

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent
Rev. Rosemary McMahan, Interim Pastor
Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

December 1, 2019
Elder B.J. Breeding, Liturgist
Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude "God With Us" Dr. Jeff Gilbreath

We Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

Pastor's Welcome (Please sign the friendship roster.)

PNC Update Elder Harold Culbert

Advent Candle Lighting John and Sylvia Newbill

Hymn "A Candle is Burning" Vs. 1 See Screen
(to the tune of "Away in a Manger")

Call to Worship

One: We come from a world of darkness

All: Into Christ's world of light.

One: We come from a world of weariness

All: Into God's strength and hope.

One: We come from a slumbering world.

All: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ.

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Prayer of Adoration

*Hymn of Worship "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" #93
Please pass your prayer cards to the aisle for pickup.

Call to Confession: As we await the coming of the Light that shines into our darkness, let us repent of our sins with sincere hearts.

Confession: We confess, Gracious God, that we have not always turned to you for guidance. At times, we have allowed the world's time to dominate your time. Forgive us for our sins of hurriedness and impatience. Forgive us when we have slumbered instead of remaining alert, waiting and watching for you. Forgive us for allowing the

world's fears to become our fears. Shine upon us this Advent season so that we may be restored unto you. Guide us into your time. As we call upon your name, hear our prayers and give us life. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen. (We make our silent confession.)

Declaration of Forgiveness: Christ promises to strengthen our hearts in holiness, that we may be blameless before our God and Creator at the coming of the Lord.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Gloria Patri #581

Anthem "A Shoot Shall Come Forth" Choir

We Listen for the Word

Prayer for Illumination Elder Breeding

Scripture Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 Elder Breeding

Scripture Reading Matthew 16:13-28 Rev. McMahan

Message "The Power of a Name" Rev. McMahan

*Hymn of Reflection "O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Vs. 1 & 2" #88

We Respond to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. This we believe.

Prayers of the People

Offertory "The Child of Bethlehem" Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology #606

*Prayer

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion: ***God our Father, you fill the hungry with good things and send the self-satisfied away empty. In this eucharist you have filled us with the word and the bread of life of our Messiah, Jesus Christ. Make us hunger now for his coming in the hearts and the homes of all. Fill us with his spirit of service and self-forgetting love, that through us, he may become near to all. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.***

We Go Forth to Minister

*Hymn of Sending “Love Has Come” #110

*Blessing and Sending Rev. McMahan

Postlude “Go Tell It on the Mountain” Dr. Jeff Gilbreath

*All that are able are invited to stand.

Bold italic type indicates our shared response.

To Our Visitors & Guests:

Welcome! It is a blessing to have you in worship with us today. We warmly invite your participation in the worship, fellowship, and ministry of this congregation where everyone is welcome as God’s child. The pastor is available to answer any questions you might have after worship or by email or phone. There is a place for you here, and we are delighted to have you with us today.

Prayers for Wholeness

Those who would like a private prayer for healing and wholeness are invited to gather at the communion table after worship.

From Pastor Rosemary:

This Sunday marks the first Sunday of Advent. For those of us who may not be familiar with Advent, it is a liturgical (church) season consisting of the four Sundays before Christmas Day. “Advent” means *coming* or *arrival*, so it is set apart as an intentional time to reflect on two things: 1) the memory of the miracle of Christ’s birth as God-with-Us and 2) the hope we express for Christ’s Second Coming.

To remind us of this season, the liturgical color will be purple, prayers will be said as candles are lit on the Advent Wreath, a “Chrismon” tree, decorated with ornaments (“Chrismons”) that are symbolic of stories in scripture, will be placed in the sanctuary, and the hymns will be a mixture of waiting songs and Christmas carols. We wait for Christ’s birth, but we also rejoice that Christ has already been born! This paradox of Advent gives us much to ponder, just as Mary pondered the words of the shepherds in her heart. Let us watch for the child together!

Scripture Reading B. J. Breeding: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Scripture Reading Rev. McMahan: Matthew 16:13-28

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross

and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

"A Candle is Burning" is by Sandra Dean, 1986. Music is "**Away In A Manger**" by James Murray 1887 (Public Domain)

Verse One:

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

(Each week we will add a new verse and sing the previous verses also. I have attached the full song with the dates we are singing that verse on the thumb drive.)