

# St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



December 8, 2024

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

10:30 A.M.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### **THE GATHERING**

PRELUDE

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"  
"Be still and know that I am God."

arr. RANEY  
Psalm 46:10

(Please see the insert for words to meditate on before worship.)

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 (Luke 1:76-79)

Liturgist

Zechariah sang to his newborn son:

**"You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.**

You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins.

**Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us,**

to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
**to guide us on the path of peace."**

OPENING PRAYER

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

**Reader:** Last Sunday we lit the first candle. . . God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

*The second candle is lit.*

ALL SING:

"Bob McQuilkin's Advent Song"

TALLIS' CANON

**We light the candle of God's peace,  
To help our endless striving cease.  
God's mercy brings the grace to heal,  
From all the bitterness we feel.**

ALL PRAY:

**Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,  
We thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ.  
Amen.**

\*HYMN 87

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

GENEVAN 42

\*CONFESSION AND PARDON

In Jesus Christ God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope let us make our confession. Let us pray:

**Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own way. You seek to purify us in love, but we elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.**

Silent Confession

\*KYRIE

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

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. This is good news! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.**

***THE WORD***

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

(Page 35, *Glory to God Hymnal*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

THE HEBREW TESTAMENT READING: Malachi 3:1-4

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

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE 88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
(Verses 3 & 4)

VENI EMMANUEL

THE EPISTLE READING: Philippians 3:1-11

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:57-80

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

"The Not So Ordinary Beloved Baby Boy"

***THE RESPONSE***

\*HYMN 106

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

\*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)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"All Earth is Hopeful"

arr. OLIVER

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

\*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

### ***THE SENDING***

\*HYMN 129

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

ES IST EIN' ROS'

\*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

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

arr. SHACKLEY

### PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Anne Hébert, Pastor

Carla Gipson, Liturgist

Jerry Heiman, Sally Keeney, Ushers

Jim and Elaine Trent, March Dye, Greeters

Carla Gipson and Family, Advent Readers

Michael Beery, Music Director

Polly Mauer, Pianist

Words for Meditation  
**All Earth is Hopeful**

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";  
she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

<p><b>Today</b> 9:00 "Calling All Angels" Advent Study 10:30 Worship—2nd Sunday of Advent 11:30 Congregational Meeting 11:45 Coffee Hour 4:00 A.A./Al-Anon Serenity Group</p> <p><b>Monday, December 9</b> 2:00 Grief Group</p> <p><b>Tuesday, December 10</b> 10:30 "Let Justice Roll Down" via Zoom 2:00 BSR Meeting 5:00 Building &amp; Grounds Mtg</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 11</b> 12:30 Centering Prayer Group 3:00 Session Mtg 4:30 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>Thursday, December 12</b> 10:30 "Let Justice Roll Down", on-site 4:30 Peace and Justice Mtg</p> <p><b>Friday, December 13</b> 9:00 Men's Breakfast at Platte River Inn</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 15</b> 9:00 "Calling All Angels" Advent Study 10:30 Worship— Choir Cantata 11:30 Coffee Hour 4:00 A.A./Al-Anon Serenity Group</p>
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**Polly Mauer** will be playing the Piano at St. Ambrose on Friday, December 13, from 5pm-8pm. She would love to see some familiar and friendly faces.



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.

**Christmas Eve  
WORSHIP**

Music begins  
**4:30 P.M.**  
Worship begins  
**5:00 P.M.**

*Tuesday, December 24, 2024*