



The Way

*We light this candle as a symbol of
Christ the Way.*

*May the Word sent from God through the prophets
lead us to the way of salvation.*

O come, O come, Emmanuel.



St. Andrew Worship

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 10:30 AM

"2nd Sunday of Advent"

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

Service Online

Join on Zoom:

Dial: 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 831 688 4211

Password: 9850

Use *6 to unmute your
phone

Live Streaming on YouTube:

@standrewpresbyterianchurch4863

Welcome and Announcement

Minute 4 Mission

Joy Special Offering

Gwen Yeo/Kathryn Adkins

Lighting the Advent Candle

Allison & Will Bridges

. . . We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

***Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears
the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.***

. . .

Choral Response: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vs. 2)

*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.*

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

A voice cries out declaring God's presence.

Comfort, O Comfort my people, says God.

We come preparing the way of the Lord.

Together, we actively wait for God's peace.

A voice cries out declaring God's equity.

Valleys shall be lifted and Hills be made low.

We come to make straight in the desert a highway.

Together, we're pressing toward God's peace.

A voice cries out declaring steadfastness.

Grass withers, flowers fade, but God's word stands forever.

We lift up our voices with strength and good tidings.

Together, we carry out God's peace.

*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 of Confession (Responsive)

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world.

We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness.

We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us.

We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.

Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus.

Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light

so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.

Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Here are words you may trust, words that merit full acceptance:

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

This is the Good News of the Gospel, therefore let us sing to the glory of God.

Response: Gloria Patri (Unison)

Anthem

"I Shall Know Him" by Douglas Wagner

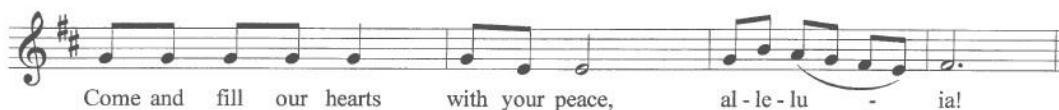
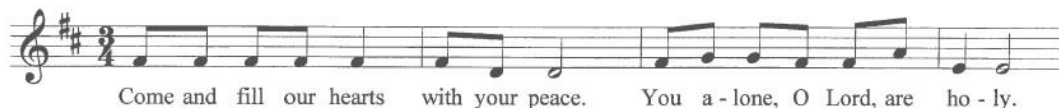
St. Andrew Choir

Children's Sermon

Prayers of the People

(Please unmute to signal you want to share a prayer request)

Come and Fill



"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!*

*Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.*

*We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.*

*Stretch forth your hand; our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.*

Prayer of Illumination (Responsive)

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.

*Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.*

First Lesson:

Isaiah 40:1-11

(P. 667 OT)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the lord.

Thanks be to God.

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D) (chords continue)

* E^b A^b E^b *

Pre- pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord,
and all peo- ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first staff begins with a 'Capo 1' instruction and lists chords: (D), (G), (D), and (chords continue). Below the staff, there are asterisks and chord symbols: * E^b, A^b, E^b, *. The lyrics are written below the notes: 'Pre- pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord, and all peo- ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.' The second staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line.

Second Lesson:

John 1:6-8, 19-28

(P. 91 NT)

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the word of the lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Way of the Lord"

Rev. Anne McAnelly

*Affirmation of Faith (Responsive)

I hear a voice in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. "

*I believe every valley shall be lifted up and
Every mountain and hill be made low;
I believe the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain,
I believe the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

DoxologyOffering Prayer (Unison)

We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. May they create light in our broken world. Let these gifts usher peace into this world and signal to the people that God is with us. Amen.

CommunionInvitation

He who was with God in the beginning, is with us in this bread. He of whom the prophets spoke, now speaks to us in this cup. Come now to the Lord's Table, trusting Christ has made a place for you at God's heavenly banquet.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsive)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Holy God, we give thanks for your creation...

Along the Way we join our voices with those of all created beings in Heaven, and on Earth singing:

Sanctus

Don Adkins

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord: God of pow'r and might. Hea - ven and earth are
full of your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. — Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

While the bread is being served, the congregation is invited to sing the refrain to

Refrain**Eat This Bread**

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

