



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

Welcome to Worship! | December 14, 2025 | 3rd Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

Prelude *Star in the East*
Wexford Carol

arr. Catherine McMichael
arr. McMichael

Welcome

Introit *Wait for the Lord*

WAIT FOR THE LORD

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

Call to Worship and Advent Wreath Lighting

From a dead stump, a shoot can still grow— when the roots are strong;

when it seems all is lost, joy can still live— when the “roots” are strong.

So let us dare to believe that joy still lives; for God has been here before with us,
when Isaiah dared to proclaim:

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.**

Let us dare to believe that joy still lives;

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

And with the light of this third Advent candle, let us dare to believe that joy 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 joy of God lives. Let us worship God.

***Hymn 113** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Katie Harrington

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10

***Hymn 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Parker Lucas

Anthem *An Advent Processional*

Cynthia Dobrinski

Anthem *O Come, Emmanuel*

arr. Hagenberg

Anthem: *To Thee My Heart I Offer*

arr. Hagenberg

To Thee my heart I offer, Oh Christ-Child sweet and dear; Upon thy love relying, be thou ever near. Oh take my heart and give me thine and may it be forever mine, Oh Jesus, holy, undefiled, My saviour meek and mild. What brought thee to the manger, Oh Christ-child sweet and dear? Thy love for me a stranger, be thou ever near, Oh Lord how great thy perfect love, that reaches from the heavens above. Thy love for us, by sin defiled, that made thee, God, a child. Let me be Thine forever, Oh Christ-child sweet and dear; Uphold me with Thy mercy, be thou ever near. Thy hand bestows thy gifts to me and all I have, I offer thee. My heart, my soul, and all I own; Let these be thine alone.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

***Hymn 121** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Anthem *Sussex Carol*

arr. Culloton

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring. News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth. Then why should men on earth be so sad, since our redeemer made us glad. When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty. When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place; Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the new-born King. All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: 'Glory to God and peace to men, Now and for evermore. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Offering

Offertory *Sing We Now of Christmas*

arr. Pederson

***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 and with his blood our life hath
bought. Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, Born is the King of Israel.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING

***Hymn 102** *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Anthem *Shalom*

arr. Dan Forrest

Peace. Shalom. Peace I leave with you. Peace I give to you. Peace. Shalom. My peace I give to you.
Shalom. Not as the world gives I give to you. Do not be afraid. Shalom. Peace.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response Hymn 134** *Joy to the World* (v. 1)

***Dismissal**

Postlude *People, Look East*

arr. Linda McKechnie

Worship Leaders

Senior Pastor, Rev. Katherine B. Harrington
Associate Pastor, Rev. Parker Lucas
Director of Music, Cindy Litzinger
Choir Director, Angela Burns
Pianists, Sara Bryant & Steve Lowry
Adult Choir

Cello, Andrew Anagnost
Oboe, Stephanie Caulder
Violin, Danijela Zvezlj-Gualdi
Adult Handbells
Narrators, Lisa Bohbrink & Randy Warner
Production Coordinator, Jim Fox

SACPC Adult Choir

Soprano

*Caitlin Andrews
Gwen Behen
Betty Jo Bennett
Barbara Berberich
Meryl Franck
Karen Frye
Anita Lowry
Beverly Maurer
Carol McGowan
Emily Vasser
Jeanne Owens

Alto

Lisa Bohbrink
Karen Carson
Virginia Hager
Cindy Litzinger
Allison McCorkle
Donna Philips
Cindy Litzinger
*Shannon Playl
Linda Smith
Amy Stuart

Bass

Jim Benson
John Frye
Will Jones
Steve Lowry
Hank Montgomery
Sam Query
Cory Reifert
Dennis Smith
Bob VanNote

Tenor

Robbie Benson
*Ian Olsen
Randy Warner

**Section Leader*

Our Mission

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