



Lessons & Carols

9:30 a.m. | December 10, 2023

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

The Second Week of Advent | How does a weary world rejoice?

We find joy in connection

READ Isaiah 40:1-11

FROM THE ARTIST | Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

I wanted to create an image that spoke tenderly to the viewer as this text does to the reader. “Comfort, O comfort my people” (Isaiah 40:1). When I’ve read this text before, the shepherding metaphor has only yielded masculine imagery in my mind. It makes sense with the text’s pronouns that I would imagine a masculine figure. It was also ingrained in me—through translations, biblical art, movies, children’s pageants, etc.—that shepherds were always men. I learned recently, however, that women were shepherds too. Some young women were trained and worked as shepherds before they were married; this notion completely added new dimension and depth to the shepherding metaphor. I decided to use imagery of modern-day shepherds to inspire this image. A shepherd is at once fierce and tender, willing to face the most dangerous of predators in the dead of night while warmly cradling the most vulnerable of the flock.

In this image, the shepherd nurtures a lamb while leading the flock through fields of tall grasses and flowers. The fuschia flowers in the foreground are marjoram flowers that represent comfort and the steadfastness of God’s word even in the midst of the leveling of the land. The shepherd’s clothes have repeated medallions with simplified imagery of a straight highway in the wilderness. Within the stylized landscape, a voice proclaims the coming glory of the Lord.

PRAY

Breathe deeply as you gaze upon the image on the left. Imagine placing yourself in this scene. What do you see? How do you feel? Get quiet and still, offering a silent or spoken prayer to God.

Hymns + Songs | Pages are listed for the printed bulletin

Numbers (#) are listed for music in the *Lift Up Your Hearts* (red) hymnal

Bold Print | Speak or sing together in unison.

✱ Please rise in body or in spirit.



New Guest Connection

Second Sunday of Advent | Lessons & Carols

9:30 a.m. | December 10, 2023

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

Thought for Reflection

*“Where reason is indignant,
where our nature rebels,
where our piety anxiously keeps us away:
that is precisely where God loves to be.”*

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Prelude | *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659, by J. S. Bach

Call to Gather | *adapted from a prayer by Thom Schuman*

God comes! So don't let go of all the reasons to rejoice.

We will sing a song of Advent to the One who fills our lives with joy.

God comes! So don't stop lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.

We will sing a song of Advent to the One who hears our words and silence.

God comes! So don't stop giving your hearts to God.

**We will sing a song of Advent to the One who graces us with peace and promise—
that day and in the days to come!**

Lighting Song | “Christ, Be Our Light,” vs. 2, pg. 8 (*hymnal*, #908)

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your Word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Because of war,
because of violence in our communities,
because there is still so much unrest in our hearts,
we light a candle of peace.

Because hatred is still so strong,
because so many swords have not yet been remade into plowshares,
we light a candle of peace. (*Light the second candle.*)

May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

May the light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming,
on earth as it already is in heaven.

Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

✠ **Gathering Hymn** | "Savior of the Nations, Come" (verses 1, 2, 5 & 6), pg. 9

Celebration of Baptism | William Fjord Baumann Knox, *son of Lauren Baumann and Jordan Knox*

✠ **Prayer of Confession and Promise of Ever-Present Grace**

In a world of sorrows, we cry out to God.
In the heat of the sun, in the cool of the moon,
our screams search the heavens for our God.
When fear gathers round us like wolves in the dark,
we wonder whether God has forgotten us and left us alone.
So in our need, let us call out to God with one voice, saying:

**Advent God, we cry out to you in our sorrow.
With deep rivers ahead and high mountains above,
our souls want only your love.
You said to lean on your arm—so we lean now.
You said to trust in your love—so we trust now!
You said to call on your name—so we call now!**

**Forgive us, we pray.
Be our protection and our guide.
And like the Mighty One known by your faithful,
give us strength to step out on your mercy and grace.**

A time for silent confession

God of Advent Light, may we watch and wait in eager expectation
for the rising glow of your mercy and grace.

**May we hope in the blessed dawn of Christ's love—
this day and all days! Amen.**

✠ **Musical Response** | "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful," pg. 10

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.*

✠ **Sharing of Christ's Peace & Compassion** †

And now, as a visible sign
of what it means to live together
in the care and context
of Christ's community,
let us extend Christ's
peace and compassion
to those around us!

The peace of Christ be with you all!
And also with you!

Musical Reflection | *And Pierce the Clouds and Bring Us Light!*, by Austen Wilson

First Reading | Psalm 96:1-13 (*Bible*, pg. 479)

Hymn | "Creator of the Stars of Night," pg. 11 (*hymnal*, #71)
verses 1, 4 & 5: *all* | 2: *upper voices* | 3: *lower voices*

† Following the *Sharing of Christ's Peace & Compassion*, Kindergartners and younger children are welcome to join activities in the Lower Level Children's Area.

