

The Offertory

“He Shall Feed His Flock”
Vocalist: Deanna Golden

***The Congregation Sings in Response #7 “Praise God,…”**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

***The Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)**

Loving God, we give you thanks for your many blessings—for the grace you give and the new life you share. Accept these gifts, we pray, as a token of our deep gratitude and love. Empower us to serve you and your church with faithful hearts, energetic hands, and joyful spirits. Amen.

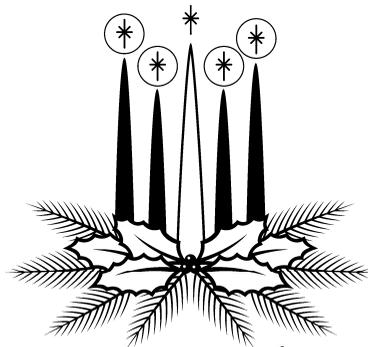
The Church Goes Forth to Serve

***The Hymn #53** “What Child Is This” (Presby Hymnal)

***The Benediction**

***The Benediction Response** “Amen” Chancel Choir

***The Postlude** ~~~~~



4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2017

4th Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM

The Prelude

The Lighting of the Candles
Announcements
Exchange of Greetings

Lily Hawks

Introit

“With Open Hearts”

Chancel Choir

The Call to Worship

Denise Hawks

Leader: This is the season of holy waiting.

People: **We wait for a baby to be born,
Emmanuel, “God is with us.”**

Leader: We wait for Jesus, God’s beloved Son,

People: **Our beloved Savior.**

Leader: Let us watch and wait with expectant hearts.

People **Let us offer God our grateful praise.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Love Candle

As we gather around the Advent wreath, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and worship—a time when even the busiest among us pause in wonder at the miracle of Jesus’ birth. In Christ, God comes to us in love and fills us with God’s love for all people. Scripture tells us that “God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.” We light this candle to proclaim God’s love.

The Congregation Sings in Response “The Candle of Love”

(Sung to the tune of “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above”)

The candle of hope we light in this hour
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.

(Continued on next page)

The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.

The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom in one of delight and surprise.

The candle of love tells what we are worth:
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!
An angel brought news of a child who would be
The one who would save us and set us all free.

The Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

Loving God, we gather here this morning, pausing before the busyness of the coming days and hours. In this time of worship, empower us to set aside the distractions of preparation and remember why you came. Help us to sense your presence among us. Help us to hear your persistent, loving call. Guide us to where you would have us be, Lord. Show us how you would have us live, through the grace of Christ. Amen.

***The Opening Hymn #12** "People, Look East" (Presby Hymnal)

(Ushers will collect prayer requests. Please pass them to the center aisle.)

*The people will rise in body or spirit

The Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, you are the source of all creation—from the stars in their distant grandeur to the tiniest microbe in its wondrous detail. Forgive us when we fail to marvel at the mysteries of life—when we put people and you in boxes like the presents under our Christmas trees. Fill us with a spirit of wonder so that we may receive the gift of your Son with joyous hearts. Help us to welcome the one who accepts us without conditions and loves us without limit. Amen.

A Time of Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Congregation Sings in Response "Gloria Patri"
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Scripture Reading TBA
Leader: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God

The Message Rev. Merry Meloy

Carol Sing

The Church Responds

***The Affirmation of Faith - Apostles' Creed** *(In Unison)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offertory Invitation

In this season of gift giving, we give thanks for the greatest gift of all—the gift of God's Son, our Savior. Christ came into the world so that we might know the depth of God's love for each of us. We express our love and thankfulness by giving ourselves to God. Let us bring before the Lord our gifts and offerings.

As the offering plates are being passed, please sign and pass the Friendship Registers located at the end of your pews. Thank you!

This Week at Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 24, 2017
Christmas Eve

No Sunday School
10:30 AM – Worship
6:30 PM – Special Music
7:00 PM – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25, 2017
Christmas Day
Office Closed

11:00 AM – Narcotics Anonymous



Tuesday, December 26, 2017
Office Closed

11:00 AM – Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

11:00 AM – Narcotics Anonymous
5:00 PM – Community Dinner – Faith and Covenant
8:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, December 28, 2017

11:00 AM – Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, December 29, 2017

11:00 AM – Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, December 30, 2017

Next Sunday, December 31, 2017
New Year's Eve

No Sunday School
10:30 AM – Worship
12:00 PM – Sunday Lunches (Provided by Janice King and Dale Hutchison)
2:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous New Year's Gathering and Speaker Jam
3:00 PM – Festival of Lessons and Music at Covenant

Worship Attendance for December 17, 2017: 60

Worship Leadership

Ushers: Jon McKay Natalie McKay Mary Lindenberg Dale Hutchison
Acolyte: Lily Hawks
Liturgist: Denise Hawks
Micro Message: TBA
Flower Delivery: None
Open the Church: Paul Perry
Close the Church : Janice King

Next Week: Andrew Ripper
Next Week: Nicholas Ripper
Next Week: Carol Landis
Next Week: Pat Patterson
Next Week: Paul Perry
Next Week: Thalia McGrady

Prayer Requests can be made by using the purple prayer request cards found in the pew racks. Pass your requests to the center aisle during the Opening Hymn. They will be distributed to our Prayer Team to be included in this week's prayers.

