



ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DENTON, TEXAS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 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

(Jamie, Sarah, and Walter Adams from home;
Tom Muehlenbeck in the sanctuary)

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

(Adapted from Psalm 85)

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for God will speak peace to God's people,

to God's faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear the Lord,

that God's glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

OPENING PRAYER

Lisa Patterson

HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HARRAN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

CJ Prater

We confess, O God, that we prefer the settled lives we can control instead of the uncertainty of giving ourselves over to following Christ wherever he might lead us. We time and again choose the comfort of what we know, even when it means turning away from the unknown path to which you call us. Too often, we are unable or unwilling to overcome our fears and trust that you will be with us as we move down new paths. Forgive our timid discipleship, and make us bold as we seek to follow your son Jesus Christ. In his name we pray. 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.

SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn 583, *Glory to God*

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1: 1-8

See Insert

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Come Thou, Dear Redeemer

César Franck

Rachel Nyetam, Mezzo-soprano and Parker Hinnenkamp, organ

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40: 1-11

See Insert

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

What Does Comfort Look Like?

Richard B. Culp

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN 87 (Vss. 1,4,6,7)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)

(The Second Helvetic Confession)

We quite openly profess and preach that Jesus Christ is the sole Redeemer and Savior of the world, the King and High Priest, the true and awaited Messiah, that holy and blessed one whom all the types of the law and predictions of the prophets prefigured and promised; and that God appointed him beforehand and sent him to us, so that we are not now to look for any other. Now there only remains for all of us to give all the glory to Christ, believe in him, rest in him alone, despising and rejecting all other aids in life. Amen. (*Book of Confessions, 5.077*)

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 places like Texas, or Denton, or wherever we live and work, 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 347

Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Breaking of the Bread and Lifting of the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

HYMN 95

Prepare the Way of the Lord

PREPARE THE WAY

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.

If you wish to join St. Andrew today, please contact one of the ministers.

Prayer Concerns

Ed Moorehead
Charlene Greer
Steve Shirley
Steve Plunkett

Betty Sue Grandey
Judy Cherry
Pat Hiler
Myrtle Muehlenbeck

Helen Harrison
Scott Hendrix
Suzanne Baroody
Carol Hill

Bill Watts, father of Jill Richmond
Jessy White, friend of Betty Culp
Tony Love, friend of Terah and Wade Hatter
Maggie Steward, sister-in-law of Lynn Ebersole
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
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
Darryl Spiegel, brother of Sandy Spiegel
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, friend of Barbara Sims
Charlie Leavell, grandfather of Shannon Konkle
Allison Burk, Kendall Young's grandmother
Nancy Burk, Kendall Young's mother
Ashley Burk, Kendall Young's uncle
Family of Richard Miller, Jill Personius' father
Family of Brittany Pelton Reynolds, family member of Tara Brindle's sister

By the Numbers: As of 10/31/20

Income (pledges + other income)	\$745,397.33
Expenses	\$733,387.68
Difference	\$12,009.65

Attendance 11/29/20 **375 Views**

Give online at: standrewdenton.com/give



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is a
Stephen Ministry Congregation.

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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.).*

Super Wednesdays in December

Wednesdays of 9 and 16

6:00pm | Children's Time

Join us as we gather together and check in with one another and discuss the Advent calendar activities and life in general. We hope to see you on Zoom!

6:30pm | Chat Time

The popular chat time is back for three Wednesday nights in December. Join St. Andrew friends on Zoom to chat and discuss life in general with your church family.

Questions? Ask Lisa Patterson at lisa@standrewdenton.com

Ladies' Advent Book Study

Noon on December 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. The author writes a little meditation on the essentials of Christian faith. In a rich yet accessible style reminiscent of C. S. Lewis and G. K. Chesterton, Bauerschmidt breathes life back into that claim, drawing from Scripture, great Christian and non-Christian writers of the past, and his own lived experience to show just how countercultural and subversive Christianity is actually meant to be. Eschewing the abstract and dogmatic in favor of the relational and inviting, he offers something for everyone, from lifelong churchgoers and students of religion to the growing population of "nones" among younger generations who are increasingly seeking spiritual fulfillment outside of institutional Christianity.

Christmas Pageant and Pizza Night!

Sunday, December 13 at 5:30pm on Zoom

Join us to watch the recorded Christmas Pageant on Zoom while we eat pizza together courtesy of the Diaconate. The children have been recorded in full costume practicing good social distancing, and their acting efforts have been put together in one seamless production. Written by Kirsten Trachsel and filmed and edited by Sarah Adams, you won't want to miss this important event in the life of the church. Plus the pizza is free! The Diaconate is providing pizza for all church members who submit their RSVP online, and Chef Liz's brownies will also be provided. Questions about the meal? Ask Leslie Culp or Kit McRae. Sign up deadline is Monday, December 7 at midnight. See the link in the Shield. Pick up is Sunday, December 13 at 4:00pm.