Second Reading | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (*Bible*, pg. 473)

Musical Reflection | *O Come, Emmanuel*, by Elaine Hagenberg

Third Reading | 2 Peter 3:8-15a (*Bible*, pg. 988)

Hymn | “Love Has Come,” pg. 12

Fourth Reading | Isaiah 9:2-7 (*Bible*, pg. 555)

Musical Reflection | “And the Glory of the Lord,” from *Messiah*, by G.F. Handel

Fifth Reading | Isaiah 40:1-11 (*Bible*, pg. 581)

Hymn | “Comfort, Comfort Now My People,” pg. 13 (*hymnal*, #59)

Sixth Reading | “Advent,” by Walter Brueggemann

Worship in Tithes and Offerings

Offertory | *True Light*, by Keith Hampton

✠ **Response to Our Offerings** | “Doxology for a Weary World” (sung to “In the Bleak Midwinter”)

*Praise the one Creator, praise the Living Christ
Praise the Holy Spirit, praise both day and night.
Praise when you are weary, praise in times of joy.
Praise, my soul, with all your strength
and your heart and voice.*

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;

Doxology for a Weary World
CRANHAM (“In the Bleak Midwinter”)

Text: Anna Strickland (2023)

Music: Gustav Holst (1906)

The musical notation is written on five staves in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The final staff ends with a double bar line and the word 'voice' written below it.

Praise the one Cre - a - tor, praise the Liv-ing Christ

Praise the Ho-ly Spi - rit, praise both day and night

Praise when you are wea - ry, praise in times of joy

Praise, my soul, with all your strength and your heart and

voice

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 Hymn** | “Lord of Light,” pg. 14

✠ **Benediction**

In this moment of worship, we embrace your presence again, O God.

And we offer You our love.

In this moment of prayer, we proclaim again Your purpose for the world, O Savior.

And we offer You our resources.

In this moment of giving we hear your call again, O God.

And we offer You ourselves.

Use us—all that we have and all that we are—
to touch the world with the Advent message:

God is love. God is with us. God will never leave us alone.

**So, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all now and forever. Amen.**

Postlude | *Variations on ‘People, Look East,’* by Michael Helman

Today’s Worship Participants

Rev. W. Robert Martin III and Rev. Kyle Otterbein, *pastors*

Austen Wilson, *director of music ministries*

Logos Choir | Abby Chen, *organist & accompanist*

Resound! | Laura Kastens, *director of handbell ministries*

Agape Ringers | Austen Wilson, *director of music ministries*

Brass Ensemble | Lee Rabe, *director of instrumental ministries*

Soloists | Tessera Rippentrop, *cello*; Becky Benson, *soprano*; John Mendelin, *tenor*

Candle Lighters | Lauren Baumann & Jordan Knox

The Flowers on the Chancel are given by the congregation in celebration of Pastor Rob’s birthday with thanksgiving to the Lord for his presence among us.

Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 D Esus Em

1 Long - ing for light, — we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, — our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, — ma - ny are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, ma - ny are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Ma - ny the gifts, — ma - ny the peo - ple, ma - ny the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em7/D Am7

truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
 hope, — man - y de - spair. Your Word a - lone —
 > wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
 warmth, — ma - ny are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 > bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Words and Music (CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT 9.8.9.6 refrain 4.4.5.4.8): Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957) © 1993
 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications

Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
 3 Won-drous birth—oh, won-drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



- Mar-vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 out to van-quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.



- 5 Now your manger, shining bright,
 hallows night with newborn light.
 Night cannot this light subdue;
 let our faith shine ever new.

- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!
 To the holy Trinity
 praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
 Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful 654

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -

joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your

voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near.

This refrain from the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé, France, is meant for repeated singing. A wonderful quilt of psalm-like phrases, it would be appropriate at any time but the concluding emphasis on the nearness of the Lord makes it especially fitting for use in Advent.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1986

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1986

Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

Irregular



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Creator of the Stars of Night

Unison Cm B^b A^b Gm E^b A^b B^b

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

E^b Gm Cm Fm Gm Fm E^b

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,

A^b Gm B^b E^b Gm *Last time*
 Cm Fm G(no3)

we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord. (A - men.)

4 Come in your holy might, we pray;
 redeem us for eternal day;
 defend us while we dwell below
 from all assaults of our dread foe.

5 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.

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Reminder of Upcoming Events

- Children's Christmas Pageant | Dec. 17
- "Cocoa & Carols" | After Worship | Dec. 17
- Services on Christmas Eve Day | Dec. 24
 - 9:30 a.m. | 4th Week of Advent, with sermon by the Pastor Kyle Otterbein
 - 5 p.m. | A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, led by the Children's & Family Ministry Team
 - 7 p.m. | A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Choir & Organ, with prompting by Pastor Rob Martin
 - 11 p.m. | A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, led by the ETC Band, with prompting by Matt Moore
- New Year's Eve Game Night | Dec. 31
- St. Andy's Talent Show | Jan. 27, 2024
- Women's Retreat | Feb. 2-3, 2024
- Luther College Nordic Choir | Melodious Harmony | Feb. 4
- Flipping Tables Retreat | Feb. 24, 2024

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ISAIAH 40:1-5

F Dm B \flat F Dm F F/C C F

1 Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; speak of peace: so says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Then make straight what long was crook - ed; make the rough - er plac - es plain.

