



ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DENTON, TEXAS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

In person worshippers: please remain seated throughout the service, wear masks, and sing or speak softly to yourself.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn 92, first stanza of *While We Are Waiting, Come*

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The heavens are being torn open!

The mountains quake at God's presence.

The face of God is soon to shine among us.

Even the stars cannot hold God's glory!

OPENING PRAYER

CJ Prater

HYMN 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen. (Time of silent confession).

SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn 110, third stanza of *Love Has Come*

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

CALL TO FAITHFULNESS

(John 13)

Hear the teaching of Christ: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia! Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gay Campbell

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

See Insert

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

"Hyfrydol" (Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus)
 Handbell Choir

arr. Larry Sue

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9

See Insert

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Why Has God Not Come Down?

Lisa Patterson

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)

(Confession of 1967)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

MOMENT FOR MISSION Mission Committee, Pandemic Relief Fund

Natalie Garcia

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sung response from hymn 89, *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits*

We are waiting Jesus;

***sung response* - For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.**

Jesus, we are waiting because we know who you are: the creator of the world, the God who took on human form, the son of Mary, a girl just like any other girl. We are waiting, Jesus;

***sung response* - For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.**

Jesus we are waiting here, here in Texas, here in Denton, waiting for you to come into our homes, our streets, our stores and offices, to fill them with your light and peace. We are waiting, Jesus;

***sung response* - For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.**

Jesus, we are waiting for you to come and change things: to bring health to our sick ones, to encourage our health workers and first responders, to comfort those who have lost loved ones; and to turn us around so that we can be your hands and feet, your ears and eyes, in this world that needs you so much. Especially we pray for ... We are waiting, Jesus .

***sung response* - For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.**

We wait with our fears, our anxieties and frustration, our pains and regret. We wait in thanksgiving; we are able to wonder in the marvel of your gift. O God, help us to receive your love. This we pray as your Son our Savior taught us, saying

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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 kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn 84, *Creator of the Stars of Night*

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

WELCOME!

We proclaim that ALL people are created in the image of God and affirm that each person is a beloved child of God, worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome all, celebrating our differences while finding unity in Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Prayer Concerns

Steve Shirley
Steve Plunkett
Betty Sue Grandey
Judy Cherry

Pat Hiler
Myrtle Muehlenbeck
Helen Harrison
Scott Hendrix

Suzanne Baroody
Carol Hill

Tony Love, friend of Terah and Wade Hatter
Maggie Parker, cousin of Trish Highland
Alisha Sims, granddaughter of Barbara Sims
Maggie Steward, sister-in-law of Lynn Ebersole
Paula Baker, aunt of Edie Chavira
Barbara Smith, sister of Linda Heilig
Shirley Graham, mother of Natalie Garcia
James Earp, friend of Paden Neeley
Valerie Nevil, sister-in-law of Sharon Lunsford
Friend of Chris Curcuruto
Drennan Fuller and Family, friend of Caitlyn Coyner
Steven Purser, brother of John Purser
Terrell King, father of James King
John Pierce, father of Bekah Barnett
Lee Speir, brother of Ray Speir
Sally Kyser, friend of Belle and Ray Speir
Alice Condry, mother of Berniece Condry

Jane Stroud, sister of Lynn Carrico
Rodney McGrath, friend of Doug Waring
Sharon and Johnny Miller, cousins of Barbara Sims
Kathy Torneo Whatley, cousin of Barbara Sims
Julie Goldston, sister of Steve Goldston
Darryl Speigel, brother of Sandy Speigel
Rachel Moore, mother of Sharon Lunsford
Ouida Henderson, mother of Joyce Kain
Matthew McIntyre, son of Linda and Jim McIntyre
John Murphy, faculty member at UNT
J. B. Fincher, friends of Barbara Sims
Charlie Leavell, grandfather of Shannon Konkle
Roger Schell, Pat Reinke's brother-in-law
Allison Burk, Kendall Young's grandmother
Nancy Burk, Kendall Young's mother
Ashley Burk, Kendall Young's uncle

Advent Candle Lighting

Each week in worship, we will light the Advent candles. As we light candles in worship, we hope you will be lighting your Advent candles (remember the order in which we light the candles: purple candle, purple candle, pink candle, purple candle, then the Christ candle) at home. In fact, you are invited to create a special space in your home for your Advent wreath, a space that will be part of your worship experience each week.

Ladies Advent Book Study

Noon on December 2, 9, and 16 on Zoom!

Book: The Love That is God: An Invitation to Christian Faith, by Frederick Christian Bauerschmidt

Cost: \$19 (pick up at the church or Lisa will porch deliver to you or order your own copy online)

Leader: Lisa Patterson

Join this group on Zoom to discuss the great themes of the Christian faith most notably the claim that "God is love is the radical claim of Christianity," quoting Frederick Bauerschmidt.

Our Daily Bread (The Junction) Christmas Bags

The pandemic had delayed the start of this project of gathering items to give Our Daily Bread clients to make their Christmas merry. They need items such as the following:

Please deliver your donated goods no later than November 30, 2020 to the church office. Reminder: the Bolivar Street door is locked. Push the buzzer for entry.

