

Welcome in the Name of Christ



**ST. ANDREW'S
UNITED CHURCH**

1833 – 2014

181st Anniversary Year

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Minister: Rev. K. Alice McAlpine
Organist & Choir Director: Doreen Gilbert Bangs

Worship Service 10:30 a.m. December 14, 2014

3rd of Advent ~ White Gift Service

To greet you~ Elder: Audrey Bauer
Stewards: Joanne Goodfellow & Cliff Henderson

*This is the day the Lord has made,
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

MUSICAL PRELUDE AS WE GATHER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP
(*Indicates stand if able)

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Announcements

Gathering song: Rejoice and sing for joy
All people of the Lord,
God rescues, steadies, strengthens, frees
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
VU#715

Call to Worship ~

Leader: In this Advent season we recall that when God's Anointed One comes,

People: ... the desert will rejoice, and flowers will bloom in the wasteland.

Leader: When God's Promised One comes,

People: ...tired hands will receive new strength, and fearful ones will find fresh courage.

Leader: When God's Chosen One comes,

People: ... the lame will leap and dance; the blind will see.

Leader: When God's Long Awaited One comes,

People: ... the grieving and sorrowing will be forever free.

***Singing:**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

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

O come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. **R**

O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. **R**

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
And be for us the Prince of Peace. **R**

VU #1 vs. 1,5, 6, 7

Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer ~ God of Advent Promise, we gather this day to hear Your promises of peace and righteousness. We praise You for the hope and possibilities of this sacred season. As we anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth and His coming again, may our preparation be faith-filled and joyous. In the name of the Holy One, we pray, "Our Father..." Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav'n. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Candle Lighting Ceremony

VOICE — Last Sunday the candle of peace was lit. We light it and the candle of hope again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring to the world everlasting peace.

(a person lights the candles of hope, and peace.)

VOICE — The third candle of Advent is the Candle of Joy. It reminds of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her — a child who would save and deliver his people.

VOICE — God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus had been born told them: "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all people - for to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

VOICE — We light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life - a life in which the blind receive sight, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free. We light it to remember that He is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.

Light the Third Candle

ALL SING: Living Christ, bring us joy,
 Joy of earth and heaven;
 Living Christ, bring us joy,
 Joy of sin forgiven.
 (VU#599)

VOICE — LET US PRAY — Loving God, we thank you for the joy You bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

**DRAMATIC PRESENTATION:
BETHLEHEM!...NOTHING EVER HAPPENS HERE!**

Singing:

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel

VU#64

ACT I: Boring Old Bethlehem

Singing:

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

VU#69

ACT II: Bethlehem People

Singing:

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder Star.

Chorus:

**O, star of wonder, star of might,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain;
Gold we bring to crown Him again;
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign. **Chorus**

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God on High. **Chorus**

Continued...

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Seal'd in the stone-cold tomb. **Chorus**

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice,
Heaven sings, "Hallelujah!"
"Hallejajah!" Earth replies. **Chorus**

ACT III: A Star is Born

CONCLUSION

Singing:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Presentation of ourselves & gifts to God

Offertory:

All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,
Come hastening, and feel not afraid;
For Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,
In lowly poor manger was laid.
Though wise men who found him
Laid rich gifts around him,
Yet oxen they gave him their hay,
And Jesus in beauty accepted their duty;
Contented in manger he lay.

**Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
Our service he ne'er can despise;
Whose love still is able to show us that stable,
Where softly in manger he lies.**

VU#68 vs. 1 & chorus

Offertory Prayer: Through these gifts, O God, we celebrate the joy of this beautiful season, and express its marvelous message of love and hope. Amen.

Anthem: *Gift of New Sight*

We bring our prayers to God

Singing: The Virgin Mary had a baby boy, (3X)
And they say that his name is Jesus.

Refrain:

He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
He come from the glorious kingdom. (2X)
Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer!
He came from the glory, (clap, clap)
He came from the glorious kingdom.

The angels sang when the baby born, (3X)
And they say that his name was Jesus. **R**

Refrain

The shepherds came where the baby born, (3X)
And they say that his name was Jesus. **R**

VU#73

Benediction:

Living Christ, lead us out, out to tell the story
Living Christ, lead us out, out to show Your glory.
VU#599

Announcements:

- You may wish to **beautify our Sanctuary** during the Advent Season by bringing in a poinsettia dedicated to the memory of a loved one. Your gesture would be much appreciated.
- **Needed: Christmas Basket packers — Tomorrow, Monday — 10:00 am**
- **Dr. Bruce Oliver has once again donated an orthodontic treatment (up to a maximum value of \$6,600) for the benefit of St. Andrew's United Church. St. Andrew's will offer this treatment to the individual who submits the highest bid (beyond a set minimum) and who qualifies for treatment upon assessment by Dr. Oliver. Submissions must be received by Friday, December 19 at 5 p.m. Please see details on bulletin board.**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday	10:00 am	Christmas Baskets
Tuesday/Wed.		Delivery of Baskets
Thursday	9:00 am	Badminton
“ “	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Friday	8:00 pm	AA Meeting

