

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Advent
Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

December 14, 2025
Elder Bob Naumann, Liturgist
Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude

“Joy to the World Medley”

We Gather in God’s Presence

Welcome

*Call to Worship:
One: Soon parched lands will blossom into life
All: and burst into joyful song—very soon.
One: Soon every creature will have what it needs in abundance.
All: All peoples of all ages will shout for joy in freedom—very soon.
One: A highway stretches heavenward, smooth and level.
All: All may travel there unimpeded.
One: Soon happiness and joy will overwhelm us!
All: Grief and groaning will flee for good—very soon. Amen.

*Hymn

“People, Look East”

#105

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:
God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.
(Silent Confession)

Hymn of Response

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” v.3

#132

Assurance of Pardon
One: Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God.

Advent Candle of Joy

Harold & Teresa Culbert

*Congregational Response

“While We Are Waiting, Come” v.3

#581

We Listen for God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Choir Anthem

“O come, O Come Emmanuel”

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon

“That’s OK, I’ll Wait”

*Hymn

“Come, thou Long Expected Jesus”

#82

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
One: Lord, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

Call for the Offering
(The offering plate is not passed, but is located on a stand outside the sanctuary doors.)

Offertory

“Emmanuel”

*Doxology

#606

*Prayer of Dedication

We Are Sent into the World

*Hymn

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

#100

*Benediction

*Postlude

“How Great Our Joy”

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.

Calendar of Events:

Mon., Dec. 15 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Chat “N” Chew
Sun., Dec. 21 8:45 AM Christmas Brunch, no Sunday School
 Christmas Joy Offering
Mon., Dec. 22 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Chat “N” Chew
Wed., Dec. 24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
Wed., Dec. 24 – Thurs., Dec. 25 The church office will be closed.

Guests

Welcome! It is a blessing to have you 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

Scripture Reading, Bob Naumann: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Scripture Reading, Rev. Brogdon: Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.