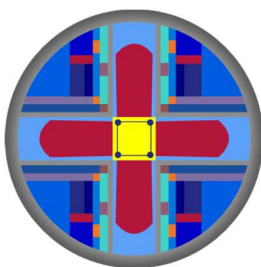


We are imperfect believers, passionate
about sharing the love of Christ:
by **Connecting**, **Growing**, and **Serving**.



St. Andrews
Presbyterian Church

A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome! If you are visiting, please use the QR code on the visitor card found in the pew rack to share your info online or fill out the back of the card and drop it in the offering plate. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack, and we invite you to list your concerns and place them in the offering plate as well.

***Congregation stands as noted**

Chiming of the Hour and Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.

People: That sign is in the One to come, the One that God is sending.

Leader: We want to know for sure that everything is in God's care.

People: And so we cry to the heavens in our distress. Our cries are heard! God is responding in love and hope.

Leader: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits!

People: Let us be ready to receive the blessed gift of the Savior. Amen.

Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #107**

"Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Lynn Fitch, Ginny Price

Responsive Hymn #85 (v. 3)

"Light One Candle to Wait for Messiah"

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek Reconciliation with God

Preparing Our Hearts for Confession - "Confession"

Words/Music by Kenneth Jones

Lord, I come before you, asking your forgiveness. I am broken, I have faltered. I have turned from you.

Create in me a new heart. Fill me with your love. Grant that I receive your grace, I pray.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Lord, you call us to be peacemakers and to seek alternative ways to violence. You call us to model your non-violent way of life. This is hard to do in a world where the norm is to fight back at all costs. Your non-violent way leads to suffering, and we do not like to suffer but we prefer to win and be victorious. But this is the way of the world and not your way. Forgive us when we seek to

bring pain to others through our actions. Help us to seek out the power of your spirit and to stand firm in non-violent ways. Help us be peacemakers in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ.

Time of Silent Reflection and Personal Prayer of Confession

Leader: And all the people of Christ say,

People: Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: In God's love and mercy, we are given each new day for the healing of the world. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

***Thanks for God's Forgiveness (#647; no repeats)**

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give Thanks! Give Thanks!

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Grace to you, and peace from God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

We Respond to God's Faithfulness in Our Life

Offering Our Lives to Jesus through Our Time, Gifts, and Resources

Offertory

(see the 'Giving' card in the pew rack for information about options for digital giving)

***Doxology (#606)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

(Children that have not yet finished 5th Grade are dismissed at this time for Children's Church)

God's Word Is Read and Proclaimed

Special Music

"O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

Chancel Choir

Arr. by Jay Rouse

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:6-7, Matthew 5:9

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation of God's Word

Jeff Gilstrap

"The Gospel of Peace – Jesus and Non-Violence"

Responding to God's Word

*** Affirmation of Our Faith (Apostle's Creed – Unison)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

Responsive Hymn #103

“Come Now, Prince of Peace”

Preparing Our Hearts for Prayer (#471)

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Time of Reflection, Meditation, Personal Prayer

Ann Paschall

Sending Out Into the World

***Sending Hymn #101**

“No Wind at the Window”

***Charge and Blessing**

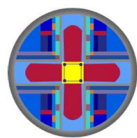
***Congregational Benediction #92 (v.3)**

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

***Postlude**

Sanctuary Flowers – the flowers were placed in the sanctuary by Jennifer Massey in honor of all God's children. May you be filled with wonder this season. The pink rose at the alter is for newborn Amelia Jane Aceves (grandparents Steve/Tanya Wood, great-grandparents John/Shelby Wood)

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We hope you were blessed so you can go and be a witness to Christ's love in the world. May your spirits be renewed for the days ahead.



St. Andrews
Presbyterian Church

1860 Reid School Road, Taylors, SC 29687

864-292-0430

standrews@standrewspc.com

www.standrewspc.com



Jeff Gilstrap, Pastor
Kenneth Jones, Director of Music
Millie Shiflett, Accompanist
Karlee Tate, Director of Communications
Joyce Johnson, CDC Director

Richard Balentine, Elder of Administration
Margaret Borry, Elder of Congregational Care
Dana Tate, Elder of Christian Formation
Russell Truluck, Elder of Facilities Management
Kellen Jones, Lay Leader