



ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DENTON, TEXAS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 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

Betty, Leslie, and Rachel Culp, from home
Joe and Bette Allen, 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 89

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;

with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

our faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

OPENING PRAYER

CJ Prater

HYMN 83

Come, Thou Expected Long Expected Jesus

STUTT GART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lisa Patterson

We confess, O God, that we are timid people, who shy away from you. Rather than being inspired to great heights by your coming in Christ, we cower at the implications and expectations his coming has for our lives. We find it easy to tell the story of the coming of Christ, but resist the call to follow him into the world. Give us the joy of knowing your presence in our midst and the courage to boldly serve you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

2 Samuel 7: 1-11

See Insert

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

The People that Walked in Darkness (*Messiah*)
Christopher Curcuruto, bass-baritone and Stephen Carey, piano

Handel

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1: 26-38

See Insert

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Here I Am

Richard B. Culp

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN 101

No Wind at the Window

COLUMCILLE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (See insert)

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 105

People, Look East

BESANCON

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The rosebud in the chancel announces the birth of Eve Noelle Goldston, daughter of Trent and Kelly Goldston, grandparents Lauri and Steve Goldston. Congratulations!

Prayer Concerns

Rafat Haddad
Steve Shirley
Steve Plunkett
Judy Cherry

Pat Hiler
Helen Harrison
Allyn Harrison
Scott Hendrix

Suzanne Baroody
Carol Hill

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
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 Cirilo Chavira, father of Frank Chavira

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.

Called Congregational Meeting Today following the Worship Service

There is a called congregational meeting today 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 with Jay Carradine. Like the previous meeting, this one will include the in-person worshippers and the rest of the congregation through Zoom.

Youth Virtual Christmas Party Sunday, December 20 at Noon

High School Sunday School: Due to the all church Christmas party, High School Sunday School will move to 8:00 for this Sunday only.

No youth activities on Wednesday, December 23,
Sunday, December 27,
and Sunday, January 3.

We will have Zoom youth group on Wednesday, December 30.

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@gmail.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 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 12/13/20 396 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.).

83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

101 No Wind at the Window

1 No wind at the win-dow, no knock on the door;
 2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, don't hide from my face.
 3 "This child must be born that the king-dom might come:
 4 No pay - ment was prom - ised, no prom - is - es made;

no light from the lamp - stand, no foot on the floor;
 Be glad that you're fa - vored and filled with God's grace.
 sal - va - tion for man - y, de - struc - tion for some;
 no wed - ding was dat - ed, no blue - print dis - played.

no dream born of tired - ness, no ghost raised by fear:
 The time for re - deem - ing the world has be - gun,
 both end and be - gin - ning, both mes - sage and sign;
 Yet Mar - y, con - sent - ing to what none could guess,

just an an - gel and a wom - an and a voice in her ear.
 and you are re - quest - ed to moth - er God's Son."
 both vic - tor and vic - tim, both yours and di - vine."
 re - plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell God I say, Yes."

This 20th-century retelling of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) effectively incorporates characteristic features of the folksong style its Irish tune requires, especially in the lists of "no" and "both." The tune is named for a many-talented Irish saint of the 6th century.

105 People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look

a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928, alt.
 MUSIC: French folk melody; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928

BESANÇON
 8.7.9.8.8.7

east and sing to - day:

Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR
SOPHIA RHEA CALLAWAY
DECEMBER 20, 2020

Words of Preparation

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

In baptism, we are graced with a new beginning. Baptism is a sign and seal of God's covenant of grace still with us today. In baptism we are engrafted into the family of God. It is a relationship that endures for a lifetime and beyond. In baptism we are marked as Christ's own; it is a visible sign of God's continuing faithfulness and proclamation of our intention to dwell in covenant with God and one another. Let us remember with joy our own baptism as we celebrate this sacrament.

Presentation of Sophia Callaway

Ruling Elder Susan Danbom: On behalf of this congregation and its Session, we present Sophia Callaway to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Questions for the Congregation

In receiving this child of God, do we as members of the body of Christ, on behalf of the church universal, promise to guide and teach Sophia so that one day she may confess Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior?

Do we promise to nurture her with love and prayer and encourage her to know and follow Christ and be a faithful member of Christ's church?

Questions for the Parents

Aly and Tim, do trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Aly and Tim, putting your whole trust in Jesus Christ, do you desire that Sophia be baptized?

***Profession of Faith (Apostles' Creed)**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer Over the Water of Baptism

Baptism

Who stands with this child?

Sophia, child of the covenant, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit....

Welcome

Introduction of Sophia to the congregation.

Ruling Elder Susan Danbom: We have just received Sophia into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has reaffirmed the covenant made to Abraham and made to us in baptism.

People: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Sophia into Christ's church, and we reaffirm our own baptismal vows, committing ourselves to the service of God.

Hymn #115 Away in a Manger

Scripture Lessons

2 Samuel 7:1-11

⁷ Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³ Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders^[a] of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵ But I will not take^[b] my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me;^[c] your throne shall be established forever. ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

Luke 1: 26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.