

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude

“Love Has Come”

Dr. Gilbreath

We Gather in God’s Presence

Pastor’s Welcome

Call to Worship:

One: Forever is a very long time.

All: We will sing of God’s steadfast love forever.

One: Forever is a very long time.

All: God’s faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

One: Forever is a very long time.

All: We will trust God forever. Let us worship God!

*Hymn

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

#347

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen. (Silent Confession)

Hymn of Response

“Come, Come Emmanuel”

#91

Assurance of Pardon:

One: Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven.

All: Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.

Advent Candle of Love

Stacey White

Gloria

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

#113

We Listen for God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 26-38

Rev. Brogdon

Meditation

“The Subjunctive Space”

Rev. Brogdon

*Hymn

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

#144

We Respond to God’s Word

Affirmation of Faith: A Declaration of Faith - PC (U.S.A.)

Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record. The Bible is the account of God’s word and action in history, together with His people’s response in faith. It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church towards the kingdom of God, his just and loving rule over all.

It is the story of the one God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That story is still unfolding, and in faith we make it our own. It forms our memory and our hope. It tells us who we are and what we are to do.

To retell it is to declare what we believe. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now He is Lord.

Prayers of the People

Call for the Offering

Offertory

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*Doxology

#606

*Prayer of Dedication

We Are Sent into the World

*Hymn

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

#123

*Benediction

Rev. Brogdon

Postlude

“Joy to the World”

Dr. Gilbreath

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.

Calendar of Events:

Today Christmas Joy offering.
4:00 PM, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Monday, Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!
Monday, Dec. 25 - Monday, January 1 Church Office will be closed

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.

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

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
3310 Danville Rd. SW
Decatur, AL 35603
256-355-6310
Tripp@standrewdecaturn.org
www.standrewdecaturn.org

Scripture Reading, Rev. Brogdon: 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.