



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

Welcome to Worship! | December 21, 2025 | 4th Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

Prelude *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

arr. John Purifoy

Welcome

Introit *Wait for the Lord* (remain seated)

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

***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, love can still live— when the “roots” are strong.

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

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel: “God is with us.”

Let us dare to believe that love still lives;

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

And with the light of this fourth Advent candle,

let us dare to believe that love will still live;

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

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

The love of God lives. Let us worship God.

***Hymn 88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

(Come forward with your 5-Cents-A-Meal Offering)

Call to Confession

Rev. Parker Lucas

Prayer of Confession

**God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, through scripture, dreams, messengers,
and prophets, your Spirit stirs to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry, to establish
equity throughout the earth. 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 love 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 in 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 1:18-25

Second Lesson Isaiah 7:10-16

Sermon *Daring to Believe: Love*

Rev. Katherine B. Harrington

***Hymn 347** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

THANKSGIVING

Offering

Offertory *Advent Fantasy*

arr. Judy Phillips

***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 100** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (Canticle of the Turning)*

***Charge and Benediction**

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

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

Postlude *In Thee Is Gladness*

arr. Dale Wood

Worship Leaders

Senior Pastor, Rev. Katherine B. Harrington
Associate Pastor, Rev. Parker Lucas
Director of Music, Cindy Litzinger
Pianist, Sara Bryant

Adult Handbells
Percussionist, Pat Litzinger
Production Coordinator, Jim Fox
Lay Reader, Lisa Bohbrink

Our Mission

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