Men's tube socks	Men's dark knit caps
Blankets	Men's and women's gloves
Hand warmers	Long underwear in various sizes
Rain ponchos	Small notebooks
Chap stick	Thermals
Zipper hoodies	Travel toiletries
Puzzle books	Tents/tarps
Backpacks	Camping stoves
Bicycles	

You can donate money two ways: Checks should be made out to St. Andrew, with "ODB Christmas Gift" on the memo line. If giving online, visit standrewdenton.com/standrewconnect and be sure to use the tab for ODB gifts. The deadline for financial giving has closed.

Any question, please either e-mail Jim White at acewalton1965@gmail.com or telephone 940-368-9144.

Advent Music and Flowers

Honor or remember family and friends by donating to the Advent Music and Flower campaign. Gifts this year can be made online using St. Andrew Connect or be sent to the church. For those sending directly to the church, be sure to include the names of those memorialized or honored on a separate sheet of paper. Also, please include "Advent Music and Flowers" on your check. The names of those honored and remembered will

be listed in the Christmas Eve Worship Bulletin. The deadline for donation is December 6.

Save the Date

Christmas Pageant and Goodland Academy

Sunday, December 13, 5:30pm

Pizza pick up at 4:00pm from the church provided by the Deacons

We will continue St. Andrew's Christmas Pageant night tradition with a recorded version of the Christmas pageant and a meal shared together with our church family and Goodland Academy. We want to continue this St. Andrew tradition for the children of the congregation as well as the students of Goodland Academy, although it will look a little different than in years past. Look for the online reservation coming in an upcoming edition of The Shield. We hope you can join!

Angel Tree Update

Thank you to everyone who has already purchased gifts for the Goodland Academy. Only a few gifts remain on the list. If you are planning to purchase a gift for Goodland please remember to do that before the end of November. The link to the Amazon wish list is below:

After selecting the gift you would like to purchase, please do the following when checking out:

Ship the gift directly to Goodland Academy, 1216 N. 4200 Rd., Hugo, OK 74743;

Fill out the gift card option with the name of the boy for whom you purchased the gift;

To avoid duplicate gifts, please contact Linda Fite as soon as your order is placed to let her know what you ordered. She will then remove it from the wish list. Linda can be reached via text (preferred) at 940-882-5426 or email at ema121045@gmail.com.

UPDATE: We still have 8 gifts remaining for the boys at Goodland Academy. These orders need to be placed no later than this Friday in order to arrive at Goodland in a timely manner. If you have not already, please consider purchasing a gift for our friends at the Goodland Academy.

Treehouse Angel Tree

Please visit the link below to sign up to provide a Christmas gift for a student at St. Andrew's Treehouse After School Program. (Unlike the Goodland Angel Tree, this is a Sign Up Genius link and does not provide a link to actually purchase the gift.) Gifts should be wrapped with a gift tag included and delivered to the church office no later than Sunday, December 13. Please contact Stephanie at treehouse@standrewdenton.com or through the church office if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the Treehouse and our families.

Thank You

Thank you St. Andrew church family. Through your generosity during the diaper drive we raised \$500 for Interfaith Ministries and their diaper pantry. (For a break down on the diapers please see The Shield.) This year's on-line donations were a great success. We sent 1,941 diapers. Sixty-eight adult diapers were donated in March. Interfaith posted a picture on their Facebook page and sent a wonderful note expressing their gratitude and how much it means to the families they serve.

By the Numbers: As of 10/31/20

Income (pledges + other income)	\$745,397.33
Expenses	\$733,387.68
Difference	\$12,009.65
Attendance 11/15/20	317 Views

Give online at: standrewdenton.com/give



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is a
Stephen Ministry Congregation.

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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info@standrewdenton.com

Richard B. Culp, Senior Pastor
Lisa Patterson, Associate Pastor
Jeff Snider, Director of Music
Parker Hinnenkamp, Organist
Stephanie Raesz, Youth Director
CJ Prater, Seminary Intern



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
 el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
 world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
 win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
 near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
 free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
 light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



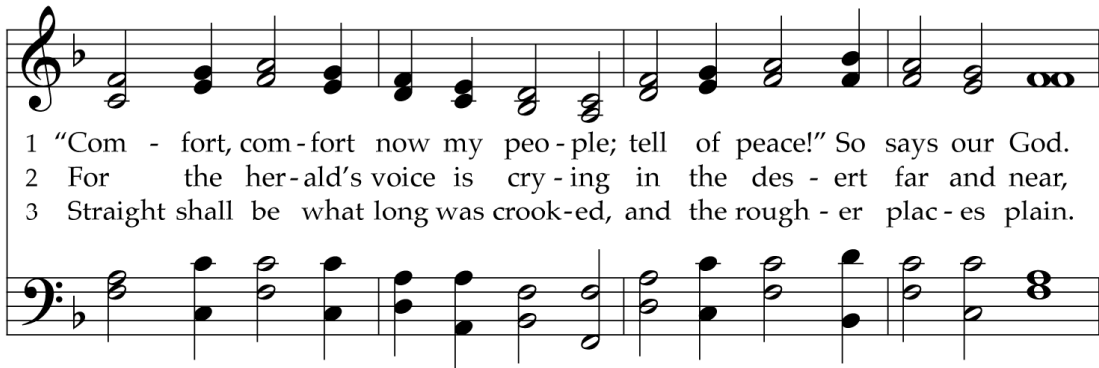
weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
 bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
 forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
 love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



