

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Website: www.standrewpresbyterians.org
Presbytery of Scioto Valley Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Founded March 10, 1963



December 15, 2019

10:30 AM

Ministers.....	All Members of St. Andrew
Lead Elder.....	Blaise Mvoa Olama
Liturgist.....	Lydia Anokye
Head Usher.....	Mark Strong
Greeter.....	Komla Quist
Music Ministry.....	The Choirs
Director of Music Emeritus.....	Garry Cornell
Pianists.....	Melissa S. Robol and Susan Mild
Organist.....	Judith F. Willour
Director of Music.....	Stephen Smith
Transitional Pastor.....	Mark Johnson

The Gathering of God's People

PRAYER OF THE DAY (for silent meditation in preparation for worship)

Holy God, your prophets have long spoken of the one who would come to save us. Now the promise is fulfilled; now your kingdom has come near. Send us as messengers of your way, to go and tell all the world of the wonders we have seen and the good news we have heard. Amen.

RINGING OF THE HOUR AND INTROIT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

—Blaise Mvoa Olama

PRELUDE

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”
Susan Mild, piano; Judy Willour, organ

J. S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

—Daniel Anokye
—Nelson Adjomo Mvoa

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come...

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

People: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

People: like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

Lighting of three Advent candles

Leader: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

***HYMN**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verses 1,3,6,7)

#88

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

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.

Pastor: And now, let us silently confess our sins to God.
(Silent prayer of confession.)

Pastor: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: 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.

People: Thanks be to God.

***GLORIA**

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***THE PEACE**

Pastor: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

The Ministry of the Word

If you want to follow the Scripture lessons on your electronic device, our network is **Andrew2** or **Andrew3**; password: **calvinjohn**. A good website for the NRSV is www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm or the app Olive Tree.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10
[p. 663 (OT) in pew Bible]

ANTHEM

“Long-Awaited One”
Words and Music by Nicole Elsey
Arranged by Douglas Nolan

*Come now, Child of promise, hope of all the earth.
This broken world will be healed by Your most humble birth.
Come now, Child of mercy, Prince of Peace and grace.
Your life will silence our fears and all our sins erase.*

*Long-awaited One, we will find rest in Your love.
We have walked in darkness; let us see light from above.
Emmanuel, God with us, hope has begun.
Emmanuel, You are the Light, God's only Son.
You will come to save us all, O long-awaited One.*

*Come now, Child of heaven, Savior, King and Friend.
O living Word of the Father now to us descend.
Come now, Child of wonder, reign in majesty.
Waken all of creation, set our spirits free.*

*Long-awaited One, we will find rest in Your love.
We have walked in darkness; let us see light from above.
Emmanuel, God with us, hope has begun.
Emmanuel, You are the Light, God's only Son.
You will come to save us all, O long-awaited One.*

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SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55
[p. 57 (NT) in pew Bible]

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Right Relationship”

—Dr. Mark A. Johnson

The Response to the Word

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison) The Confession of 1967 (10.7)

We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

We believe that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;

We believe that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;

We believe that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;

We believe that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Canticle of the Turning”

#100

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor: And now we pray as Christ Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

African-American Spiritual

***RESPONSE**

“The Doxology”

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ all people here below,
Praise Holy Spirit evermore,
Praise Triune God whom we adore.*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Liturgist: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Liturgist: Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth—giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor.

People: Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

The Sending of God’s People

***HYMN**

“People, Look East”

#105

***CHARGE**

***BLESSING**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***POSTLUDE**

“Toccatà in F”

Dietrich Buxtehude

(* indicates that the congregation is invited to stand.)

If you wish to enjoy the postlude, please remain quietly in your seats.

Otherwise, consider it the final Alleluia on the day’s worship
and leave to honor God and serve in Christ’s name.

WE GREET YOU and are pleased that you have joined us for worship today. Whether you are a guest, member, or friend of the church, we hope you find a warm welcome here. After worship, you are invited and encouraged to enjoy a time of refreshment and fellowship.

GUESTS ARE INVITED to make a name tag so that we may greet you by name. Tags are located in the front hall beside the guest book on the lectern.

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES are available for use during the worship service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

FOR THE CHILDREN: Activity sheets (two sets: for ages 3-6 and for 7-12) related to today’s service are on the oak cabinet in the back of the sanctuary. **Activity bags** with coloring books and crayons for younger children are on hooks underneath the bulletin boards in the front hall.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be received next Sunday.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be at 7:00 PM on December 24.

THE FELLOWSHIP HOUR TODAY is provided by Kate Kerr.

THE FLOWERS TODAY are given by Mary Jane Matthews in memory of her aunt, Grace Holdcraft, and in celebration of granddaughter Laken’s and great grandson Zayden’s birthdays.

THIS MONTH’S CARD MINISTRY COORDINATOR is Amy Paulin.

MUSIC NOTES from Stephen Smith:

In penning the text of today’s anthem, “**Long-Awaited One**”, composer Nicole Elsey gives us many names for our coming savior: Child of Promise, Child of Mercy, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel. All of these names reflect on our hope of the coming of Christ. Listen carefully as the piece concludes, and you’ll hear strains of “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” being played in the accompaniment.



THIS WEEK

ST. ANDREW

December 16 thru December 22*

Monday 4:00 pm PNC (Blue Room)

Tuesday 4:00 pm Tai Chi (Blue Room)
 7:30 pm Joint Finance and Session Meeting (Blue Room)

Wednesday 10:30 am Prayer Meeting (Blue Room)
 12:30 pm Bible Study (Blue Room)
 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)

***You may view the St. Andrew website for the complete calendar**

POLICY ON CHURCH CLOSING: The session has decided that the Sunday worship service will be cancelled whenever Franklin County is under a Level 2 snow emergency at 8:00 AM on a Sunday morning.

The Session

Dr. Mark Johnson, Moderator

Susan Mild, Clerk

Class of 2019

Debie Myers
Mark Stansbery
Fred Vaughan

Class of 2020

Chris Cvar
Mary Massey
Susan Mild

Class of 2021

Roxanne Bawidamann
Blaise Mvoa Olama
Kate Kerr