



HOPE \* PEACE \* JOY

LOVE

O how lovely, O how pure,  
gracious gift to human kind!



## **St Andrew Worship December 19, 2021**

Dial- 669 900 9128  
Meeting ID 831 688 4211  
Password 9850  
Use \*6 to unmute your phone

**Meeting Times**  
Sunday at 10:30 Worship  
[www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org)

### **Welcome and Announcements – Minute for Mission Joy Offering**

#### **Lighting the Advent Candle Pomroy Family**

The Mighty One has done great things! Holy is God's Name! The Light of the World is coming.

*With Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.*

God's mercy endures from generation to generation for those who are in awe of God.

*The proud, the rich, the mighty no longer have power over us.*

The lowly are lifted up, and the hungry are satisfied.

*We see the light of God shining over the land.*

We light a fourth candle in anticipation of the wondrous birth.

*We will open our hearts that Love may have a place to dwell.*

#### **Advent Song**

Light the Advent candle four  
Think of joy forevermore;  
Christ Child in a stable born,  
Gift of love that Christmas morn.

Candle, candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold night;  
candle, candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

#### **Opening Prayer**

Alleluia the Christ child comes,  
and we await his birth.  
Let us throw off our distractions,  
and allow the chaos to settle.  
Let us watch for the signs,  
and listen to the messengers.

Let us stand on tiptoe,  
and shout aloud and sing.  
Something new is emerging,  
Something new is being birthed. *Amen*

**Hymn 105 People Look East 1, 2, 4, 5**

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able; Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**Prayer of Confession**

*We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God. The very ones you favor; we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty.*

*Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. We would live secure in your love; we would be the ones of peace for our world, we would seek to do your will, as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Time for silent reflection.*

**Assurance of Grace**

Even now—yes, even in this very moment, God comes to us, bringing hope, bringing forgiveness, bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.

*May we open our hearts to the God who is with us, and receive the gifts which have been offered to us. Thanks be to God. Amen.*

**Response:**

**“Glory Be to the Father”**

**No. 581**

**Anthem /Special Music**

**Don Adkins piano**

**Prayers of the People Lord Listen to Your Children Praying**

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

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

### **Prayer for Illumination**

***God of all love and joy, send your Spirit to this place to bless this our reading of your word that it may be a lamp to our feet and a light unto our path. Amen.***

#### **First Lesson Micah 5:2-5a**

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

#### **Second Lesson: Luke 1:39-56**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” <sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

**Sermon**

**“Two Prophetic Women”**

**Rev. Anne McAnelly**

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**Affirmation**

*I believe in the Living God who is directly involved in the affairs of the world.  
I believe that God chooses the meek and the poor to shame the proud and the rich.  
I believe in the incarnate Word, leaping in a woman’s womb, cradled in poverty.  
I believe in Jesus, true son of Mary, true Son of God, who came among us in weakness,  
that we might come to know the profound strength available to common people who turn to  
God in trust and with love.  
Yes, my friends, this I truly believe.*

**Offering**

**Doxology**

**Offering Prayer**

Holy One, this Advent season we wait with love,  
*And we give with love.*  
Love for you, our God;  
*Love for your beautiful people.*  
Receive these generous offerings,  
*And use them for your works of love in our world.*  
*Amen.*

**Hymn 110 Love Has Come**

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; Hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; What is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

**Benediction**