

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1450 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43229-3306
Phone: 614/885-7609 E-mail: standrewpres.columbus@gmail.com
Web site: www.standrewpresbyterians.org
Presbytery of Scioto Valley Presbyterian Church USA
Founded March 10, 1963

December 16, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

THE UNFOLDING MYSTERY ADVENT 2018



He, Qi, "The Visitation," from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

December 16, 2018

10:30 A.M.

Ministers..... All Members of St. Andrew
Head Usher..... Bea White
Lead Elder..... Chris Cvar
Liturgist..... Blaise Mvoa Olama
Music Ministry..... The Choirs
Director of Music Emeritus..... Garry Cornell
Pianists..... Melissa S. Robol and Susan Mild
Organists..... Judith F. Willour, Alex Chacon
Director of Music..... Stephen Smith
Transitional Pastor..... Roger Au

The Service for the Lord's Day

PRAYER OF THE DAY (For silent meditation in preparation for worship)
Mighty God, your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of your Son, in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May we, like Mary, proclaim your greatness as we rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RINGING OF THE HOUR – INTROIT

WELCOME

Elder Chris Cvar

PRELUDE "Carol Fantasy," O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *Darwin Wolford*
Susan Mild, pianist and Judy Willour, organist

***LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE**

Kate Kerr and Linda Rightor

Leader: Surely God is our salvation; we will trust and will not be afraid.
People: **With JOY and expectation we watch for signs of God's coming.**
Leader: God is our strength and might. With JOY we will draw water from the wells of salvation.
People: **With JOY and expectation we watch for signs of God's coming.**
Leader: Give thanks to God, call on God's name; make known God's deeds among the nations.
People: **With JOY and expectation we watch for signs of God's coming.**
Leader: Shout aloud and sing for JOY, for great in our midst is the Holy One.
People: **With JOY and expectation we watch for signs of God's coming.**
Leader: Let us pray.
Dear God, today we light a candle for JOY in our world.
People: **May it burn brightly and warmly in our hearts.**
Leader: Enflamed by your reconciling love, we gather O God, willing to be stilled, yet willing to be moved by your Spirit. We come so our lives might continue to be enlarged by you for greater HOPE and PEACE and JOY for living. Let us worship God.

**All who are able may stand. — Hymnals are located at the end of each pew*

***HYMN NO. 362** “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

Llangloffan

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Pastor: In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own.

People: We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength.

Pastor: Trusting in God’s grace, together let us pray....

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

God, you are the light that shines in deepest darkness. You call us to testify to all that we see. Like Isaiah who sees the brokenhearted, like Mary who knows the lowliness of a servant, and like John who goes into the wilderness, we also are called to testify to the light. Forgive us, God for averting our eyes from hard realities you call us to see. Forgive us for following after things that glitter only on the surface. Forgive us for focusing narrowly on what is ours rather than on what is your, which is everything. In the coming of your Son, Light of the World, help us to behold, test, and testify to all that is true.

(Silent confession)

Pastor: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: For God so loved the world that God gave God’s only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

People: For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Pastor: Believe the good news:

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, loved, and freed.
Thanks be to God**

***GLORIA (HYMN NO. 113, vs. 1)**

Gloria

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Glo-ri-a, in excelsis De-o, Glo-ri-a, in excelsis De-o.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Proclaim God’s Word

If you want to follow the Scripture lessons on your electronic device, our network is **Andrew2** or **Andrew3**; password: **calvinjohn**. A good website for the NRSV is www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm or the app Olive Tree.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
[p. 691-692 (OT) in pew Bible]

ANTHEM “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

arr. K. Lee Scott

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:39-56
[p. 57 (NT) in pew Bible]

SERMON “The Mystery Made Known”
“My soul magnifies the Lord...” Luke 1:46

—Rev. Roger Au

***ADVENT STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Pastor: It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss. This is true:

**People: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given;
authority rests upon his shoulders;;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Amen.**

Respond to God's Word

*HYMN NO. 99 "My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

Morning Song

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Offertory "Choral Prelude on "In Dulci Jubilo"

J.S. Bach

*Response (HYMN NO. 113, vs. 3)

Gloria

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.
Glo-ri-a, in excelsis De-o, Glo-ri-a, in excelsis De-o.*

Give Thanks to God

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Liturgist: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace; in Christ's name. Amen.

