

# Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

December 23, 2018

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM

## The Church in Preparation

### The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements  
Exchange of Greetings

### The Introit

“Come Let Us with Our Lord Arise”

Chancel Choir

### The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Love Candle

Advent is a time of expectation—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.

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 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. Please sign and pass the Friendship Registers located near the center aisle.

Thank you!

### The Offertory

“Organ Offertory”

Chuck Davey

### \*The Congregation Sings in Response #53 “What Child Is This”

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma-ry’s lap is sleep-ing?  
Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet While shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma-ry!

So bring Him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; Let lov-ing hearts en-throne Him.  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma-ry!

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

**Son of Mary, Son of God, we offer you our praise, our gifts, our hearts, and our lives. May our words lead others to worship at your manger. May our actions reflect the radiance of your love. Amen.**

## The Church Goes Forth to Serve

### \*The Closing Hymn #57 “The Snow Lay on the Ground” (Presby Hymnal)

### \*The Benediction

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

### \*The Postlude

~Welcome to Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church~

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## The Call to Worship

Kevin Moon

Leader: This is a season of watching and waiting.  
We watch for the light that shines in the darkness.

**People: Open our eyes, O Lord, so we may behold your glory.**

Leader: We wait to welcome our Redeemer and Savior.

**People: Open our hearts, O God, so we may receive your Son.**

Leader: We rejoice in the One who claims the lost and lifts up the lowly.

**People: Open our lives, O Lord, so we may embody your grace  
and bear your healing love to our hurting world.**

## The Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

**Who are we, O God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your Word. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may sing your praise, embrace your will, and live to your glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*The Opening Hymn #38** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" *(Presby Hymnal)*  
(Ushers will collect prayer requests. Please pass them to the side aisles.)

\*The people will rise in body or spirit

## The Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

**Loving God, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You offer us a place in your house, yet we struggle to find room for you in our hearts. You invite us into your eternal realm, yet we fail to welcome you into our lives. Forgive us, Lord. Draw us into your abundant mercy, and empower us to shine forth with the light of your love, through the grace of Christ. 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 Church in Proclamation

### The Scripture Reading

Micah 5: 2 – 5a

Luke 1: 39 - 56

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**

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### The Anthem

"An Advent Song"

Vocal Soloist: Danielle Golden

Chancel Choir

### The Micro Message

Carol Landis

### \*The Congregation Sings in Response #2095 "Star-Child"

Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God,  
Love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,  
This year, this year, let the day arrive when  
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

### The Sermon

Rev. Merry Meloy

### The Hymn #55

"That Boy-Child of Mary"

*(Presby Hymnal)*

## 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.**

**This Week at Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church**

**Sunday, December 23, 2018**

10:30 AM – Worship

**Monday, December 24, 2018  
Christmas Eve**

12:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous  
6:30 PM – Music Prelude  
7:00 PM – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service



**Tuesday, December 25, 2018  
Merry Christmas  
Office Closed**

12:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous



**Wednesday, December 26, 2018 \**  
**Office Closed**

12:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous  
5:00 PM – Community Dinner – Covenant and Faith  
8:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous

**Thursday, December 27, 2018**

12:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous

**Friday, December 28, 2018**

12:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous

**Saturday, December 29, 2018**

**Next Sunday, December 30, 2018**

10:30 AM – Worship

Worship Attendance for December 16, 2018: 79



**Worship Leadership**

**Ushers:** *Volunteer Needed* Carol Landis Dave Landis Kyle Hawks  
**Liturgist:** Kevin Moon **Next Week:** Nicholas Ripper  
**Micro Message:** Carol Landis **Next Week:** TBA  
**Flower Delivery:** Stephanie Arienzo **Next Week:** Alyssa Ripper  
**Open the Church:** Paul Perry **Next Week:** Paul Perry  
**Close the Church:** Dennis Rodgers **Next Week:** John Ripper

**The Flowers** today are given in memory of Charles Roberts.

**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.

**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 on Christmas Eve**

Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service begins at 7:00 pm tomorrow evening. 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](http://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 that evening or later in the week. The bulletin will also be posted on the website.

