

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor

John Jordan, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude

"The First Nowell"

Linda Webster

& Dr. Gilbreath

We Gather in God's Presence

Pastor's Welcome

Call to Worship:

One: Out of little Bethlehem comes one who is to rule in Israel.

All: He shall be great to the ends of the earth.

One: Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

All: God's mercy extends from generation to generation. Holy is God's name!

*Hymn

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#121

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen. (Silent Confession)

Hymn of Response

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" v.4

#83

Assurance of Pardon:

One: Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world—not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and loved!

All: Thanks be to God!

Advent Candle of Love

Gillian Buttgerreit & Lynn Panter

*Gloria

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

#113

We Listen for God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

John Jordan

Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

John Jordan

Anthem

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Choir

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-55

Rev. Brogdon

Sermon

"Can They Hear Us Singing?"

Rev. Brogdon

*Hymn

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

#104

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

"What Can I Give Him?"

Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology

#606

*Prayer of Dedication

We Are Sent into the World

*Hymn

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

#100

*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:

Today 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

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Scripture Reading, John Jordan: Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Scripture Reading, Rev. Brogdon: Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."