

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor

Harold Culbert, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude

"In the Bleak Midwinter/Away in a Manger"

Dr. Gilbreath

We Gather in God's Presence

Pastor's Welcome

Call to Worship:

One: A voice cries out; a prophet speaks:

All: *In the wilderness, prepare the way.*

One: The valleys are filled; the mountains are made low.

All: *In the wilderness, prepare the way.*

One: The winding roads are made level, the rough ways made smooth.

All: *In the wilderness, prepare the way.*

One: God's salvation has come, and even now it is on its way.

All: *Blessed is the Lord God, who has come to save us! Hallelujah!*

*Hymn

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

#82

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us.

Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.

(Silent Confession)

Hymn of Response

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" v.2

#83

Assurance of Pardon:

One: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. This is good news!

All: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!*

Advent Candle of Peace

D. Ann Norris

*Gloria

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

#113

We Listen for God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Harold Culbert

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:68-79

Harold Culbert

Anthem

"A Shoot Shall Come Forth"

Choir

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-6

Rev. Brogdon

Sermon

"Repent and Follow"

Rev. Brogdon

*Hymn

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

#106

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 – written by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett 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

"Who Would Think That What Was Needed"

#138

*Benediction

Rev. Brogdon

Postlude

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Dr. Gilbreath

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.

Calendar of Events:

Mon., Dec. 9	11:30 AM-12:30 PM Chat “N” Chew Advent Study HAD Lunch, sign up to bring cornbread, dessert, Christmas candy, or serve
Wed., Dec. 11	1:00 PM CE Meeting 4:30 PM Choir
Thurs., Dec. 12	11:00 AM Barb Mouton’s Shepherd Group meets in the Fellowship Hall
Sat., Dec. 14	10:00 AM Decorate for brunch
Sun., Dec. 15	8:45 AM Christmas Brunch, no Sunday School

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, Harold Culbert: Luke 1:68-79

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Scripture Reading, Rev. Brogdon: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”