



4th Sunday in Advent
December 24, 2017 | 8:30 + 11:00 am

We Gather in the Presence of the Risen Savior

Prelude | Good Christian Friends, Rejoice *setting by Lynette Maynard*

Welcome + Announcements

Candle Lighting | (8:30) The Potter Family, (11:00) The Benson Family

Unison Prayer

God of Surprises, of stars and stables, help us to remain open to the surprising signs of your presence in our time. Help us not to be so distracted by our celebrations that we miss your coming! Amen.

***Gathering Hymn** | Good Christian Friends, Rejoice *red hymnal #98*

We Seek Renewal in God's Presence

***Call to Confession**

Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God.

Silence for personal confession

Hymns + Songs | *Lift Up Your Hearts* (red hymnal)

Bold Print | Speak or sing together in unison

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

The good news this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life.
Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

***The Peace | time of greeting**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament Lesson | 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 *Bible*, pg. 245

Gospel Lesson | Luke 1:46b-55 *Bible*, pg. 832

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Response | Magnificat *by* Keith + Kristyn Getty

Time for Young Disciples | Heather Woodin

Parents who would like to have their children (3 year old-Kindergarten) participate in Children's Time are welcome to accompany their children downstairs during the congregational Hymn. Children will be brought back to the sanctuary during the Sending Hymn.

Congregational Hymn | Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming *red hymnal*, #79

Gospel Lesson | Luke 1:26-38 *Bible*, pg. 831

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Message | The Surprising One *Rev.* Kyle Otterbein

Epistle Lesson | Romans 16:25-27 *Bible*, pg. 926

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responding to the Word

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Prayer requests may be written on a prayer card and placed in the offering plate.

Offertory | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *setting by* Jeremy Young

***Offertory Response** | Sung to “Lift Up Your Heads”

**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.**

Text: 9th century Latin hymn, translated by John Mason Neale

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People + 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.

Sending

***Sending Hymn** | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *red hymnal, #80*

***Charge + Blessing**

***Postlude** | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *setting by* Lynette Maynard

Today’s Worship Participants

Rev. Kyle Otterbein, *pastor*

Matthew Penning, *director of music*

Kristen DeGrazia, *assistant director of music*

(8:30) Ted Potter, (11:00) Becky Benson, *worship leaders*

Jeff Charis-Carlson, L’Engle Charis-Carlson, & Lucy Charis-Carlson, *piano, violin, & vocals*

Announcements

Welcome! We are happy to have you here with us today. If you would like more information about St. Andrew, please indicate your interest on the Connection Card. Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments after the service. This is a wonderful way to meet the St. Andrew family.

Families with children and infants are welcomed in our worship services. Worship materials for children are available on the shelves outside the sanctuary.

Infant and toddler care (up to age 2) is provided downstairs in the Nursery. Children's Time, for ages 3 years through Kindergarten, also is downstairs.

Connection Cards are one way we can extend welcome and hospitality to our guests while also helping us consider steps we can take in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. We ask each person to fill out the card and place it in the offering plate. Members, once your contact information is correct, you only need to write your name. As my next step today, I will . . .

- ◇ Pray together with my household that God will make our home God's house.
- ◇ Pray for God's peace to spread throughout the nations.
- ◇ Pray for renewed awareness of God's mercy.
- ◇ Share good news and encouragement with a neighbor or co-worker who needs it this week.

Prayer Requests may be written on a blue Prayer Request Card and placed in the offering plate.

Flowers are given by the McCue's in celebration of Jesus' birth and our new home on Gathering Place Lane.

The Christmas Joy Offering, one of four annual offerings of the PC(USA) which is beyond our regular giving, will be taken up today. Envelopes are available in the pew rack in front of you.

December 24 Worship: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held at 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm this evening. Communion will be served at the 11:00 service. If you have purchased poinsettias, please remember that they can be taken home AFTER the 11:00 pm service.

Church Office: The church office will be closed on December 25, 26, & January 1.

Annual Report: Ministry Leaders, please have your reports to Sarah Dyck **no later than January 5**.

From Helen Ringgenberg: Many thanks to the staff and volunteers for getting our new church ready for such a glorious Sunday.

