

Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM

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.

A Minute for Stewardship

The Church Goes Forth to Serve

The Hymn #107 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" *(Glory to God)*

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing;
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness.
The thunder of his anthems rolls to shatter all hatred and violence.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

The Benediction and Postlude ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Church in Preparation

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Introit and Time of Centering #103 "Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Come now, O God of love; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Come now and set us free, O God our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Come, hope of unity; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Peace Candle

We gather around the Advent wreath this morning knowing that we are not perfect. We all make mistakes; we all sin. That sin separates us from each other and from the God who loves us. So God sent Jesus into our world to break the chains of sin and death, and to open the way back to God. In Christ, we are reconciled to God and each other. In Christ's forgiving, healing grace, we find peace. As we light the candle of peace, we give praise and thanks for Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace

The Call to Worship

Leader 1: To all who are overburdened;
to all whose lives are weighed down with anxiety and stress:

Leader 2: Come and know the peace of God.

Leader 1: In the midst of a world filled with war and violence:

Leader 2: Come and know the peace of God.

Leader 1: To all who long for a new life, a different world:

Leader 2: Come and know the peace of God,
who alone can heal our wounds and transform our world.

Leader 1: Let us worship God, by whose grace and power
peace will come!

The Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of your son, our Savior. We thank you for the peace he brings—a peace that passes all understanding, a peace that calls us to paths of mercy, justice, and compassion. In this Advent season, keep our hearts and minds close to you. Empower us to be instruments of your peace in all that we say and all that we do, through the grace of Christ. Amen.

The Opening Hymn #82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” *(Glory to God)*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, in this season of Advent, as we wait in hope-filled silence, we are reminded once again of our deep need and your deeper love. Our world does not reflect your mercy or your grace. The ruthless are still powerful, the proud are still exalted, and the hungry and hurting still stand unheard at the door. Too often, we are tempted to resign ourselves to the pain and injustices that are all around us—to say to each other, “That’s just the way things are.” Forgive us, Lord. Guard our hearts from cynicism and despair. Help us to trust in your life-giving power. Help us to live in the light of your hope. Amen.

A Time of Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

Musical 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

Scripture Readings

Portions of Isaiah 35

Luke 1: 5 - 25

Leader: The word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Special Music

“He is the Gift”

Vocalist Deanna Golden

Pianist Melinda Ripper

The Micro Message

Musical Response #88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *(Glory to God)*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Sermon

Rev. Merry Meloy

The Hymn #109

“Blest Be the God of Israel”

(Glory to God)

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.

God from the house of David a child of grace has given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner’s eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Luke 1: 5 - 25

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him.

¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."

¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵"This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

Announcements

and

Scripture Readings



Scripture Readings



All in the Family

The sympathy and resurrection faith of the congregation go out to the family and loved ones of Margy Hoffman Tebay. Margy died on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at Concordia.



Happy Birthday

December 10

Ronald Braun

Pictures Needed



We would like to include your picture in this year's virtual Christmas Eve service. If you're doing any "Christmasy" activities in the coming days (decorating your tree, putting up lights, arranging a crèche, baking cookies, etc.), please take some digital photos. If that's not possible, please send us any photo you have. Actually, send two or three! We just want to be able to see your smiling face!! Please send your pictures to Deanna at DeannaDGolden@gmail.com by Wednesday, December 9th. Thanks!

Hunters Sharing the Harvest



Hunters, would you be interested in donating all or part of this season's harvest to the Community Dinner Program here at Saint Andrews? It's easy to do. Simply take your deer to one of the processors listed below and list Saint Andrews as the recipient.

Meat Processors:

Bim's Boloney—N. Washington	724-894-2569
Bob's Deer Processing—Prospect	724-865-2484
McKruit's Meat Packing—Cabot	724-352-2988
R & B Meat Processors--Herman	724-321-1769
T.A. Giger—Valencia	724-898-2244

This is a great way for hunters to help those in need in our community!

Isaiah 35

- ³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,^[a]
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,^[b]
but it shall be for God's people;^[c]
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.