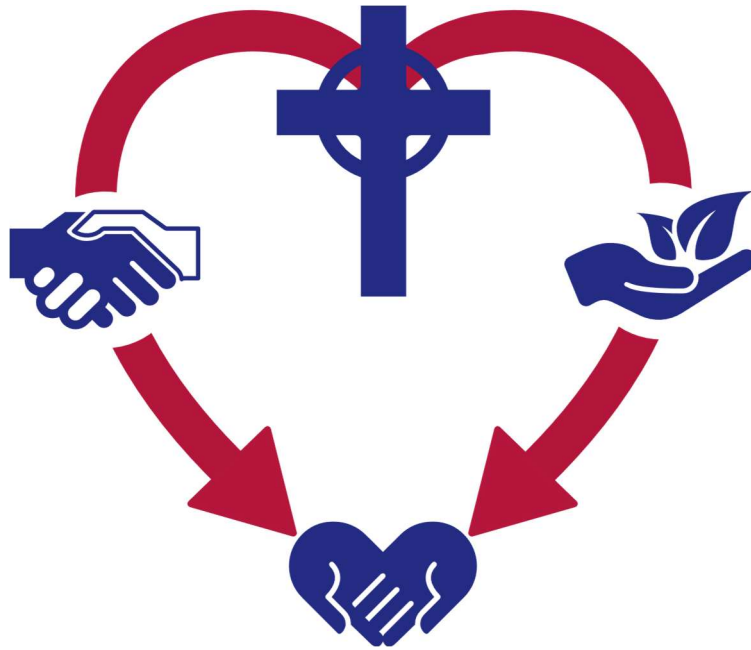
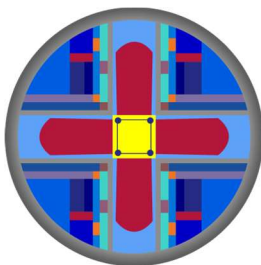


We are imperfect believers, passionate
about sharing the love of Christ:
by **Connecting**, **Growing**, and **Serving**.



A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22nd , 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) (Luke 1)

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

People: for God looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servants.

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things for me,

People: and holy is God's name.

Leader: God of peace. You do not bring punishment, but mercy from generation to generation. You do not use coercive power, but you do bring down the proud and powerful from their thrones. You are high above us, yet you lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things. You are faithful to the promises you made to our ancestors, even when we and they have been unfaithful. You bring *shalom*, peace and wholeness, a peace that passes all understanding. Today we light the candle of peace, a sign of the peace you bring.

Hymn of Advent: #85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (v. 4)

People: Today we gather as instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light, where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that we may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Invocation

*Opening Hymn #98

“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”

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)

Mighty One, you greet us as favored ones, with good news that will change our lives and the world itself. You ask us to bear and birth your presence in the world. You call us together into community to bless one another, the divine we carry leaping for joy at the divine in others. Yet

we are tempted, like Zecharia, to ask ‘how will I know?’ rather than ‘how will you do it?’ We are caught up in the busyness of this season rather than the joy of your coming into our world. Help us to receive your presence and your joy. Amen.

Time of Silent Reflection and Personal Prayer of Confession

Leader: And all the people of Christ say,

People: Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon (Luke 1)**

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God, for God has looked favorably on God’s people and redeemed them. God has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as God spoke through the mouth of the holy prophets from of old. To give knowledge of salvation to the people, by the forgiveness of our sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness in the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace. 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

Christmas Pageant

“Updated Twas the Night Before Christmas”

#147 The First Nowell; #115 Away in a Manger; #113 Angels We Have Hear on High (v.1,2 for each)

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Responding to God's Word

***Affirmation of Our Faith (Westminster Shorter Catechism – Responsive)**

Leader: What is the main purpose for humanity?

People: The main purpose for humanity is to glorify and enjoy God forever.

Leader: What rule has God given to tell us how we may glorify and enjoy God?

People: The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments is the only rule to tell us how we may glorify and enjoy God.

Leader: What do the Scriptures mainly teach?

People: The Scriptures mainly teach what we are to believe about God, and what duty God requires of us.

Leader: How many Persons are there in the Trinity?

People: There are three Persons in the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Leader: What is Sin?

People: Sin is any lack of obedience to, or violation of, the law of God.

Leader: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

People: The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and human, in two distinct natures, and one Person forever.

Leader: How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

People: The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

***Responsive Hymn #101**

"No Wind at the Window"

Sending Out Into the World

***Sending Hymn #143**

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

***Charge and Blessing**

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

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

***Postlude**

Sanctuary Flowers – The flowers were placed in the sanctuary by Kenneth Jones in honor of Millie Shiflett, in gratitude for her contribution to the music ministry of St. Andrews.

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
Sandee Cribbs, Lay Leader

