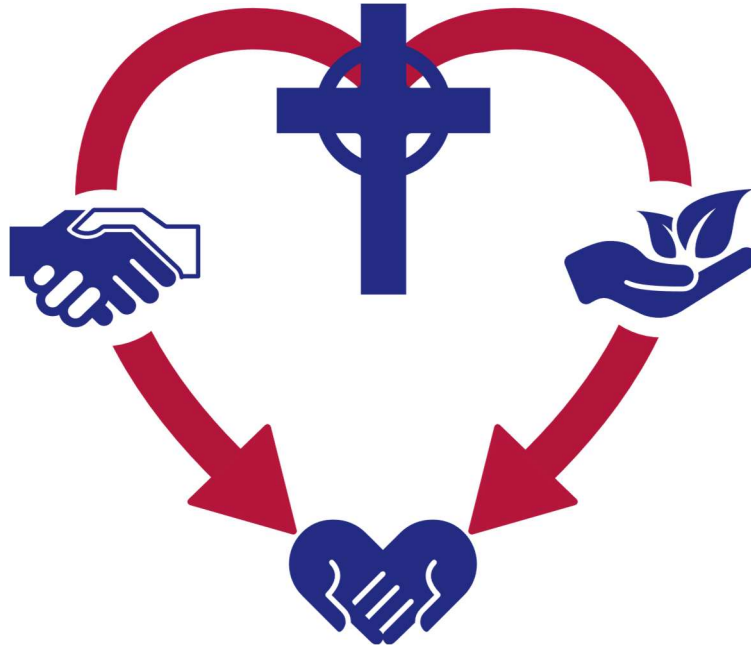
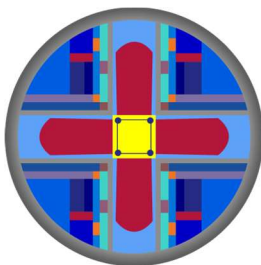


We are imperfect believers, passionate  
about sharing the love of Christ:  
by **Connecting**, **Growing**, and **Serving**.



**A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 15, 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) (Isaiah 60)**

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

**People: but the LORD will rise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn...**

Leader: The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night;...

**People: for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.**

Leader: Oh radiant dawn. Amidst the deep darkness of our world, your light has come! The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness does not overcome it. You call us as children of light, to bring your light to the darkness of our world, to systems and structures of darkness. You call us to bring your light to those in deep darkness, those who are in need of human compassion. You call us to bring your light to the darkness we try to hide in ourselves. We have seen your glory, the glory as of a parent's only child, full of grace and truth. From your fullness we have received grace upon grace. Today we light the candle of joy, a sign of your growing light and life in the world.

**Hymn of Advent: #85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (v. 3)**

**People: Today we gather as a community of light and life. We gather in the name of the one who is in deep solidarity with those who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, and in prison; and who are called to be in deep solidarity with them as well. May we be children of light! Amen.**

**Invocation**

\*Opening Hymn #347

**"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**

## **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)**

Oh Spirit of God, you have come to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, and bring liberty to the captives. You come to make all things right, to lift up those who are downtrodden, and to bring down those who exult themselves. We admit that we are often too slow to hear your Spirit's call. We have pity on the oppressed, broken-hearted, and imprisoned rather than giving them the dignity that they deserve. We do not receive this good news as good. We worry about the thrones and palaces that we have built. Help us to hear your word of liberation, both for those oppressed and for their oppressors. Anoint us with your Spirit, that we may rebuild what has been destroyed, that we may work for and proclaim the year of the LORD's favor. Amen.

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

Leader: And all the people of Christ say,

**People: Amen.**

### **\*Assurance of Pardon (Isaiah 63)**

Leader: I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor God has shown to us according to God's mercy, according to the abundance of God's steadfast-loving-kindness. For God has said, 'Surely you are my people, children who do not deal falsely': and God has become our savior in all our distress. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus the Christ, our sins 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.**

### **\*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

"Jul, Jul"

Chancel Choir

arr. Chris de Silva

*"Jul" means "Christmas" in Scandinavian languages*

## Scripture Reading

Isaiah 61:1-11

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

"Pan-Testimental Mandate"

## Responding to God's Word

\*Hymn of Preparation for Baptism #490

"Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"

## Remembrance of Baptism

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kin(g)dom 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 kin(g)dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Sending Out Into the World

\*Sending Hymn #86

"The People Who Walked in Darkness"

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Congregational Benediction #104

"O Lord How Shall I Meet You"

\*Postlude

Sanctuary Flowers – The flowers were placed in the sanctuary by Ann and Michael Paschall in celebration of their 49th wedding anniversary.

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  
Phil Beckwith, Lay Leader