Restrooms: From the front of the sanctuary, use the left entrance (by the piano) and follow the hallway to the right. The restrooms are down the hall on the left. From the rear of the sanctuary, turn left and go downstairs. The restrooms are at the end of the hallway.

Child Care: The Church Nursery is available for children through kindergarten age. To find the nursery, please go to the left front entrance of the sanctuary and follow the hallway to the right. The nursery is on the left. If your child would like to be rocked during worship, a rocking chair is available on the left side of the sanctuary.



Join Us for Worship This Evening

Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service begins at 7:00 pm this evening. Child care will be provided. Bring the family and come early. Special music begins at 6:30 pm.

If you are unable to attend the service in person, please join us electronically. We'll be streaming the service live on Facebook. To watch, log on to our website at www.standrewsupc.org. Scroll to the bottom of our homepage and click on the Facebook icon. (The top one of two icons located there.) This should take you to our Facebook page, where you can watch and listen to the service. The bulletin is also posted on the website.

Please pass this information on to friends or family who may be interested.
Thanks!

Happy Birthday



December 28 Gary Gregson
December 28 Thalia McGrady
December 29 Deanna Golden

Office Holiday Schedule



The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25th, Tuesday, December 26th and Monday, January 1st. Pastor Merry will be visiting her family for a few days after Christmas. While she is away, Rev. Jim Swanson will be available in case of emergencies. If you have a pastoral care need or concern, please call Danielle at our church office or Rev. Swanson at Covenant (724-712-1407).

Christmastide Festival of Lessons, Carols and Music Next Sunday, December 31st

3:00 pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church



Join us for a Festival of Lessons, Carols and Christmas Music next Sunday, December 31, at 3:00 pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church. The program will feature readers and musicians from local Presbyterian churches. There will also be a joint vocal choir, a joint handbell choir, and lots of congregational singing!

Covenant is located at 230 E. Jefferson Street. Feel free to use the parking lot on Jefferson Street across from the church. If you have mobility issues, please park in the alley behind the church and use the ramp entrance. There's an elevator to take you to the sanctuary on the second floor. See you there!

Communion Sunday, January 7th



We will start the New Year by celebrating the Lord's Supper together on Sunday, January 7th. Please join us.

New Church Directories



Updated Church Directories are now available. To pick up your copy, just see our volunteers in the Narthex before or after worship. Thanks!

New Worship Helper Schedules

Our January through June 2018 schedules for worship helpers are now available. If you volunteer as a liturgist or usher, please pick up your copy. They're on the table in the Narthex.

2018 Giving Envelopes Now Available



To save on postage, we are asking you to pick up your giving envelopes for the new year. They are displayed alphabetically on the pew in the Narthex. Please be sure to use the new envelopes starting January 1, 2018. If you use 2017 envelopes in 2018, your giving could be credited to someone else's account.

Christmas Cookie Walk Thank You



A huge thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Christmas Cookie Walk! Over 270 dozen cookies were sold. Those sales plus several generous donations brought our total earnings to \$1,400.00.

Special thanks to everyone who baked. We had an amazing variety of mouth-watering goodies! Thanks also to everyone who cheerfully served customers, restocked trays, and helped set up and clean up. The money you helped raise will go to Saint Andrews' General Fund and the Scholarship Fund of Forman Christian College in Pakistan. Again, thank you!!

A Personal Note of Thanks

We want to thank everyone who helped with the Cookie Walk this year. It was a great success due to all of the wonderful bakers, all who helped setup and takedown, all of the busy hands filling the trays, and those who helped the public with their choices. Your time and hard work is greatly appreciated. Now take a deep breath, relax and enjoy the Christmas season knowing we all put our best into something very special and rewarding!

*We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas,
Kendra and Dan*



Congregational Luncheon Sunday, January 14, 2018

The Nurture Team is hosting a "Reach Out to Hold a Hand and Warm a Heart" luncheon after worship on Sunday, January 14, in the Memorial Room. We hope you'll stay and enjoy a lunch of soup, finger foods, drinks and desserts to symbolize and celebrate our church's goal of increasing our outreach. We'll take care of everything – just bring a friend and come!



11th Annual Chili Cook-Off

Join us for a Mid-Winter Warm Up
in the Bethany Room

Saturday, January 27, 2018
5 pm —7 pm

*Vote for your favorite chili made by
various local restaurants and chefs*

**Tickets are Now Available
\$6 Presale or \$10 At the Door**

Please note: Tickets must be paid for when purchased



Basket Auction



Great Fellowship



Bake Sale

*Benefits: Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church
and Operation Spay Neuter of Butler County*

New Flower Calendar for 2018



Would you like to donate the chancel flowers for one or more worship services? The Flower Calendar for 2018 is in the Narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday or two. Don't forget to tell us if the flowers are in honor or in memory of someone, or if they are to commemorate an important date. The flowers you donate are yours to take home after the worship service, or you may leave them and a Deacon will take them to one of our homebound members. The cost is \$40. Thank you!