Go in God's Name

*HYMN NO. 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Bereden Väg För Herran

*CHARGE — BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE: (HYMN NO. 88 Refrain)

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*POSTLUDE "Noel Suisse" (Grand Jeu et Duo)

Louis Claude Daquin

*If you wish to enjoy the postlude, please remain quietly in your seats.
Otherwise, consider it the final Alleluia on the day's worship
and leave to honor God and serve in Christ's name.*

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES are available for use during the worship service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

WE GREET YOU and are pleased that you have joined us for worship today. Whether you are a guest, member, or friend of the church, we hope you find a warm welcome here. After worship, you are invited and encouraged to enjoy a time of refreshment and fellowship.

FOR THE CHILDREN: Activity sheets (two sets: for ages 3—6 and for 7—12) related to today's service are on the oak cabinet in the back of the sanctuary.

Activity bags with coloring books and crayons for younger children are on hooks underneath the bulletin boards in the front hall.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH: following worship TODAY, hosted by the Hospitality Committee.

THE GREETER TODAY is Bobby Schulz.

THE FLOWERS TODAY are given by Cathy Bourgeois in honor of daughter Margie's birthday.

POINSETTIAS that were ordered are \$8.50 each and payable at anytime.

THIS WEEK'S CARD MINISTRY COORDINATORS are Lucy Conner and Bev Green.

THE LEAD ELDER NEXT WEEK is Mary Massey.

COMMITTEE AND GROUP CHAIRS: Reports for the 2018 Annual Report are due by JANUARY 14, 2019.

ADULT EDUCATION:

NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH: AN ADVENT STUDY

Sunday Mornings 9:15-10:10 in the Blue Room

In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. This study by Walter Brueggemann ponders each royal designation and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title. Come be part of this informative study led by Pastor Roger during Advent.

A CHRISTMAS EVE FELLOWSHIP HOUR will be hosted by session in the Blue Room immediately following Christmas Eve worship. Everyone is invited to mingle and greet friends and those visiting from out of town and wish each other a Merry Christmas.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be received on December 23 and Christmas Eve. This special offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers in their time of need by providing financial assistance to support them through life’s changing circumstances. The offering also helps support racial ethnic education and leadership development for students attending Presbyterian-related colleges – a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. These actions bear witness to our faithful response to God’s charge to love one another as God has loved us.

NOTES from Stephen Smith: The text of this morning’s anthem, **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**, was written in 1700 by German hymn writer Laurentius Laurenti. The text is a paraphrase of the familiar parable of the foolish maidens from Matthew 25:1-13. It was translated in 1854 by Sarah Borthwick Findlater. Sarah and her sister Jane translated volumes of Germanic hymns, many of which we still use today.

Interestingly, the hymntune arranger K. Lee Scott chose for today’s anthem is not a German tune, but Swedish. (And the setting of the text used for our opening hymn today is a Welsh tune.) A true showing of how the gospel has been shared world-wide.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2018



**THE UNFOLDING
MYSTERY**

CHRISTMAS EVE

**Candlelight Service of Lessons
&
Carols
7:00 p.m.**

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 24 – JANUARY 2.
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

This week at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

December 17 thru December 23*

Monday	11:00 am 7:00 pm	Membercare (Blue Rm.) PNC (Blue Room)
Tuesday	3:45 pm 7:30 pm	Tai Chi Class (Blue Room) Session Meeting (Blue Room)
Wednesday	10:30 am 12:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting (Blue Room) Bible Study (Blue Room) Wellstreams (Blue Room) Choir practice (Choir Room & Sanctuary)
Sunday	9:15 am	Adult Education (Blue Room)

***please view the St. Andrew website for the complete November calendar**
Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 am – 2:30 pm