

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

Rev. Rosemary McMahan, Interim Pastor

Elder Bob Naumann, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude "The First Nowell" Piano Duet
Dr. Jeff Gilbreath and Linda Webster

We Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

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

Advent Candle Lighting Doug & Jean Coshow

Hymn "A Candle is Burning" Vs. 1-4 See Screen
(to the tune of "Away in a Manger")

Call to Worship:

One: Shout for joy!

All: The Savior is coming.

One: Sing with gladness!

All: Our darkness shall be turned to light.

One: Let every heart prepare a space.

All: Let every home make ready.

One: Let all the hungry be filled.

All: Let all who mourn be glad.

One: For a new day is dawning.

All: The world is being made new.

One: The Savior is coming.

All: We will sing with joy!

Prayer of Adoration

*Hymn of Worship "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #82
Please pass your prayer cards to the aisle for pickup.

Invitation to Confession: John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. We still need to hear that call to repentance. Therefore, let us confess our sins together, that we may together know the forgiveness of the Lord.

Prayer of Confession:

One: When we find ourselves irritable and preoccupied with the pulsating and demanding rhythms of the seasons,

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

One: When we talk peace, but do not walk peace,

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

One: When we lose sight of the Child whose coming has transformed the world,

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

One: When we push away and keep out others who are different or challenging,

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

One: When kindness and generosity fail us,

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

One: We ask for the gift of forgiveness, O Lord, that we may be conscious of your presence during this holy season and so come closer to you. Amen. (We make our silent confession.)

Declaration of Forgiveness: O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

All: We are renewed and restored by the love of the Christ Child. Thanks be to God.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Gloria Patri #581

Anthem "Gesù Bambino" Amelia Adams

We Listen for the Word

Prayer for Illumination Elder Naumann

Scripture Reading II Samuel 7:1-16 Elder Naumann

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-38 Rev. McMahan

Message "Christ Our Cornerstone!" Rev. McMahan

*Hymn of Reflection "What Child is This?" #145

We Respond to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith

We believe and proclaim that God saw us in our sin and sent his son to save us.

We believe in God Incarnate, in God "with us," in God who was born to be one of us.

We believe and proclaim that he entered the world as a sinless human.

We believe and proclaim that Jesus was both God and man.

We believe in the God who took on flesh, who loved and laughed, who wept and prayed.

We believe in the Savior who sacrificed and suffered, who paid the ultimate price for love.

We believe in the Holy One who triumphed over sin and death and who reigns eternally with God.

We believe and proclaim that salvation comes by faith in Christ alone.

***We believe that Jesus is our king and we proclaim that we have chosen to follow
wherever he may lead.***

We believe we are called to reign with him, beginning now, in our lives.

We belong to Jesus, our Cornerstone. This we believe. Amen.

Prayers of the People: The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)
Offertory "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming" Piano Duet
Dr. Jeff Gilbreath and Linda Webster
*Doxology #606
*Prayer

We Go Forth to Minister

*Hymn of Sending "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" #123
*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.

After this time of Advent waiting, we hope you and your family and friends will join us this **Christmas Eve at 5 PM** for our celebration of Christ's birth two thousand years ago and in our hearts right now. We will honor the Christ Child with candlelight, communion, and joyful carols. Let us all take some time in the busyness of these next few days to prepare our hearts for receiving Christ, our Messiah, the Light of the World, Emmanuel, the Cornerstone, and all his other beautiful and promising names, in both Word and in Sacrament. I wish each of you a very special Christmas Season. May the Christ Light shine on you as you continue to shine that light on others.

~Pastor Rosemary

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

Scripture Reading Elder Naumann: 2 Sam. 7:1-16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.” But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make

you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Scripture Reading Rev. McMahan: Luke 1:26-38

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.

"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.

Verse 4

A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above,
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.