

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

1st Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 2019

Elder Greg Vogel, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath

We Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

Welcome (Please sign the friendship roster.)

Elder Vogel

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, people of God. Let us give thanks for these holy days of Christmas.

People: *Here we have come to worship the God of new beginnings and new opportunities.*

Leader: Come, people of God. Let us celebrate and rejoice for the wondrous gifts given to us.

People *Here in our worship, we look to the future as we are filled with the gifts of Christmas: love, hope, peace, and joy!*

Prayer of Adoration

*Hymn of Worship

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

#123

Please pass your prayer cards to the aisle for pickup.

Invitation to Confession: Let us prepare our hearts to receive the Living Word by humbly confessing our faults, failures, weaknesses, and sins together.

Prayer of Confession: *Lord God, we stand on the threshold of another year. We thank you for giving us another year of life. You have given us many gifts during the last year; and yet we realize that we have often failed to use those gifts or our lives as creatively and constructively as we might have. Now give us the care to shape the moments of this next year into tender, gentle expressions of concern. May the year and our lives here together be fulfilled with achievements: wrongs corrected, friendships deepened, the disheartened encouraged. Help us to model your love, even as you became love to us. For we ask these things in the Christ-Child's name. Amen.* (We make our silent confession.)

Hymn

"Breathe on me, Breath of God" V. 1-2

#286

Declaration of Forgiveness: As Mary, Joseph and Jesus settled in Nazareth, help us, God, to let you take up residence in each one of our hearts. In the name of the babe of Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace, we are now made new and whole.

All: Praise to you, Lord God!

Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Gloria Patri

#581

Anthem

"The Star Carol"

Paulette Devine

We Listen for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

Elder Vogel

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:13-23

Rev. Tracie Loveman

Message

"Keeping Herod in Christmas"

Rev. Tracie Loveman

*Hymn of Reflection

"Once in Royal David's City"

#140

We Respond to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith:

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: The Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)

Offertory

Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology

#606

*Prayer

We Go Forth to Minister

*Hymn of Sending

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

#150

*Blessing and Sending

Rev. Loveman

Postlude

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.

The Twelve Days of Christmas do not occur *before* Christmas but begin *on* Christmas Day and run through Jan. 5, the eve of the Feast of the Epiphany, when the magi from the East paid homage to the Christ Child. Advent is the time of waiting and anticipating, but in our modern times with our lack of patience, we've celebrated Christmas during the waiting period. The theological celebration of the arrival of Christ is marked beginning with his birth. As you look around the church, notice that the Chrismon tree remains in place, the wreaths are on the doors, and the Nativity scene still stands at the front of the church. They remind us that we are in the midst of the celebration! Jesus is here!

We welcome our guest speaker today, Rev. Traci Loveman!

Rev. Traci Loveman has been in pastoral ministry for 25 years and currently serves as the Chaplain for Amedisys Hospice. She has been married to Peter for 23 years. Traci and Peter enjoy ballroom dancing.

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



***“Growing in Faith; Sharing the Good News;
Living in God’s Love.”***

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Scripture Reading Greg Vogel: Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Scripture Reading Rev. Loveman: Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” When Herod died, an angel of

the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”