

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

Rev. Rosemary McMahan, Interim Pastor

Elder Nellie Gates, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude "For Unto Us a Child is Born" Dr. Gilbreath

We Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

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

Lighting of the Joy Advent Candle Tom and Nellie Gates

Hymn "A Candle is Burning" Vs. 1, 2, & 3 See Screen
(to the tune of "Away in a Manger")

Call to Worship:

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you

One: Look, said the prophet: "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son."

All: You shall call him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

One: He will be born of the line of David and of his kingdom there will be no end.

All: You shall call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

One: In him all the promises made from the beginning of time to the end shall come true.

All: By him the fullness of God's love shall shine upon the whole world.

Prayer of Adoration

*Hymn of Worship "Prepare the Way, O Zion" #106
Please pass your prayer cards to the aisle for pickup.

Invitation to Confession: O Emmanuel, you are our king and judge, the one whom the peoples await and their Savior. O come and save us, Lord, our God.

Prayer of Confession:

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, touch and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy; you have asked us to believe what is true. Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin — the One who has come

to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen. (We make our silent confession.)

Declaration of Forgiveness: God sent his only Son, Emmanuel, not to condemn us, but to save us. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

All: Rejoice in the Lord always; again, we say, rejoice!

Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Gloria Patri #581

Anthem "Adore Him, Emmanuel" Choir

We Listen for the Word

Prayer for Illumination Elder Gates

Scripture Reading Isaiah 11:1-10 Elder Gates

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25 Rev. McMahan

Message "God With Us!" Rev. McMahan

* Hymn of Relection "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Vss. 5 & 6 #88

We Respond to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing was created. The life that was in him became light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. To all who receive him, who believe in him, he gives power to become children of God. The Word became flesh, a man named Jesus, called Emmanuel, God-With-Us. He lived among us, full of grace and truth. From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace. In his name God has sent the Holy Spirit to teach us and to remind us of all that he has said. Because Jesus lives, we shall live also, to the glory of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This we believe. Amen.

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

Offertory "Away in a Manger" Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology #606

*Prayer

We Go Forth to Minister

*Hymn of Sending	"O Little Town of Bethlehem"	#121
*Blessing and Sending		Rev. McMahan
Postlude	"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"	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.

From Pastor Rosemary:

This third Sunday in Advent traditionally has been known as Gaudete Sunday. Its name is taken from the Philippians' passage, 4:4-5, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." In Latin, the first word of the antiphon is *gaudete* (Latin, "rejoice"; it's also pronounced with three syllables: *gau-de-te*). Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season. Thus, it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: "The Lord is near." Instead of lighting a purple candle, we light a pink one—a symbol of joy—and the Advent prayers around the wreath are prayers of joy.

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

Scripture Reading Nellie Gates: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Scripture Reading Rev. McMahan: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to

dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

"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.

Verse 3

A candle is burning, a candle of joy.

A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.

Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.