



## ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DENTON, TEXAS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2020

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### 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

The Brindle Family

#### 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 126

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

**May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,  
**shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

Lisa Patterson

#### HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Even as we prepare to proclaim Christ's birth to the world, we resist his call to grow in our relationship with him. In fact, we confess our unwillingness to work at being in relationship with others as well. We would rather focus on what we want or what we desire, instead of concerning ourselves with what Christ desires or what others need. We admit that we too often choose to give gifts we can buy, rather than giving the gift of ourselves. Forgive us our selfishness, O God, and show us how to commit to our relationship with Christ and with others. In Christ's 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

Isaiah 61: 8-11

See Insert

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd  
Benjamin Johnson, tenor and Stephen Carey, piano

John Ness Beck

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1: 6-9; 19-28

See Insert

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Crying Out

Richard B. Culp

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

HYMN 84

Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)

*(The Heidelberg Catechism)*

Who was sent to be the Messiah?

**God sent Jesus to be the Messiah. Messiah means "anointed one." The New Testament word for Messiah is Christ. Jesus is called the Christ, because God anointed him to be the Savior who would rescue us from sin and death.**

Was Jesus just another human being?

**No. Although he was truly human, he was also God with us. As someone who was truly human, he could share all our sorrows. Yet because he was truly God, he could save us from all our sins. Amen. (Book of Confessions, 4.035)**

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 86

The People Who Walked in Darkness

ISAIAH 9

#### BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

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### Prayer Concerns

Rafat Haddad  
Steve Shirley  
Steve Plunkett

Judy Cherry  
Pat Hiler  
Helen Harrison

Scott Hendrix  
Suzanne Baroody  
Carol Hill

Cirilo Chavira, father of Frank Chavira  
Don Samuelson, husband of Gini Samuelson  
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  
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  
Sharon and Johnny Miller, cousins of Barbara Sims  
Kathy Torneo Whatley, cousin of Barbara Sims  
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  
Allison Burk, Kendall Young's grandmother  
Nancy Burk, mother of Kendall Young  
Ashley Burk, uncle of Kendall Young  
Family of Randy Whiting, father of Aaron Whiting

## WELCOME!

**W**e 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.*

### 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 with the Goodland Academy. The pizza is courtesy of the Diaconate, and the Angel Tree was coordinated by the Youth Committee. The children have been recorded in full costume practicing good social distancing, and their acting efforts have been put together in one seamless production. You won't want to miss this important event in the life of the church.

Food pick up is Sunday, December 13 at 4:00pm in the church parking lot.

### Called Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, December 20**

There is a called congregational meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2020, immediately following the 10:45am worship service to act on a report from Officer Nominating Committee to fill a 2 yr. unexpired term on the Diaconate. Like the previous meeting, this one will include the in-person worshippers and the rest of the congregation through Zoom.

### Thank You

A hearty "Thank you" from the Diaconate to everyone who contributed clothing and related items for clients of The Junction. In addition to these items, others of you made financial donations totaling \$295 for the purchase of additional clothing items. All these donations will make life easier for our Junction friends, plus, it should make their Christmas a little brighter.

### Treehouse Angel Tree

Thank you to everyone who signed up to provide a Christmas gift for the children of the Treehouse. 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](mailto: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.

### 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](mailto:alison.mcstravick@standrewdenton.com), and she will share your post.

### Give-a-Meal - \$2.29

St. Andrew donated \$438 to the Give-a-Meal program in November! 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](http://standrewdenton.com/give) and be sure to choose Give-a-Meal from the fund options to the right of your monetary donation.

### By the Numbers: As of 11/30/20

Income (pledges + other income)	\$814,594.80
Expenses	\$809,334.43
Difference	\$5,260.37

Attendance 12/6/20 356 Views

Give online at: [standrewdenton.com/give](http://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.).

## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a - right?  
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;  
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,  
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.  
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

# 84 Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -  
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in  
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all  
4 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,

The Latin original of this text for Advent dates from at least the 9th century, and the English version was created a millennium later as part of the 19th-century recovery of early Christian hymns. It is provided here with its traditional plainchant setting.

TEXT: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; as in *The Hymnal 1940*, alt.

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

MUSIC: Sarum plainsong, Mode IV, 9th cent.; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

LM

*Text Alt.* © 1940 Church Pension Fund

(alternate tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR)

*Music Harm.* © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

## JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,  
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child  
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you, hear us when we call.  
of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.  
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

# 86 The People Who Walked in Darkness

Capo 3: (Em) (C/E) (Em) (C/E) (Em)

Gm Eb/G Gm Eb/G Gm

1 The peo - ple who walked in dark - ness a - wak - en to  
 2 For God has en - larged the na - tion, and pros - pered the  
 3 The yoke of de - spair and bond - age, the chains of the  
 4 For us now a child is giv - en, for all the de -  
 5 How vast is our God's do - min - ion! How far truth and

(D) (G) (B) (Em) (C/E)  
 F Bb D Gm Eb/G

see a great light. The peo - ple who dwelt in the  
 fruit of its land. God's peo - ple are blest with the  
 slave mas - ter's rod are shat - tered and scat - tered like  
 spised and for - lorn. The rule of com - pas - sion shall  
 mer - cy ex - tend. The zeal of the Lord will ac -

(Em) (Bm) (Cmaj7) (Am7) (Bsus) (B)  
 Gm Dm Ebmaj7 Cm7 Dsus D

land of the shad - ow rise to a star shin - ing bright.  
 har - vest of vic - tory, gift from a boun - ti - ful hand.  
 dust in a wind - storm, loosed by the jus - tice of God.  
 rest on his shoul - der. God's own Mes - si - ah is born!  
 com - pish its pur - pose: jus - tice shall reign with - out end.

Refrain (E) (Am7) (D) (G) (C) (F#dim7) (B) (Em)  
 G Cm7 F Bb Eb Adim7 D Gm

His name is Won - der - ful, Coun - sel - or, Al - might - y God,

(Cmaj7) (G) (Am7) (D) I(G)  
 Ebmaj7 Bb Cm7 F Bb

Fa - ther for - ev - er, Prince of Peace.

2 (G) (B7sus) (B) Final (G) (C/G) (G)  
 Bb D7sus D Bb Eb/Bb Bb

Peace. (to stanzas) Peace.

One of the great virtues of scriptural paraphrases is that they bring fresh understanding and appreciation to familiar passages. This adaptation of a customary Advent text, Isaiah 9:2-7, provides an effective example of how revisited verses can take on new life when recast.

## Scripture Lessons

### Isaiah 61: 8-11

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

### John 1: 6-9; 19-28

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.