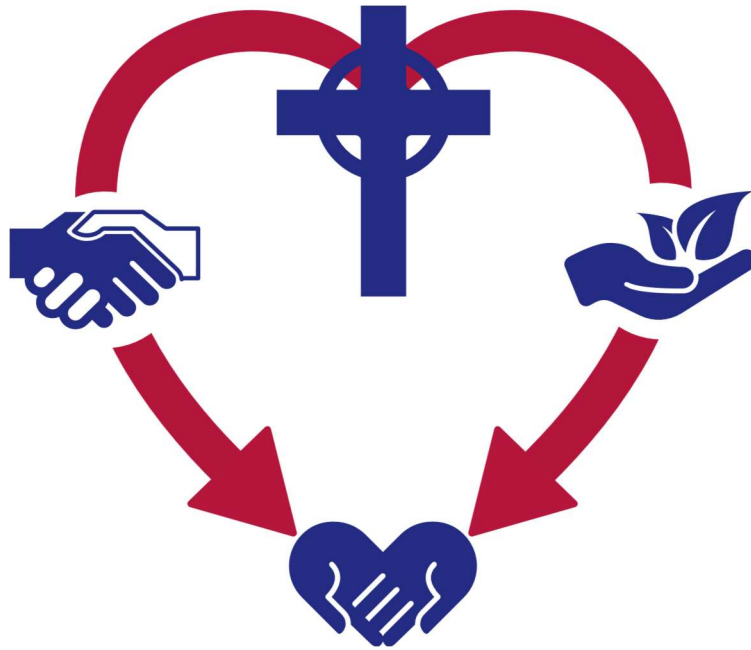
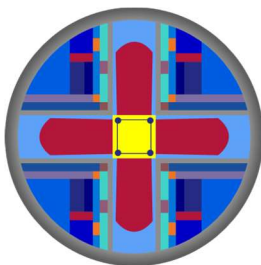


We are imperfect believers, passionate  
about sharing the love of Christ:  
by **Connecting**, **Growing**, and **Serving**.



**A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 8, 2024**

Welcome! If you are visiting, please use the QR code on the visitor card found in the pew rack to share your information online or fill out the back of the card and drop it in the offering plate. Prayer cards, with the same options, are also available and we invite you to share your concerns and allow us to pray with you.



**St. Andrews**  
Presbyterian Church

# We Gather to Worship God

\*Congregation stands as noted

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

**Call to Worship (Responsive) (Joel 2)**

Leader: Let the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near—

**People: a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!**

Leader: Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes;

**People: their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.**

Leader: God of the fearful. Like those who have come before us, we are surrounded by many dangers, toils, and snares. Some dangers are personal, some threaten our way of life, and others threaten our very existence. In many ways, we are a culture built on fear, destruction acts as background noise to our daily lives. Yet even now we can return to you. Even now we can repent of the fearful and destructive ways of ourselves and our ancestors. Even now, we can turn to you with believing hearts. Today, we light the candle of faith, believing that you know the plans that you have for us, plans for our welfare and not harm, to give us a future and a hope.

**Hymn of Advent: #85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (v. 2)**

**People: Today we gather as a community of love, the perfect love which casts out fear. We gather in the Spirit of God which brings life to our dead bones. We gather as those who trust that whatever may come, God is able to do abundantly more than we can ask or imagine. In the stillness of this hour, at least, let us turn to you with believing hearts. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn #82

**“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”**

## **We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek Reconciliation with God**

**Preparing Our Hearts for Confession - “Confession”**  
(front cover of hymnal)

**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) (Joel 2:15-17)**

**Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your**

people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” Amen.

### **Time of Silent Reflection and Personal Prayer of Confession**

Leader: And all the people of Christ say,

**People: Amen.**

### **\*Assurance of Pardon (Joel 2:23-27)**

Leader: O children of God, be glad, and rejoice in the LORD your God, for God has given the early rain for your vindication; God has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army that I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of you and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

**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.**

### **\*Transition Hymn #91**

**“O Come, Emmanuel”**

## **We Respond to God’s Faithfulness in Our Life**

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

(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 God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **God’s Word Is Read and Proclaimed**

**Time for Young Disciples**

(Children that have not yet finished 1st Grade are dismissed at this time for Children’s Church)

**Special Music**

**“O Come Redeemer of the Earth”**

**Chancel Choir**

**Brian L. Hanson**

## Scripture Reading

Joel 2:1-14, 28-29

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

People: Thanks be to God.

## Proclamation of God's Word

Rev. AJ Ochart

“Oh, Captive Bound, and Double-Ironed”

## 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 #94

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

## Reception of New Members

### 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.

## Prayers for the People and Lord's Prayer

Kenneth Jones

## Sending Out Into the World

### \*Sending Hymn #107

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

### \*Charge and Blessing

### \*Congregational Benediction #104 (v.1)

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

### \*Postlude

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.



Rev. AJ Ochart, Pastor  
Kenneth Jones, Director of Music  
Millie Shiflett, Accompanist  
Rita Batman, Lay Leader

