

Worshiping God at
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
1st Sunday of Christmas
January 1, 2023



Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teddie McConnell

Prelude

Seung-mee Oh

Opening Prayer

Pastor Teddie

Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Call to Worship (responsive) (based on Psalm 148)

Lynne Abbey-Lee

L: Sun and moon and all of you bright stars!

P: Praise God!

L: All of you who are his messengers and comprise his heavenly forces!

P: Praise God!

L: Highest heaven and you waters that are above the sky!

P: Praise God!

L: Let all of these praise the Lord's name because God gave the command and they were created!

P: God set them in place always and forever. God made a law that will not be broken.

A: Let us worship God!

Service parts in bold: Everyone speaks in unison.
Parts with an asterisk: * Please stand in body or in spirit.

* Hymn #275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he. Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him. His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

That word above all early powers, no thanks to them abideth. The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

* *Passing of the Peace*

Pastor Teddie

Let us share the peace of God with each other, as we greet one another in the name of Christ.

Call to Confession (Based on Isaiah 63:7-9)

Lynne

Surrounded by God's everlasting faithfulness, we acknowledge our distress in how we have lost faith, become separated from God and one another. Let us confess our sins to God our loving and merciful redeemer.

Prayer of Confession (Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude)

Lynne

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

Please take time now for your own silent prayers. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Based on Isaiah 63:7-9)

Pastor Teddie

L: During all our distress, God is also distressed, so he sends a messenger who serves him to save us. In love and mercy God has redeemed us.

P: Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Gloria Patri

Anthem

***"Thy Word"* (Arranged by Jack Schrader)**

Chancel Choir

Call for the Offering

Pastor Teddie

God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

Offering / Offertory

Seung-mee

* Doxology

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Pastor Teddie

As the magi follow that star and turn their final corner toward Bethlehem, surely they wondered about the adequacy of their gifts for the newborn king. Teach us to follow you just as the magi followed that star faithfully and remind us that you have given us what we need to serve you and your kingdom. May these gifts serve to guide yet others to the manger of the savior as well. May they serve to build up community and heal our planet. Amen.

* Affirmation of Faith (unison) (Confession of 1967 – Inclusive Version) Pastor Teddie

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.

His life as man involves the church in the common life of men. His service to men commits the church to work for every form of human well-being.

His suffering makes the church sensitive to all the sufferings of mankind so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of men in every kind of need.

His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on man's inhumanity to man and the awful consequences of its own complicity in injustice.

In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of man's life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

Sharing of Joys & Concerns / Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer Greg Lee

Musical Reflection Seung-mee

Prayer for Illumination (unison) Lynne

Open our hearts, Oh God, to this your Word. May we hear with joy what you would have us hear this day and may the music of your grace build our whole lives long that we may sing your praise with our whole being.

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene." This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.”

And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* Hymn #634

To God be the Glory

To God be the glory: great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord; praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory: great things he has done!

Great things he has taught us; great things he has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord; praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory: great things he has done!

Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)

Pastor Teddie

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Alleluia! **Amen.**

Sung Benediction

All

May the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you forever;
grant you peace, perfect peace,
courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see God's face,
full of grace forever;
may the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep you forever.

Fellowship Time

Come! Join us in the Fellowship Room for refreshments, snacks, and conversation following the worship service.