

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor

Elder Bob Naumann, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude "God With Us" Dr. Gilbreath

We Gather in God's Presence

Pastor's Welcome Rev. Brogdon

Minute for Mission Christmas Joy Offering John Jordan

Call to Worship

One: When God performs deeds that we did not expect, it is God coming down to be among us.

All: Mountains quake and hearts are changed.

One: Let the God of the unexpected be among us today.

All: Let us worship God!

*Hymn "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" #82

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world. Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. Be gracious toward us, we pray, until we are gathered, from the ends of earth to the ends of heaven, into your embrace. We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

Hymn of Response "Come, Come Emmanuel" (2x) #91

Assurance of Pardon:

One: The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.

All: Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord!

One: Hear the good news and rejoice. We are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

Advent Candle of Hope Bob and Genie Sparks

*Gloria "Angels We Have Heard on High" #113
V.1 and refrain

We Listen for God's Word

Prayer for Illumination Elder Bob Naumann

Scripture Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 Elder Bob Naumann

Anthem "Thee We Adore" Choir

Scripture Reading Mark 13:24-37 Rev. Brogdon

Sermon "Stay Tuned!" Rev. Brogdon

We Respond to God's Word

Call for the Offering
Offertory "Isn't He?" Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" #39

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Eye has not seen, not ear heard, nor tongue told of a glory like yours, Lord God...

One: ... and so we gladly thank you, joining with the company of angels and all the host of heaven in their unending hymn.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

One: Ever-present God, your prophets longed that you would tear the heavens and come down...

One: Now, as we wait for him to come again, O God, stir up your power and restore us by sending your Holy Spirit to infuse us with hope in the great mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Rev. Brogdon continues.

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

Prayer After Communion

Gracious God, we give you thanks for this meal we have shared. Strengthen us through this bread and cup to serve you with love, peace, and compassion. Lead us to live in joyful expectation until the coming of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Amen.

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| We Are Sent Into the World |
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*Hymn "The Days Are Surely Coming" #357

*Benediction Rev. Brogdon

Postlude "How Great Our Joy!" Dr. Gilbreath

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.

Calendar:

Sun., Dec. 3 Holiday Boxes are due.

Mon., Dec. 4 9:00 AM Color Group
11:30 AM-12:30 PM Advent Chat "N" Chew, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch. Study Focus: Hope

Tues., Dec. 5 10:00 AM Presbyterian Women, in the Fellowship Hall.
Lesson: "Mary and Martha...", Luke 10:38-42 Lesson Leader: Rev. Tripp Brogdon. Lunch will follow at 11:30 AM at Fulin's.

Wed., Dec. 6 Poinsettia orders are due at noon.

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

Scripture Reading, Elder Bob Naumann: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Scripture Reading, Rev Brogdon: Mark 13:24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven."From the fig tree

learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."