



St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Welcome to Worship! | November 30, 2025 | 1st Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

Prelude *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

J.S. Bach arr. Myra Hess

Welcome

Introit *Wait for the Lord* (remain seated)

WAIT FOR THE LORD

Wait for the Lord, whose day brings hope. Wait for the Lord, whose day brings hope.

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath (remain seated)

From a dead stump, a shoot can still grow—

when the roots are strong;

when it seems all is lost, hope can still live—

when the “roots” are strong.

So let us dare to believe that hope still lives;

for God has been here before with us,

when Isaiah dared to proclaim:

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation;

neither shall they learn war any more.

Let us dare to believe that hope still lives;

For God is with us now and hears our prayers and cries for hope.

And with the light of this first Advent candle,

let us dare to believe that hope will still live;

for God will be with us then—as long as light pierces the darkness.

The Root is strong. Out of the darkness, a light shines.

The hope of God lives. Let us worship God.

***Hymn 93** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of Hope, forgive us for ignoring the cries of others and for turning away from the reality before us. Forgive us for not speaking up when we have seen injustice or when we choose to act unjustly. Forgive us for not living into the good news that life arises from death, that a shoot grows out of a stump. Let your hope take root in our hearts and imaginations as we reflect and dream this week. Let it bear good fruit through our words and deeds as we act and engage upon this world with you.

Moment for Reflection and Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

***Sung Response 575** *Lord, Have Mercy upon Us*

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Matthew 24:36-44

Second Lesson Isaiah 2:1-5

Sermon Daring to Believe in Hope

Rev. Parker Lucas

***Hymn 97** *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

***Affirmation of Faith** Apostles' Creed (hymnal, p. 35)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

THANKSGIVING

Offering

Offertory *Behold A Star from Jacob Shining*

Mendelssohn

Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising, to reign in glory over the nations. Like some bright morning star is he, the promise of the coming day, Beyond the night of sorrow

***Doxology 147** *The First Nowell* (v. 6)

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of nought. Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING

***Hymn 744** *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** *Wait for the Lord*

WAIT FOR THE LORD

Wait for the Lord, whose day brings hope. Wait for the Lord, whose day brings hope.

Postlude *Blest Be the God of Israel (Song of Zechariah)*

arr. Maureen Howell

Worship Leaders

Senior Pastor, Rev. Katherine B. Harrington
Associate Pastor, Rev. Parker Lucas
Director of Music, Cindy Litzinger
Choir Director, Angela Burns

Pianist, Sara Bryant
Adult Choir
Production Coordinator, Jim Fox
Lay Reader, Brian Lanier

Our Mission

Inspiring one another to love Jesus by staying faithfully present in our community.