

# 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 22, 2019**

**10:30 AM**

Ministers.....	All Members of St. Andrew
Lead Elder.....	Mary Massey
Liturgist.....	Mark Strong
Head Usher.....	Mark Strong
Greeter.....	Lucy Conner
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)**

*Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways—in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies, and in resurrection from the dead—show us the face of Immanuel in our time. Bring us from fear to awe, we pray in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## **RINGING OF THE HOUR AND INTROIT**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

—Mary Massey

## **PRELUDE**

“O Come, Little Children” *arr. Emily Tufenkjian*  
set to “Evening Prayer” from Humperdinck’s *Hansel and Gretel*

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** —Jorge and Miguel Alley-Freeman

**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; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

**People:** **The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.**

**Leader:** She shall bear a son

**People:** **and shall name him Emmanuel: “God is with us.”**

*Lighting of four Advent candles*

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

## **\*HYMN**

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

#97

## **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from the earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine that you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. 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: “You are called to belong to Jesus Christ.” For the sake of the One God promised to send, named as God’s Son, who died, was raised, and through whom we receive grace, God forgives you all your sins. You are God’s beloved, called to be saints. Grace to you and peace.

**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](http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm) or the app Olive Tree.

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 7:10-16  
[p. 636 (OT) in pew Bible]

## ANTHEM

“On a Night of Wonder”  
Words and Music by Jay Althouse

*On a night of wonder, on a night filled with love,  
God will send forth a savior from the heav’ns above.  
Ever meek and humble, born a child, yet a King.  
We shall give Him our praises. Let the angels sing.*

*Gloria in excelsis, for He shall deliver a son.  
Sing glory to God in the highest, the holy one.*

*One a night of wonder, on a night filled with love,  
God will send forth a savior from the heav’ns above.*

*And His name shall be Emmanuel.  
Silent night, holy night.*

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## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25  
[p. 1 (NT) in pew Bible]

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

—Dr. Mark A. Johnson

# The Response to the Word

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison) Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to Godself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

## \*HYMN

“If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee”

#816

## 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** “Away in a Manger” *Dave Brubeck*

**\*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: Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend for us good things.

**People: We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need, reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.**

# The Sending of God’s People

**\*HYMN** “Joy to the World” #134

**\*CHARGE**

**\*BLESSING**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** VENI EMMANUEL  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**\*POSTLUDE** “Sweet, Holy Child” *arr. Marilyn Ham*

(\* 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 today.

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

**THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** invites the entire congregation to a presentation by Michael Brooks, a representative of Friendship Village Columbus, on senior living with a focus on seniors moving to retirement communities. Michael's presentation will be on Saturday, January 4, at 10:00 am in the Blue Room. Contact Nada Marie with questions.

**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION** Our presbytery is hosting an event at Worthington Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 11, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. The keynote workshop will be on vital congregations. Please talk with Pastor Mark about registering for this event.

**THE FELLOWSHIP HOUR TODAY** is provided by Mark Strong.

**THIS MONTH'S CARD MINISTRY COORDINATOR** is Amy Paulin.

**MUSIC NOTES** from Stephen Smith:

**On a Night of Wonder** is an anthem that speaks of our preparation for the birth of the Messiah; One sent from heaven by God to bring salvation to the earth. The work was composed by Jay Althouse (b. 1951). Mr. Althouse has over 700 works in print, and of particular note is his work *I Hear America Singing*. That work was performed during the 2009 Presidential Inauguration Ceremonies.



**THIS WEEK**

**ST. ANDREW**

**December 23 thru December 29\***

- Monday**            4:00 pm   PNC (Blue Room)
- Tuesday**        7:00 pm   Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
- Wednesday**                            Christmas Day / Church Office Closed
- Thursday**                                Church Office Closed
- 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 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