



HOPE & PEACE

JOY

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

St Andrew Worship December 5, 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

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Candle

Jennifer and Mark Power

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, says the Lord of hosts.

The light of hope has awakened our spirits.

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Renew in us your covenant, O God, that we may be ready for the dawn of your salvation.

We light a second candle to bring light to every darkness, and to guide us in the way of peace.

With gratitude for your light, O God, we will prepare to welcome a new birth of your love.

Advent Song

Light the Advent candle, two:
Think of humble shepherds, who
Filled with wonder at the sight
Of the child of Christmas night.

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

Opening Prayer

God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherd and sage, quicken our mood of anticipation, yet still our anxious worry about lists and events. Hush the frantic tone in our voices. Slow the rush of our busy feet. Open us to the joy hidden in every carol, the love tucked into every card, the beauty nourished in every evergreen. With Mary, let wonder fill our hearts and blessing be our song. With Joseph, let us listen to the whispers of the night and do what is right. With shepherds, let us prepare to hear the flutter of angels wings, see the bright star and kneel in awe and joy. With Jesus, let us show your light to the world. God of the morning light and holy nights, we long for you. Amen.

Hymn 83 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

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.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy
gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy
glorious throne.

Call to Confession

The deepest longing of our hearts is to be forgiven and embraced by our God. As we confess our
mistakes, God speaks peace to us and makes us whole. Join me, as we pray together....

Prayer of Confession

*We are trying to take our time, loving God, but busyness is a hard habit to break. We are
anxious about calendars and deadlines, even while trying to relax. There are "have to's" and
"shoulds" that break the rhythm of gentleness. Patient God, it is hard to walk slowly and to be
attentive to your whispers. Slow our overactive minds, quiet our fretful hearts and tune our
ears to your gentle voice. Let us enjoy your love this day and everyday. Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah speaks of God's comfort, of pardon of iniquity, and of the One coming who shall level
uneven ground and make a plain of rough places. All the earth shall know that God's judgment is
tempered by Christ's presence and peace on our behalf. In him we have assurance of forgiveness.
Praise be to God. *Amen.*

Anthem /Special Music *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* arr. by Harold Durke Recorder Trio

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

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

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

Prayer for Illumination

We give thanks, O God of sacred stories, for the witness of Holy Scripture. Through it, you nurture our imaginations, touch our feelings, increase our awareness and challenge our assumptions. Bless our hearing of your Word this day. Speak to each of us and grant that by the power of your Spirit, we may be hearers and doers of your Word. *Amen.*

First Lesson Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Second Lesson Luke 21:25-36

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Meditation

“The Divine Interruption”

Rev. Jim Bender

Offering Music

The First Noel/Angels We Have Heard on High (medley)

arr. by Coty Catlin

Recorder Trio

Doxology

Offering Prayer

Good and loving God, we thank you for all the ways you have gifted us in this life. Accept now the gifts that we bring to you. Help us to be people of glad and generous hearts, willing to use all that we have and are for the sake of others. We ask in the name of the One who is to come. Amen.

Communion

The Invitation

The prophets foretold it: the desert burst into bloom. Angelic messengers delivered news: a priest lost his speech; a young woman found her voice. In this season of Advent, the scriptures revive old stories and bring new understandings. In the face of critics and skeptics, our faith cries out, resilient, like a baby from a manger bed.

From that Bethlehem beginning, Jesus, baptized in the Jordan, spent his life serving others that all might know the compassionate attention of a loving God. Today, Jesus serves us yet again, as we gather at this Table he prepares for us.

May the Advent God give you hope.

May God grant you peace.

Let us lift our hearts to God who offers righteousness to all.

We open our hearts to the One who loves justice.

Children of God, rejoice in the One who calls us to live in harmony with everyone.

Amen and Amen! We give our thanks to God!

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, pour out your Spirit upon the gifts of this Table and upon your children who gather for your feast. In this place, we are filled with the strength of hope, so we may serve those who hunger for goodness and grace. Restored by the Cup of life, we can dare to go out to empty ourselves for those who wander the streets of life, unnoticed by the rest of the world.

And when your Advent has come to gather us home, we will join with Elizabeth and Mary, with Zechariah and Joseph, with our sisters and brothers from all time, forever singing our joy to you, God in Community, Holy in One:

Sanctus

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Closing Prayer

Strengthen us, O Lord, in the power of your Spirit, to bring goodness to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and to claim your blessings for all people.

Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn 134 Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction