

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday of Advent
Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

December 10, 2023
Elder Barb Mouton, Liturgist
Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude

“Gloria in Excelsis Deo”

Dr. Gilbreath

We Gather in God’s Presence

Pastor’s Welcome

Call to Worship:

One: Wilderness living calls us to seek God in the voice that cries out,
All: “Valleys will be lifted up and mountains will be made low,”

One: to seek God in the sound of the one who speaks of peace,
All: “The day of the Lord is coming,”

One: to seek God in the loud noise that foretells what will be made new.
All: In the wilderness, let us listen only for God’s voice. Let us worship God!

*Hymn “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” #93

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:
Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.
(Silent Confession)

Hymn of Response

“Come, Come Emmanuel” (2x)

#91

Assurance of Pardon:

One: Brothers and sisters, by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven.
All: We receive this forgiveness, and we will walk in peace.

Advent Candle of Peace

The Shull Family

*Gloria

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (V.1 & Refrain)

#113

We Listen for God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Barb Mouton

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Elder Barb Mouton

Anthem

“A Shoot Shall Come Forth”

Choir

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:1-8

Rev. Brogdon

Sermon

“Baptismal Limitations”

Rev. Brogdon

*Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vv.1-3, 6-7

#88

We Respond to God’s Word

Affirmation of Faith: 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.

Prayers of the People - by Teri McDowell Ott of the *Presbyterian Outlook*.

Call for the Offering

Offertory “I Wonder as I Wander” Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

We Are Sent into the World

*Hymn

“Prepare The Way, O Zion”

#106

*Benediction

Rev. Brogdon

Postlude

“For Unto Us a Child Is Born”

Dr. Gilbreath

*Please rise in body or spirit.
Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.

Calendar of Events:

Mon., Dec. 11	HAD Lunch, sign-up to serve, bring cornbread, dessert, or Christmas candy 11:30 AM-12:30 PM Advent Chat “N” Chew, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch. Study Focus: Hope
Wed., Dec. 13	10:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 4:30 PM Choir 5:30 pm CONNECT with Rev. Tripp
Thurs., Dec. 14	1:00 PM Caring Hands
Sat., Dec. 16	9:00 AM Decorate for brunch
Sun., Dec. 17	8:45 AM Christmas Brunch, no Sunday School

During Advent the pages on display during the Advent candle lighting were colored by our Coloring Group.

To Our 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 our congregation. The pastor is available to answer any questions you might have after worship, by email or phone. There is a place for you here.

Children's activity bags are available from an usher for the sermon time. Please leave the bag in the pew as you leave.

A nursery is provided for children 3 years of age and under.

Live Streams and recordings of each week's worship service are available on our YouTube channel. For more information, visit us at www.standrewdecaturn.org

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Scripture Reading, Elder Barb Mouton: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Scripture Reading, Rev. Brogdon: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of

the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."