

# St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

Pastor, Rev. Dr. Darryl Goldman

Elder B. J. Breeding, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist/Organist

Prelude "In the Bleak Midwinter/Away in a Manger" Dr. Jeff Gilbreath

Chiming of the Hour

Pastor's Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Love has come down to us this Advent Season.

**People: *Divine love which heals and transforms our lives.***

Leader: With great joy, we receive that love and share it with others.

**People: *We open our hearts to all God's children, the last, the least, and the lost, as well as those who feel privileged.***

Leader: The Lord has done and continues to do great things for us.

**People: *Praise be to God who loves us so much and who challenges us to be people of joy in this darkened world. AMEN.***

Prayer of Adoration

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Joy Tommy & Nellie Gates

\*Hymn "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" #97  
*Please pass your prayer cards to the aisle for pickup.*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

***God of mercy, light and love, we confess that we have not been people who are quick to pray. When an emergency befalls us, we turn to pleas and prayers which usually begin with the heart-wrenching cry, "Why?" Help us to remember that you are always ready to hear and respond to all our prayers. Remind us that even though we have often failed to witness to your love and live as people of compassion and faith, you love us unconditionally. Forgive our stubbornness and willfulness. Cleanse our souls and spirits and make us truly ready to receive your light. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN. (We offer our own silent confessions. . .)***

Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" V. 1 #82

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**People: *Thanks be to God.***

The Peace

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People: *And also with you. (Please share the peace of Christ with those near you.)***

\*Gloria Patri #581

Solo "O Holy Night" Amelia Adams

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Elder B. J. Breeding

Children's Message Joan Jordan

Scripture Reading Numbers 22:21-34 Rev. Goldman

Message "The Donkey Whisperer" Rev. Goldman

\*Hymn "Once in Royal David's City" #140

\*Affirmation of Faith: Nicene Creed

***We believe in one God, the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God from God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made, who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

Prayers of the People/the Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Offertory "Ave Maria" Amelia Adams  
\*Doxology #606  
\*Prayer

\*Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #133

\*Charge & Benediction

Postlude "Go Tell It on the Mountains" Dr. Gilbreath

\*All that are able are invited to stand.

***Bold italic type indicates our shared response.***  
All hymns are from the Glory to God (purple) hymnal.

**To Our Visitors & Guest:**

**Welcome!** It is a blessing to have you in worship with us today! We invite you to consider membership in St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. The pastor and elders will be available following the service to answer any questions you may have. If you are a first time visitor, we would like to take you to lunch, so don't run out on us. **There is a place for you here. We are delighted to have you with us today!**

**St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Teams 2017** **Chairperson**

Administration, Finance & Property.....	Stu Strong & Turner Matthews
Building/Grounds/Clerk of Session.....	Stu Strong
Communications & Outreach .....	Harold Culbert & Ceil Hydrick
Education & Spiritual Formation.....	Shelly Shull
Finance & Stewardship.....	Turner Matthews & Tommy Gates
Member Care.....	B. J. Breeding
Nominating.....	Nellie Gates
Mission.....	Greg Vogel
Worship.....	Linda Webster & Linda Grissom
Head Usher.....	Donald Foster

**Class of 2018**

Stu Strong  
Harold Culbert  
Linda Webster

**Class of 2019**

Ceil Hydrick  
Greg Vogel  
Turner Matthews

**Class of 2020**

BJ Breeding  
Dan Watt  
Ed Wyle

No Wednesday Activities this week  
Sunday, December 24, Casual Worship at 10:00 AM  
(No Sunday School)  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 PM  
Sunday, December 31, Casual Worship at 10:00 AM  
(No Sunday School)

**Scripture Reading, B. J. Breeding, Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

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; 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. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 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.

**Scripture Reading, Rev. Goldman: Numbers 22:21-34**

So Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the officials of Moab. God's anger was kindled because he was going, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the road as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. The donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand; so the donkey turned off the road, and went into the field; and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn it back onto the road. Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the

vineyards, with a wall on either side. When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it scraped against the wall, and scraped Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck it again. Then the angel of the LORD went ahead, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it lay down under Balaam; and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand! I would kill you right now!" But the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I been in the habit of treating you this way?" And he said, "No." Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed down, falling on his face. The angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? I have come out as an adversary, because your way is perverse before me. The donkey saw me, and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let it live." Then Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now therefore, if it is displeasing to you, I will return home."