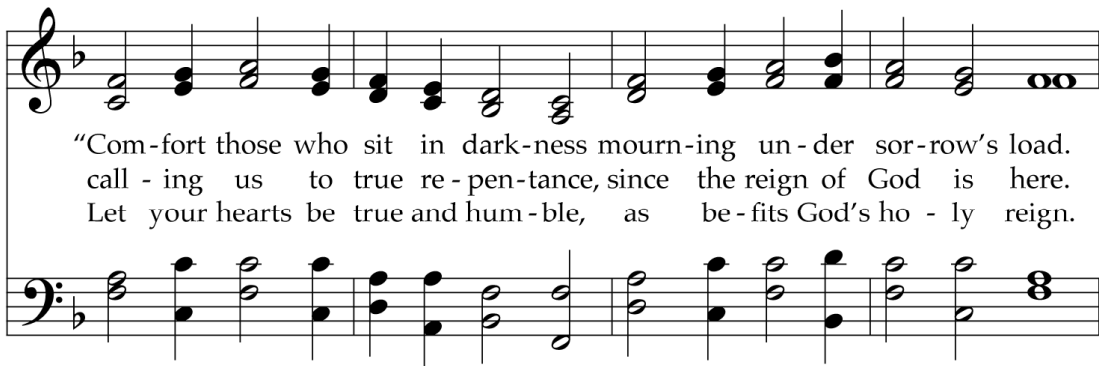
wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
 raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.


Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



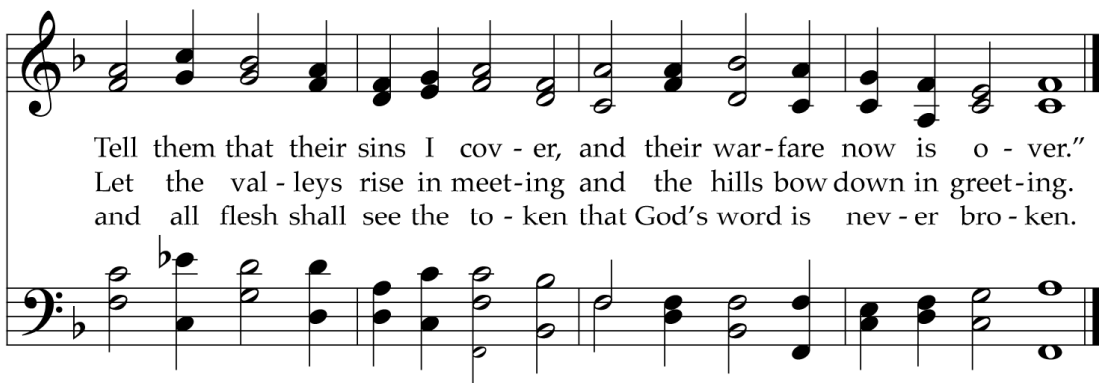
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



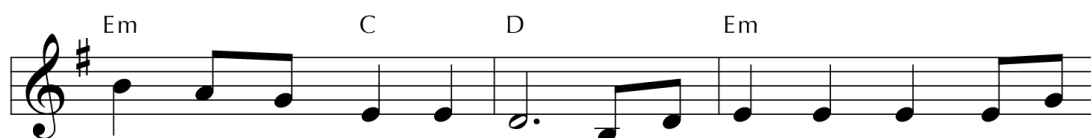
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

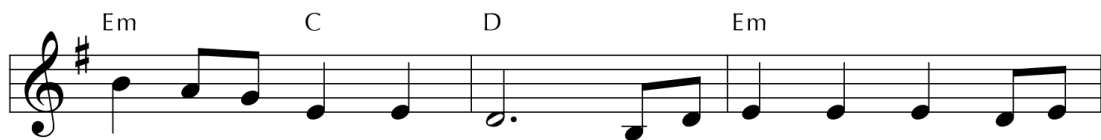


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

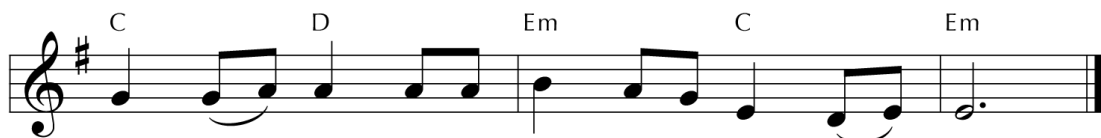
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Scripture Lessons

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.