

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

Rev. Rosemary McMahan, Interim Pastor

Elder Nellie Gates, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude "Emmanuel, God With Us" Dr. Gilbreath

We Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

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

Advent Candle Lighting W.C. and Cerese Sweeley

Hymn "A Candle is Burning" Vs. 1 & 2 See Screen
(to the tune of "Away in a Manger")

Call to Worship:

One: We wait for the Lord; our souls wait.

All: Our souls wait for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

One: There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

All: With the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption.

One: There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Adoration

*Hymn of Worship "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" #96
Please pass your prayer cards to the aisle for pickup.

Invitation to Confession: Prepare the way of the Lord. Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession: (based on Isaiah 60:1-3)

One: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

All: O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.

One: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All: We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.

One: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

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

One: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

All: Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your arrival. It is time that we prepare. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time and the fullness of our lives. Amen. (We make our silent confession.)

Declaration of Forgiveness: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Gloria Patri #581

Anthem "Light of the World" Choir

We Listen for the Word

Prayer for Illumination Elder Gates

Scripture Reading Isaiah 42:5-9 Elder Gates

Scripture Reading John 1:6-8; 19-23 Rev. McMahan

Message "Watch for the Light!" Rev. McMahan

Hymn of Reflection "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Vs. 3 & 4 #88

We Respond to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith

The Lord is holy and awesome and full of power! He sent his Son to earth to redeem mankind. Jesus came and lived among us, dying that we might live. He returned to heaven, promising to return again one day. He will come in righteousness and holiness, bringing peace to all people. The Spirit of God lives with us now, moving and breathing life into our souls. We wait expectantly for our King, our Messiah, our Savior, our Light. He is coming. This we believe. Amen.

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

Offertory "Meditation on Silent Night" Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology #606

*Prayer

We Go Forth to Minister

*Hymn of Sending "Silent Night" #122

*Blessing and Sending Rev. McMahan

Postlude "Joy to the World" Dr. 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.

Second Sunday in Advent

Romans 13: 11-12 ~ *“Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”* Time. Wake. Salvation. Near. Light. These are Advent words reminding us that we will all meet Jesus, Messiah, Light, in the future, a future that becomes nearer each and every day. Advent is a special time to reflect on how well we are putting aside darkness and both embracing light and shining light in preparation to meet the One we love and who loves us in return.

An audio and written copy of each week's sermon is available on the website at www.standrewdecatour.org.

Scripture Reading Nellie Gates: Isaiah 42:5-9

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Scripture Reading Rev. McMahan: John 1:6-8; 19-23

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.

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

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.