



Joy

*We light this candle as a symbol of
Christ our Joy.*

*May the joyful promise of your presence, O God,
make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.*

O come, O come, Emmanuel.



St. Andrew Worship

Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 10:30 AM

3rd 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

Live Streaming on YouTube:

@standrewpresbyterianchurch4863

Welcome and Announcement

Lighting the Advent Candle

... We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, so how can we respond to God with "Here I am, the servant of the Lord," as we anticipate the coming of Christ?

We wait as people who have encountered divine joy that ushers us into abundant life. Help us to say, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord,"

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, and our fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Choral Response:

*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vs. 6)
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.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

We, the unsuspecting and unlikely,
are drawn here together by a promise.

He is coming.

An unwed pregnant teenager's fears
diminished with the angel's promise.

He is coming.

A baby in a womb leapt for joy
at the sound of her voice and promised.

He is coming.

Two thousand years ago,
from the depths of a people's memory,
the words of a promise resounded.

He is coming. Come, let us worship God!

*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.*

Prayer of Confession (Responsive)

God of love, all year long we pursue power and money,
yet you came in weakness, as a child.

All season long we want more stuff, more for us,
but you alone offer what is lasting.

Through the work of our Lord Jesus,
who comes among us full of grace and truth,
forgive us, heal us, correct us.

*Then open our lips,
that we may sing your praise with the angels,*

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
forgive us, Lord.

When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,
have mercy on us, Father.

When hardness of heart keeps us
from seeing and believing in Your Song,
let your grace fill us, O God.

*Forgive our doubt
and renew our hopes in Christ alone,
that we may watch and wait
and once more hear the glad story of our Savior,
Jesus Christ, the Lord.*

In His name we ask, Amen.

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace (Responsive)

Mary was loved and enough.

Jesus promises us, that we are forgiven, loved and enough.

Response: *Gloria Patri* (Unison)

Anthem "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" arr. by Larry Sue St. Andrew Bells Choir

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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

Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Lord, send your
 Spir - it in this place; Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren
 pray - ing, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

*Hymn 98

"To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"

To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.

*"Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news;
good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."*

*"For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
you are most blest, most blessed; God chose you, you are blest!"*

But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word.

*What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,
to hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.*

*"Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high.*

And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."

*"How shall this be?" said Mary, "I am not yet a wife."
The angel answered quickly, "The power of the Most High
will come upon you shortly, your child shall be God's child."*

As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.

"Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God.

"So be it; I am ready according to your word."

Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Calm us now, O Lord, into a quietness that heals and listens. Open wounded hearts to the balm of your Word. Speak to us in clear tones so that we might feel our spirits leap for joy discovering the blessed news. Amen.

First Lesson:

Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

(P. 691 OT)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson:

Luke 1:26-38

(P. 57 NT)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." 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.

This is the word of the lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Mary, Favored 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 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* arr. by Sandra Eithun St. Andrew Bells Choir

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Responsive)

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy,

And we give with joy.

Joy for all you have given us;

Joy because of your sacred promises.

Receive these generous offerings,

And use them to spread your joy in our world. Amen.

*Hymn 104

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

*O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
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.*

Benediction