Food choices (Family maximum - 2 pizzas):

Pepperoni pizza, medium

Cheese pizza, medium

Deadline to order is Monday, December 7 at midnight. Pick up is Sunday, December 13 at 4:00pm in the church parking lot.

Share Your Advent Wreath Pictures on Facebook

Thank you to those of you who are sharing your Advent wreath pictures on Facebook. It's encouraging to see St. Andrew observing Advent together, even while we apart due to the pandemic. We'd love to share your post on our Facebook page! Be sure to let us know how you're observing St. Andrew's Advent traditions during the pandemic in your post with a picture of your lit Advent wreath. If possible, please use the tag #adventatstandrew in your post so that we know you'd like to share it on our Facebook page. Or, please email Alison McStravick, alison.mcstravick@standrewdenton.com, and she will share your post.

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 the link below 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 today. See the link in the Shield to order.

Treehouse Angel Tree

Please visit the link in the Shield 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.

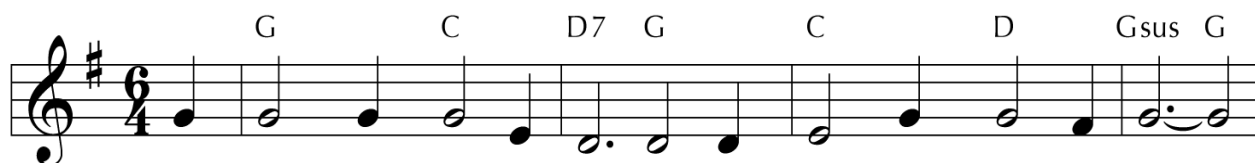
Give-a-Meal - \$2.29

St. Andrew donated \$735 to the Give-a-Meal program in October! Thank you for supporting the needs of those who are experiencing food insecurity during this time. A monetary donation of \$2.29 feeds a person in need for a week. Donations can be made by mail or online. Please write Give-a-Meal-a-Month on your envelope or check when giving by mail. To give online, visit standrewdenton.com/give and be sure to choose Give-a-Meal from the fund options to the right of your monetary donation.

The Denton Community Food Center (DCFC) is open two days a week from 1pm-3pm. Families are only able to pick up food once a month. DCFC is asking for online donations so it can purchase essentials and limit how many people handle food items. Thank you so much for supporting this program since the number of people who are needing this service is only growing due to the economic fallout during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prepare the Way, O Zion

106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

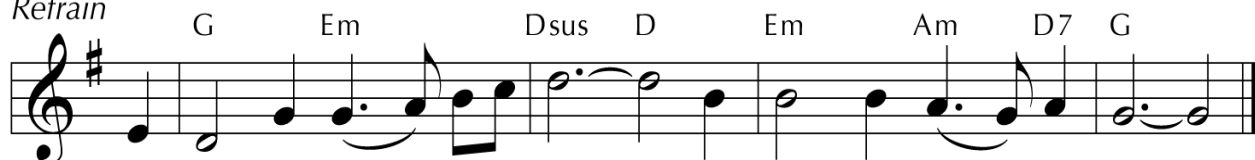


Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

<i>Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)</i>	<i>Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)</i>	<i>Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)</i>
<i>Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)</i>	<i>Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)</i>	
<i>Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)</i>	<i>Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)</i>	

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence 347

Capo 3: (Bm) Dm (G) B \flat (D) F (Bm) Dm (C) E \flat



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with

(G) B \flat (F \sharp) A (G) B \flat (D) F (Em) Gm



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man
 on the way, as the Light of light de -
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the

(Bm) Dm (C) E \flat (G) B \flat (D) F



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
 ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
 pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,

(B) D (Em) Gm (Bm) Dm (A) C



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may van - ish
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

(Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (F \sharp m) Am (Bm) Dm



our full hom - age to de - mand.
 his own self for heaven - ly food.
 as the shad - ows clear a - way.
 al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high!"

The flowering of English hymnody in the 19th century included the rediscovery, translation, and versification of ancient Christian hymns, such as this text from one of the earliest existing Christian liturgies. It is set here to an adaptation of a 17th-century French melody.

Prepare the Way of the Lord 95

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D)
* E^b A^b E^b * (chords continue)

Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,
and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

The musical notation is written on two staves in 6/8 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, with asterisks above the first and fifth measures. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text, with asterisks above the first and fifth measures. Chord symbols are placed above the staff, and the text is written below the notes.

**May be sung as a canon.*

All three synoptic gospels identify John the Baptist as the forerunner of the Messiah (Matthew 3:3/Mark 1:2-3/Luke 3:4) in accord with Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 40:3b). Because the latter part of the text (Isaiah 52:10b) has yet to be accomplished, this is still our mission today.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

PREPARE THE WAY
7.7.6.7

Scripture Lessons

Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord’s hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.