Dm B \flat F Dm F F/C C F

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

C D A F B \flat C

Cry out to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 Oh, 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,

F Gm Dm F B \flat F B \flat Dm Csus C F

tell her that her sins I cov - er and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

Words: Isaiah 40:1-5; vers. Johannes G. Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D.

Music (FREU DICH SEHR/GENEVAN 42 | 8.7.8.7.7.8.8): Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561), 1551; harm. Johann Crüger (1598-1662), 1658, P.D.

Lord of Light



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

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Questions about Worship @ St. Andrew?

- **Welcome!** We are happy to have you join us today. If you would like more information about St. Andrew, please email office@saintandrew-ic.org.
- Our worship services begin **in-person and online at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings**, followed by Sunday School and Adult Christian Education offerings from September to April and a variety of After Worship activities from May to August. *The service usually begins with Welcome & Announcements a few minutes before 9:30 a.m.*
- All ages are welcome in our worship services. Worship materials for all ages are available in **The Maker's Toolbox** outside the north entrance to the Sanctuary.
- **Nursery care** (up to age 2) is provided in the Lower Level throughout the morning. Programming for children (through Kindergarten age) begins in the Lower Level after the **Time for Young Disciples** on most Sundays and after the **Sharing of Christ's Peace and Compassion** on Communion Sundays.
- Large print hymnals, bibles, and bulletins also are available outside the Sanctuary doors. A T-Coil hearing assist loop is also available for those with this feature on their hearing aids.
- **Prayer Requests** may be written on a blue **Prayer Request Card** and placed in the offering plates as they are passed.
- Unless otherwise designated, gifts given to the weekly **offering**—either in the offering plates or through our website—support the annual church budget, including staff salaries, utilities, mission outreach, and all aspects of ministry at St. Andrew.
- To log into the **St. Andrew Connect** system, either download the **St. Andrew App** through the **App Store/Google Play** or visit saintandrew.ccbchurch.com.
- Permission to livestream the music in this service is from CCLI (#617801) and One License (A-711114).

Today's Adult Education Classes

- **Pastor Rob Martin** and **Matt Moore** continue team-teaching a weekly class on a range of topics from Spiritual Gifts to the theologians who have inspired them. | *Lower Level Middle Classroom*
- **"Art in Worship, the Montreat Experience"** | *Dec. 3 & 10* | Inspired by this year's Worship Conference in Montreat, **Paul Penn** will facilitate a discussion on the role of visual arts in worship. The class will focus on the work of a key artist, **Steve Prince**. | *The Hub*
- **"Surviving the Holidays"** | *Dec. 3 & 10* | Not everyone "celebrates" the holidays. For many people going through grief, the Thanksgiving and Christmas season can sometimes feel bleak. This two-week class led by St. Andrew's **Stephen Ministers** offers coping tools and support. Video and guides from the organization GriefShare will be used as the basis of brief small group discussions. | *Conference Room (#128)*

Pastoral, Ministry, and Administrative Staff & Church Elected Officers

Pastors

Rev. W. Robert Martin III, *lead pastor & head of staff* | rmartin@saintandrew-ic.org

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Rev. Mark Wilson Martin, *pastor emeritus* | pastormwm@gmail.com

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Elders

Class of 2024: Cade Benson, Jason Gehrs, Thomas Hartley, Sara Penn,
Karen Raynor, and Rebecca Schuchert

Class of 2025: Helen Bryce, Don Burch, Eric Goers, Jon Swearingen, and Bruce Walker

Class of 2026: Aaron Gibson, Mary Hausler, Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, Josh Schilling, and Gregs Thomopulos

Deacons

Class of 2024: Kathi Anderson, Katherine Habley, Cody Neddermeyer, Pam & Phil Karp,
Jenny Wilcox, and Elizabeth Young

Class of 2025: Erika Law Tuttle, Pat Penn, Amy & Jason Schmidt-Rundell, Kathy & Dave Duys,
and Dedi Walker

Class of 2026: Daniel Chappo, Jim Halverson, Scott Hoffman, Jamie Tanas & Mettie Thomopulos

Finance Team

Class of 2024: Jason Schuchert, *treasurer* | Michelle DeGroot, *assistant treasurer*

Personnel Team (at large)

Class of 2024: Kent Short | **Class of 2025:** Lisa Shileny & Wes Habley | **Class of 2026:** Twila Finkelstein

Nominating Team (at large)

Class of 2024: Kyle Bernard, Nichole Hoffman, Lori Hudson & Emily Neddermeyer