

# St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor

Faye Anderson, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude

“Still, Still, Still”

Dr. Gilbreath

## We Gather in God’s Presence

Pastor’s Welcome

Call to Worship:

One: God, you are our salvation and trust.

**All: Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.**

One: You redeem your people; you restore our fortunes.

**All: Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.**

One: You have become for us our strength and salvation.

**All: Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.**

One: Let us sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things.

**All: Let us offer joy, thanks, and praise this day. Hallelujah!**

\*Hymn

“Joy to the World”

#134

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**Merciful God, we confess that, in the midst of your glorious creation, we have neglected our role in its care. We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely, those on the margins and those who are oppressed. We focus on our own desires, while forgetting the needs of our neighbors. We have not prepared a way for the Lord, through either our words or our deeds, neither through our actions nor our thoughts. Grant us your mercy in forgiveness; and lead us to act with compassion and justice, guided by your glorious light. Amen. (Silent Confession)**

Hymn of Response

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” v.3

#83

Assurance of Pardon:

One: In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, you are forgiven. The Lord has taken away the judgments against you. Do not worry.

**All: We give thanks that we are forgiven, and we will be at peace.**

Advent Candle of Joy

Bob Martin

\*Gloria

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

#113

## We Listen for God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Faye Anderson

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 12:2-6

Faye Anderson

Anthem

“Advent Prayer”

Choir

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:7-18

Rev. Brogdon

Sermon

“What Then Should We Do?”

Rev. Brogdon

\*Hymn

“Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”

#163

## 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

Call for the Offering

Offertory

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

Dr. Gilbreath

\*Doxology

#606

\*Prayer of Dedication

## We Are Sent into the World

\*Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#366

\*Benediction

Rev. Brogdon

Postlude

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Dr. Gilbreath

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

***Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.***

**Calendar of Events:**

Mon., Dec. 16 11:30 AM-12:30 PM Chat “N” Chew Advent Bible Study  
Tues., Dec. 17 5:30 PM Shepherd Dinner – Linda Grissom & Shelly Shull  
Sun., Dec. 22 Christmas Joy Offering  
Tues., Dec. 24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

\*Church office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 through Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

**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.standrewdecatour.org](http://www.standrewdecatour.org)

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Scripture Reading, Faye Anderson: Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Scripture Reading, Rev. Brogdon: Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor;' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might

be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.