

Worshiping God at
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022



Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teddie McConnell

Prelude

Seung-mee Oh

Call to Worship

We light this candle of peace as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming (candle is lit).

We are preparing ourselves for the days when the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

Opening Prayer

Pastor Teddie

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation.
Make us ready for the message that prepares the way,
that with uprightness of heart and holy joy
we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

* Hymn #82

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

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.

* 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 (from Hebrews 4:14-16)

Claudette Hamilton

In Matthew 3:2, John the Baptist cries, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Let us confess our sins this Advent to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Prayer of Confession

Claudette

God of the prophets, we confess our lack of preparedness and our tendency to wander away from you and your path. You call us to venture outside our comfortable spaces, yet we hunker down and excuse ourselves from faithful action. Forgive us, God. Call us again. Help us to respond this Advent in faith.

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

Assurance of Pardon (2 Corinthians 5:17, Book of Common Worship)

Pastor Teddie

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

* Gloria Patri

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Call for the Offering

Pastor Teddie

God gives out of God's abundance. Let us respond to God's generosity with our own abundant giving.

Offering/ Offertory

Seung-mee

* Doxology

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Pastor Teddie

God of mercy, accept these gifts and multiply them for Christ's mission of love and grace for all the world. Amen.

* Affirmation of Faith (unison) (Apostle's Creed)

Pastor Teddie

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.

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

Greg Lee

Musical Reflection

Seung-mee

Savior God, guide us by your Word and Spirit that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ's birth this Christmas. Amen.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

"God's Peaceable Kingdom"

Pastor Teddie

* Hymn #129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

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.