and one another, that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God’s grace, let us pray:

God, our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary’s song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy and lethargy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

Silent Confession

*KYRIE

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

God passes the heirloom of mercy down from generation to generation, always loving, always forgiving, always calling us to new life. **As we open our hearts to God, we are filled with the joy that was sung at the birth, with the hope that walked among us, with the grace that is always with us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

*RESPONSE 113 (Refrain)

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GLORIA

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Traditional)

(Page 35, *Glory to God Hymnal*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

THE HEBREW TESTAMENT READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
(Verse 7)

VENI EMMANUEL

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:39-45

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM

“Beautiful Savior”

Christianson

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:46-55 (Unison)

**And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'**

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"What's the Big Deal About Mary?"

THE RESPONSE

*HYMN 101

"No Wind at the Window"

COLUMCILLE

CALL TO PRAYER (Unison)

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given. We would be silent now,
Lord, and expectant...that we may receive the gift we need, so we may become
the gift others need.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"A Babe is Born in Bethlehem"

Dietrich Buxtehude

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

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

THE SENDING

*HYMN 100

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*BENEDICTION

Take time, in the bustle of this season, for quiet reflection –
For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.

**We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**


The good news of Advent is this:

Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.
We will welcome Christ into our hearts.
We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.
We will go forth from this place in hope. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“From Heaven on High to Earth I Come”

JG Walther

<i>OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY</i>			
<p>Today 9:00 “Calling All Angels” Advent Study 10:30 Worship—3rd Sunday of Advent 11:30 Coffee Hour 4:00 A.A./Al-Anon Serenity Group</p> <p>Monday, December 23 2:00 Grief Group</p> <p>Tuesday, December 24 4:30 Christmas Eve Music 5:00 Christmas Eve Service</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day</p> <p>Friday, December 27 9:00 Men’s Breakfast at Platte River Inn</p> <p>Sunday, December 29 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour 4:00 A.A./Al-Anon Serenity Group</p>		
<i>PRAYER LIST</i>			
<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="width: 50%;"> Jason Janowiak John Bentley Greg McGavran George Marsh Roger Sattler Steve Chapman Bob Nelson Brent Walsworth Tim Bergstrom Peggy Hawley Paul Krachmal Barb Alldredge Richard Pharr Mike Perry Susan Eldred </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> Britta Baarstad Linda Koch Evelyn Sengelaub Laura and Bryan Sheffield Martha Campbell Margaret Evans Jim Boehm Jay Marsh Bill Alldredge (<i>Barb’s Son</i>) Gwen Baarstad Kristian Webster Dale Williams Margaret Beery Hilda Quist Family of Mary Baker </td> </tr> </table>	Jason Janowiak John Bentley Greg McGavran George Marsh Roger Sattler Steve Chapman Bob Nelson Brent Walsworth Tim Bergstrom Peggy Hawley Paul Krachmal Barb Alldredge Richard Pharr Mike Perry Susan Eldred	Britta Baarstad Linda Koch Evelyn Sengelaub Laura and Bryan Sheffield Martha Campbell Margaret Evans Jim Boehm Jay Marsh Bill Alldredge (<i>Barb’s Son</i>) Gwen Baarstad Kristian Webster Dale Williams Margaret Beery Hilda Quist Family of Mary Baker
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PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Anne Hébert, Pastor
Claude VanderPloeg, Liturgist
Marty Havlin, March Dye, Ushers
Marilyn Skold, JoAnne Beare, Greeters
Julie and Mark Walton, Advent Readers
Michael Beery, Music Director
Tim Quist, Organist