Please share this information with friends and family who may be interested. Thanks!



## Happy Birthday

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

## Office Holiday Schedule



The church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Pastor Merry will be visiting her mother for a few days after Christmas. While she is away, Rev. Mary Kitchen 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. Kitchen at 412-266-0930.



## 2019 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, 2019. If you use 2018 envelopes in 2019, your giving could be credited to someone else's account.

## New Worship Helper Schedules



Our January through June 2019 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.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off



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



Saturday, January 26, 2019  
5 pm —7 pm

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

**Tickets are Now Available  
\$7 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*

## 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—almost the same total as last year. Those sales plus several generous donations brought our total earnings to \$1,700!

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 all helped raise will go to Saint Andrews' General Fund and the Scholarship Fund of Forman Christian College in Pakistan. Again, thank you!!

***'Twas the Family Who Gave* by Melinda Stevens for the Admin Team**

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the church  
Not a creature was stirring, feel free to go search.  
No greens were hung in the chancel with care,  
The sanctuary was filled with a chilling, cold air.

At home, the children were confused and sad  
No traditions of worship with Gram and Grandad.  
So, Mama in her red dress and I in my suit  
Looked throughout town for a good substitute.

You see, churches everywhere were having to close  
Contributions were definitely hitting new lows.  
We all went to bed, unfulfilled by the night,  
My head swimming with memories of when all was right.

Little ones up front singing their hearts out,  
The celebration of Christ swelling throughout.  
Youth nervously fidgeting, their instruments in hand,  
The skits, the dance, and the message were grand.

The warmth and the glow of the candles lit bright  
Filling the room with a serene Silent Night.  
Not only of Eve, my mind was a clatter.  
Entered thoughts of Sundays, my heart felt a shatter.

When what to my wandering mind did appear?  
A vision of hope made very clear.  
Yes, Sunday School and Youth Group too.  
Dinners and lunches served by me and you.  
Yes, Chuck bouncing from piano to organ,  
And Pastor Merry's story that starts each sermon.  
Yes, fellowship, missions, and Dinner with Friends.  
Yes, choir, bells, the list never ends.

To me God spoke, "Please do your part.  
No matter how small, just give from your heart.  
Tiny becomes huge when you involve me,  
David and Goliath, and the mustard seed."

God not only was speaking of money, I know.  
Other gifts He gave me will help the church grow.  
I sprang out of bed, my heart felt anew  
Suddenly I knew what I needed to do.....

## January First Sunday Mission Offering

Saint Andrews' First Sunday Mission Offering in January will go to the McKee Memorial Fund to help support the work of Jim and Jodi McGill. A geological engineer, Jim is working with the Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger (EERN) and the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan to provide clean water and sanitation to communities in rural Niger and South Sudan. Jim's wife Jodi is a nurse and public health educator. She is helping the EERN develop church-run health clinics and train students in its new nursing school.

Located south of Libya and west of Chad, Niger is one of the poorest countries in Africa. Fewer than 50% of its children are enrolled in school and its annual per capita GDP is around \$800. Farming is limited by frequent draughts and the country's vast desert regions are growing due to lack of rain, excessive cultivation, overgrazing and deforestation. While most Nigerians are Muslim, the government is secular and there is an openness to the gospel.

The circumstances in South Sudan are even more challenging. Though the region has abundant natural resources, decades of civil war have left the country's infrastructure in ruins and its people traumatized. In 2015, a fragile peace was established. A year later, new waves of violence erupted. The conflict has caused widespread famine and displaced more than 3 million people. The Presbyterian Church (USA) has been involved in Sudan for more than 100 years and has longstanding relationships with several partner churches there.

To help support the McGill's work, simply use the envelope marked "McKee Missions Offering" in the January section of the Saint Andrews giving envelope booklet, use a "First Sunday Mission Offering" envelope from the pew racks, or write "McKee Missions Offering" on the memo line of your check. Thank you!

