

# St. Andrew Worship

## 4th Sunday of Advent

December 18, 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

“Feeding the Homeless”

Michele Pomroy

### Lighting the Advent Candle

\*Hymn 314

“Christ Be Our Light” v. 4

Leader: We long for the presence of Christ, Emmanuel, God with us

**All: Come Bearer of Love**

Choir: Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

**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: Love coming to earth to live among us full of grace and truth

**All: Come Bearer of Love**

Reader: Do not be afraid: see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people

**All: Christ, shine in our hearts today**

### \*Call to Worship (Responsive)

All creation holds its breath.

***The time is almost here.***

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

***Excitement is all around us.***

Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form.

Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

***We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our hope.***

\*Hymn 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.***

***Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

***O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.***

***Refrain:***

***O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.***

***Refrain:***

***O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.***

**Refrain:**

*O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.*

**Refrain:**

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.*

**Refrain:**

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.*

**Refrain:**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

*God of the Messiah, you have saved us, yet we adamantly sin.*

*We make the holidays about stuff and not about sacredness.*

*We fret about the wrong things.*

*We allow dysfunction to dominate instead of the divine.*

*You fill us with Christ, but we act empty.*

*For the sake of Emmanuel, forgive us. Prepare us for the comings. Amen.*

*Time for Silent Reflection.*

Assurance of Grace

Friends in Christ, hear this Good News! God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment. You are that beloved. So know that wrapped in that love is grace and forgiveness, and a call to go out into the world to love.

*Alleluia! Amen.*

Gloria Patri

Anthem

*"Bethlehem Wind"*

St. Andrew Choir

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

\*Hymn 104

*"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"*

*O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a right?*

*Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!*

*O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.*

*Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.*

*O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love,  
all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.*

*You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and good will,  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.*

*In patient expectation we live for that great day when  
your renewed creation your glory shall display.*

Prayer of Illumination (Unison) by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing

*Holy Spirit, Holy Word,*

*may your love leap within us*

*and your stories seal themselves to our hearts.*

*As we prepare to welcome Jesus Christ,*

*may we first welcome your wisdom to our worship. Amen.*

First Lesson:

Psalm 80:1-3, 17-19

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

<sup>17</sup> But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. <sup>18</sup> Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. <sup>19</sup> Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Second Lesson:

Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

"Pilgrim Advent: Favored One"

Rev. Anne McAnelly

Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*)

*We believe that God has come to us;  
that God brought us into being,  
that this God gave us breath and purpose,  
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,  
that we have fallen short of this commandment  
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.*

*We believe that God is coming to us;  
that God is not happy to leave us alone,  
that this God will come to us as a particular human being,  
that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,  
that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,  
that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.*

*We believe that God will come to us;  
that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,  
that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work,  
that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,  
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,  
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"*

Offertory

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology

Offering Prayer (*Responsive*)

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.*

*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.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen*

*God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Bird, 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.*

Benediction