



# St. Andrews-Covenant

Presbyterian Church | PC (USA)

## Welcome to Worship! | December 18, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent

*It is good you are here! Please silence all electronic devices.*

### GATHERING

**Prelude** *Sing We Now of Christmas*

French carol arr. Don Wyrten

**Welcome**

**Stewardship Message**

Zac Phelps

**\*Hymn No. 134** *Joy to the World*

**Advent Wreath Lighting/Call to Worship**

Ed and Shelley Hobson

One: For this is the message you have heard from the beginning;

**ALL: that we should love one another**

One: We know love by this, that he laid down His life for us

**ALL: and we ought to lay down our lives for one another**

One: God is love

**ALL: and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them**

Selected verses from 1 John

**Sung Response No 91** *Come Come Emmanuel*

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

**\*Gathering Prayer**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, you are always with us and always coming.**

**We confess that we do not know how to truly prepare our lives for that reality.**

**We have forgotten how to hope. We have ignored your promises. We have been distracted by the busyness of us.**

**Forgive us, Lord.**

**Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the courage of the magi, and the quiet faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them toward Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us.**

**Amen.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**\*Sung Response No. 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (vs. 1)*

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.

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\*Please stand as you are able.

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**WORD**

**Scripture Readings** Luke 2:1-8 Joseph and Mary  
Luke 2:21-22 Shepherds  
Luke 2:25-32 Simeon  
Luke 2:36-38 Anna

**Sermon:** *“They Met Jesus”*

Rev. Dr. Robert Bayley

**\*Hymn** *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* (on next page)

**\*Affirmation of Faith:** Apostle’s Creed (hymnal, p. 35)

**Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer**

**THANKSGIVING**

**Offering and Passing of Friendship Pads**

**Offertory** *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

arr. Benjamin Tucker

**\*Doxology No. No. 145 What Child Is This? (VS 1)**

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**SENDING**

**\*Hymn No. 119** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Dismissal**

*We stand while the bell is rung three times, remembering that  
God, Creator, Redeemer and Renewer of Life goes with us. Go in peace!*

**Postlude** *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

Paul Manz

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**Worship Leaders**

Interim Head Pastor, Rev. Dr. Robert Bayley  
Parish Associate, Rev. Dr. Gary Smith  
Director of Music, Cindy Litzinger  
Organist, Sara Bryant

Pianist, Steve Lowry  
Adult Handbells  
Lay Reader, Lisa Bohbrink