

# St. Andrew Worship

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

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

**Meeting Time**  
Sunday at 10:30 AM Worship

We are glad that you are worshipping online with us this morning and pray that your experience here is a blessing to you. If you are a visitor and want to know more about the church, please visit our website for more information and to contact us: [www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org)

### A Word of Welcome and Ritual of Friendship

Minute 4 Mission "Christmas Joy Offering"

Lighting the Advent Candle Jennifer & Mark Power

\*Hymn 314 "Christ Be Our Light" v. 2

Leader: We long for the peace of Christ in our world

**All: Come Prince of Peace**

Choir: Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

**All sing: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

Reader: Listen for the voice of the prophet crying out in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord.

**All: Come Prince of Peace**

Reader: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**All: Come Lord Jesus**

Reader: The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him and the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord

**All: Christ, shine on the earth today**

Introit "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Arr. by Kristine Johanek St. Andrew Bell Choir

### \*Call to Worship (Responsive)

In these darkening days,  
***we come seeking peace.***

We seek serenity within ourselves.

***We seek harmony within our families.***

We seek goodwill among our neighbors.

***We seek a ceasefire among all nations.***

We seek not just the absence of conflict,

***But the presence of shalom—***

the abiding peace

***the healing life***

the unrelenting justice

***that God calls us to in Christ.***

***All: Let us worship with Divine hope.***

### \*Hymn 400 "I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say" (Psalm 122)

***I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to the house of God."***

***And now our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem!***

***Refrain: Shalom, shalom, the peace of God be here.***

***Shalom, shalom, God's justice be ever near.***

***Like a temple of unity is the city, Jerusalem.***

*It is there all tribes will gather, all the tribes of the house of God.*

*Refrain:*

*It is faithful to Israel's law, there to praise the name of God.  
All the judgment seats of David were set down in Jerusalem.*

*Refrain:*

*For the peace of all nations, pray: for God's peace within your homes.  
May God's lasting peace surround us; may it dwell in Jerusalem.*

*Refrain:*

*For the love of my friends and kin I will bless you with signs of peace.  
For the love of God's own people I will labor and pray for you.*

*Refrain:*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

*Lord of Christmas Peace, we have done wrong. We have tarnished the gift you gave freely. We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you. We have not followed Christ, we have ignored your teachings, we have lived lives of apathy against your love, we have built fences and fortresses to push people away, and we have silenced the screams of those in need. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin, Free us to a life lived in Joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Time for Silent Reflection.*

Assurance of Grace

Sisters and brothers in Christ, the promise is true: God loves us. God forgives us. God is coming to us even now to save us. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

Gloria Patri

Special Music

*"The Gift of Love" arr. by Brenda Austin*

St. Andrew Bell Choir  
Flute played by Coty Catlin

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer *"Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"*

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

*Holy One, We long to know your truth. Prepare our hearts to hear your Word and give us understanding. As we listen to the stories of your ancient people may we be inspired to share our stories of your presence day by day. Amen.*

First Lesson:

Psalm 146:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God,

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

<sup>8</sup> the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

Second Lesson:

Mathew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples<sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:<sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.<sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?<sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.<sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.<sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Sermon

"Pilgrim Advent: Are you the One?"

Rev. Anne McAnelly

Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*)

*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.*

Offertory

Doxology

Offering Prayer (*Responsive*)

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in peace,

***And we give in peace.***

A peace deeper than our anxiety and fear.

***A peace growing from our trust in your loving power.***

Receive these generous offerings,

***And use them to bring your peace to our world. Amen.***

\*Hymn 86

"The People Who Walked in Darkness"

***The people who walked in darkness awaken to see a great light.***

***The people who dwelt in the land of the shadow rise to a star shining bright.***

***Refrain: His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God,  
Father forever, Prince of Peace. His name is Wonderful, Counselor,  
Almighty God, Father forever, Prince of Peace.***

***For God has enlarged the nation, and prospered the fruit of its land.***

***God's people are blest with the harvest of victory, gift from a bountiful hand.***

***Refrain:***

***The yoke of despair and bondage, the chains of the slave master's rod  
are shattered and scattered like dust in a windstorm, loosed by the justice of God.***

***Refrain:***

***For us now a child is given, for all the despised and forlorn.***

***The rule of compassion shall rest on his shoulder. God's own Messiah is born!***

***Refrain:***

***How vast is our God's dominion! How far truth and mercy extend.***

***The zeal of the Lord will accomplish its purpose: justice shall reign without end.***

***Refrain:***

Benediction