



## ORDER OF WORSHIP FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 20, 2015



*\*indicates a time to stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

*Dr. Christopher Davis*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Dr. Brett Becker*

GREETING *responsive*

PASTOR: This is the day that the Lord has made!

PEOPLE: **We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

\* PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you!

MANY: **And also with you!**

\* ADVENT HYMN OF GATHERING

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Hymnal, #2

\* CALL TO WORSHIP *responsive*

ONE: God's gifts of beauty, music, and creation speak of God's generous and extravagant love for us!

MANY: **Love of which we are sometimes less than worthy.**

ONE: We as humans struggle to love. We often share begrudgingly. We are sometimes too busy to care.

MANY: **God is patient with us.**

ONE: Life is hard, even during the holidays. We become frustrated. Our heart hurts. We shed tears.

MANY: **God mends our wounded souls.**

ONE: Our faith falters. Questions arise. We still don't understand.

ALL: **Nevertheless, we will not forget the ways that God has loved us, always waited for us, and ultimately heals us. On this Advent morning, we will worship God!**

\* HYMN OF HOPE “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Hymnal, 38

A CHRISTMAS CONFESSION *responsive* K.I.Morse, from “In Straw and Story”

ONE: We were heavy with sorrow,

MANY: **but joy interrupted.**

ONE: We were deep in the night,

MANY: **but a star appeared.**

ONE: We were silent with sadness,

MANY: **but the heavens rang.**

ALL: **And the splendor shone around them  
When the time had fully come.**

ONE: We were hardened by conflict,  
**MANY: but love intervened.**

ONE: We were frightened by shadows,  
**MANY: but light took them away.**

ONE: We were haunted by fears,  
**MANY: but a child brought us hope.**

**ALL: And she laid him in a manger  
When the time had fully come.**

ONE: We were dismal and defeated,  
**MANY: but faith set us on fire.**

ONE: We were weary and complaining,  
**MANY: but our hearts discovered praise.**

ONE: We were doubtful and confused,  
**MANY: but a door to life was opened.**

**ALL: And the guiding star went before them  
When the time had fully come.**

ONE: We were arrogant and angry,  
**MANY: but his innocence disarmed us.**

ONE: We were cruel, crude and clumsy,  
**MANY: but his grace made all things new.**

ONE: We were selfish, narrow, greedy,  
**MANY: but his joy we had to share.**

**ALL: And they offered him their treasured gifts  
When the time had fully come.**

ONE: We were sheep who had lost our way,  
**MANY: but the shepherd knew our names.**

ONE: We were strangers without a country,  
**MANY: but our kingdom came to us.**

ONE: We were children far from home,  
**MANY: but God sent his Son to guide.**

**ALL: And the Word was flesh among us  
When the time had fully come.**

#### **SILENT AND PERSONAL PRAYERS**

##### **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE** *responsive*

ONE: Ask and it will be given to you.  
**MANY: Seek and you will find.**

ONE: Knock and the door will open to you.  
**MANY: For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who seeks finds, and for everyone who  
knocks the door will be opened.**

ONE: If we know how to give good gifts to our children  
**MANY: Then how much more will God give what is good to those who ask God?**

ONE: Friends, believe the gospel:  
**ALL: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

*Nettie Graham and the Sommers Family*

**SCRIPTURE READING**     Isaiah 11: 1-2, 5-6

ONE:    The Word of the Lord.

MANY: **Thanks be to God.**

**HOMILY**            “A Little Child Shall Lead Them”

*Dr. Brett Becker*

**THE CHILDREN’S NATIVITY PAGEANT**    “When the Time Had Fully Come”

**PRESENTATION OF OUR “WHITE GIFTS” WITH CAROLS**

**CONGREGATIONS SINGS**    “O Come All Ye Faithful” and “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

*As we sing carols, the congregation is invited to process to the manger. Those with “white gifts” of food may leave them there. Please remain seated until the row in front of you has started down the isle.*

**OFFERING AND OFFERTORY**

*Lila Woodard, cello*

*This is an intentional time of expressing our gratitude to God. Whether you have an offering this Sunday or not, take the plate, feel its touch in your hands, give thanks to God and bless all that is given this day.*

- \* **DOXOLOGY** Hymnal, #592
- \* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING**
- \* **HYMN OF ANTICIPATION**        “Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates” Hymnal, #8
- \* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**
- \* **BENEDICTION RESPONSE**    “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”
- \* **POSTLUDE** *Bob Allbright*

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:** Greeters: Randi and Bob Rice;  
Lighting the Advent Candle: Nettie Graham, Julie and Dave Sommers with Hannah, Jordan

**CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS:**

Characters in the story: Connor Acuna, Samantha Bemis, Zachary Bemis, Elizabeth Davidson, Noah Keyser, Anna Kirk, Kayla Malengo, Megan Malengo, James Padden Rubin, Mary Padden-Rubin  
Readers & Ringers: Jared Hertig, Maggie Knauss, Shelby Malengo, Hannah Sommers, Shannon Thoits, Megan Zink



**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*This week I will pray for:*

**THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S**

<p><b>20</b> 9:30a Worship/Communion 10:30a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Alternative Gift Faire</p> <p>6p PYF</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>3p Cerebral Palsy</p> <p>7p AA</p>	<p><b>22</b> 7a Men's Fellowship Group</p> <p>1p Parkinson's</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6:30p Ministerios Llamada Final 7p AA</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>7p Christmas Eve Worship Service</p>	<p><b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>6:30p Ministerios Llamada Final</p>
---	--	--	---	--	---	---

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GUESTS** Please stop by our Welcome Table this morning for information about St. Andrew's mission and programs. *Please fill out the blue Welcome Card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate as it comes by today.*

**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED TODAY.**

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US. Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00p.m. Reception following.**

**2016 PLEDGE CARDS** are still being received. Please turn in your Stewardship SAIL pledge commitment card by placing it in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Extra pledge cards are available on the table in the narthex, in the pew pockets or in the church office. Thank you for your gifts in Christ for ministry and mission.

**PYF TODAY** at the church 6p.m. White Elephant gift exchange. No PYF Sunday, December 27.

**ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016.**

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27.**

**14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SANTA BARBARA MISSION CONFERENCE 2016** will take place Friday evening, **Jan. 22**, and all day Saturday, **Jan. 23**, at First Presbyterian Church, Santa Barbara. Register by going online at [sbmissionconference.org](http://sbmissionconference.org) or by picking up and completing a brochure in the narthex.

## OFFERINGS OF PRAYER

### Joys and Concerns from last Sunday's Worship Service

**Please note** – On Sundays, joys and concerns may be written down on the forms provided in the sanctuary lobby. They will be displayed on the screens during the prayer time. Prayers may also be submitted by email to [standrewsprayers@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsprayers@gmail.com) by 7:00p.m. each Saturday. Please indicate in your email whether we can share your joys and concerns with the congregation by email and on the church website.

#### *Concerns*

<u>From</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Concern</u>
-------------	------------	----------------

#### *Joys*

<u>From</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Joy</u>
-------------	------------	------------

### Ongoing Prayer Requests

*Those who have been ill or injured:*

Bob & Carolin Allbright, David Benson, Miller Breese, Ernie & Betty Brooks, Brad Naegle, Carole Wallace, Dick Zylstra

*Please let us know of changes we should make in the Prayer List.*

*Those in convalescent care:*

St. John's Hospital, Camarillo: Liz McNeil

Valle Verde Health Center: Bob McWilliams

Vista Del Monte Health Center: Joan Cyr