

*"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise:
I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David;
and he shall execute justice and righteousness." Jeremiah 33: 14a, 15*

GATHERING MUSIC

Ethan Ainsworth, organist; Esther Davis, pianist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

When will God's promise be fulfilled?

The days are surely coming.

When we will be saved?

The days are surely coming.

How will we know the signs to take place?

The days are surely coming

when a branch from David shall come forth

to execute justice and righteousness in the land.

What shall it be called?

The Lord is our righteousness.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN – No. 357**

The Days Are Surely Coming

LLANGLOFFAN

(Please come forward during the hymn to place an ornament on the tree.)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

The first Sunday of Advent our candle reflects the Hope we have

In our expectation of the coming of Jesus again.

Advent means coming.

We are preparing ourselves for the days proclaimed by Isaiah.

"When the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more.

With the Hope of the prophets then and now we are all

Children of God, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

***HYMN – No. 88 (verse 1)**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

God's love is lived out in Jesus Christ, and hopefully in the body of Christ, the church. The proof of God's amazing love is the gospel, and may be stated in this way: While we were sinners Christ died for us.

Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.

This is what give us the strength, the peace, and the faith to come together as the body of Christ in the world and give witness and light.

Therefore, in faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.

We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.

We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us.

Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

(A time for silent reflection, confession, and prayer.)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

We declare to you also, in the same mercy of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

May the God of mercy, who forgives all of our sins, strengthen us in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

This is the good news!

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

Our old life has gone; our new life has begun in resurrection hope!

May we always know that we are forgiven, and may forgive one another, and finally be at peace in our Lord.

Amen.

***SHARING THE FELLOWSHIP AND PEACE OF CHRIST**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

(Let us celebrate God's peace and appropriately and safely greet one another.)

ENGAGING WITH THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations.

Renew us in hope, and by your word this day, stir within our spirits and bones.

May we always be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and savior, now and always. Amen.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Psalm 25: 1-10

The Gospel Lesson: John 11: 25-27

Now God has spoken to us through Jesus Christ the Son.

Thanks be to you O Christ; Praise be to you, O Christ.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN – No. 354

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory!

BATTLE HYMN

Hebrew Scripture: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The Lord bless the reading of these words.

The Lord bless the hearing of these words that we may treasure them always.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“In the Valley, Dry Bones and the Breath of New Life!”

Rev. Judd

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Taken from: A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH PC(USA)*

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit,

we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor

and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good

and makes everyone equally in God’s image,

male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
God is faithful still.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD

CALL FOR OFFERING TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION, AND PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise you, great God,
for you are ruler of the universe,
and have sent your Son to be King of kings.

Eternal God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

**Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith,
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Additional Prayers will be lifted up by worship leader and congregation)

Amen.

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.

GOING FORTH TO LIVE THE WORD

*HYMN – No. 331

God of the Ages Whose Almighty Hand

NATIONAL HYMN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to St. Andrew Presbyterian Church PC(USA). Thank you for joining us in worship today! We are so glad you are here. We hope you feel welcome and find worship to be meaningful and relevant.

Welcome this morning to our **guest organist** Ethan Ainsworth.

After worship today we have our annual **Chili Challenge**. Everyone is invited to join us! Building & Grounds invites everyone to help decorate the outdoor chapel.

Wednesday Night Live meal is served at 6:00 p.m. Please call or email the church office by noon on Tuesday so we have a meal for you and let us know if you would like it packaged to-go. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 7-12, and free for younger kids (childcare provided.) The menu for next week is meatloaf, mashed potatoes, veggie, salad, dessert, drink.

Our Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services Angel Tree has cards for each child. Please sign your name and leave that card on the tree. Attached is a note card that you may take to shop from that lists their wish item. Please place items in gift bags rather than wrapping and return by December 13. If you have any questions, please contact Nell Ward (903-237-8312) or the church office.

For our **next Bus Trip** we will go to see Christmas lights the evening of Saturday, December 4th. Please talk to Ann Smith (903-235-0388) about your interest in participating.

Donate of portion of your Amazon purchases to St. Andrew! Be sure to sign up by logging in to your account and selecting St. Andrew as your charity of choice.

Poinsettias are available for dedication to the memory or honor of loved ones. Please prepay \$10.00 per plant. Order forms may be picked up in the narthex.

There will be a community **Blue Christmas Service** at First United Methodist Church on December 5, at 6:00 p.m.

In accordance with **CDC guides and recommendations** you are encouraged to wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated or have a weakened immune system.

www.standrewpres.org

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***As Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church, we are called to worship, serve God,
reflect the love of Christ and grow in our discipleship.***

The Days Are Surely Coming 357

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
 Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
 Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

This text uses imagery from Jeremiah 33:14–16 and Matthew 24:29–36/Mark 13:24–32/Luke 21:25–36. These passages are especially associated with the beginning of Advent, a season that looks forward to Christ's second coming while also preparing us to remember his first coming.

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

354 Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
 2 God has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat
 3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,

he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
 and is sift - ing out all hu - man hearts be - fore the judg - ment seat;
 with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me;

he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword.
 O be swift, my soul, to an - swer; O be ju - bi - lant my feet!
 as he died to make us ho - ly, let us live to make all free,

Refrain

God's truth is march - ing on.
 Our God is march - ing on. Glo - ry, glo - ry hal - le -
 while God is march - ing on.

Though its biblical roots are often overlooked, this text incorporates many apocalyptic images such as the coming of the Lord in glory (Matthew 24:30/Mark 13:26/Luke 21:27), the winepress (Isaiah 63:3; Revelation 14:19, 19:15), and the sharp sword (Isaiah 27:1; Revelation 19:15).

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry,

glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah! God's truth is march - ing on.

331 God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

(optional)

1 God of the a - ges, whose al-might - y
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.
 way. Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day.

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 Be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay:
 Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease.
 Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

This hymn was generated by 19th-century centennial celebrations: the words by the Declaration of Independence and the music by the adoption of the United States Constitution. Despite these origins, no specific nation is mentioned in this hymn of praise and prayer for peace.