

# St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 28, 2021

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*Building a community of faith unleashed into the world by the love of God.*

**PLEASE NOTE: Words & Music to Hymns/Responses  
are included at the end of the bulletin.**

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## *Gathering Around the Word*

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### **Centering Meditation**

Holy God, heaven and earth may pass away  
but your realm is eternal and your promise is sure.  
Leaven our hearts with hope as our redeemer draws near.  
Help us to heed the signs of the times, so that we may be ready to stand  
before Christ, our judge and savior; in whose powerful, glorious name we pray. Amen.

### **Ringing of the Bell**

### **Welcome and Matters of Community**

#### **Prelude**

#### **The Quiet Harvest**

**by Thomas Keesecker**

### **Call to Worship**

One: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

**All: The time of pregnant expectation of new life.**

One: Now is the season of hope unfolding.

**All: The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.**

One: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

**All: May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!  
Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of life and hope. Amen.**

### **Opening Hymn # 367 (see below) Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

### **Call to Reconciliation**

One: Friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation, and part of that preparation  
is the honest practice of confessing our sins before God and one another.  
Together, let us confess our need for forgiveness.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**All:** Holy God, it would be much easier to ignore the signs around us: the widening gap between rich and poor, the lack of adequate care and resources for the most vulnerable among us. We would rather not see these signs. So we ask that you give us the courage to acknowledge what we see and to speak for the voiceless; challenging injustice, guided by the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Silent Prayers**

#### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: My friends, stand up straight, lift up your downcast eyes, your redemption is at hand.  
In Christ Jesus our sins are forgiven.

#### **Passing of Christ's Peace**

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All:** And with us all.

One: Please share the Peace of Christ by waving to your neighbor  
and call or text someone to share the peace of Christ with them as well.

### **Sung Response #103**

#### **Come Now, O Prince of Peace (vs. 1)**

*[sing twice]*

*Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.*

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### ***Proclaiming the Word***

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### **Special Music**

**Come Thou, Long Expected Jesus**

**sung by Jim Copeland**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

One: Direct our attention, O God, above the turmoil of our times, beyond the distress of human greed. We look for signs that your realm is near, that your Word rules the world. Free us from the weight of heavy cares to bear your joyous truth into our relationships. Amen.

### **First Reading:**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

### **Second Reading:**

**Luke 21:25-36**

### **Sermon**

**Signs of New Life**

**Rev. Roger Scott Powers**

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### ***Responding to the Word***

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**Hymn #357 (see below)**

**The Days Are Surely Coming**



**Worship Resources:**

The Centering Meditation Prayer is from the Presbyterian Church (USA) website:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/prayers-advent>

The Call to Worship by Ruth C. Duck comes from *Bread for the Journey*, edited by Ruth C. Duck, Pilgrim Press, 1981. The Advent Wreath Litany is by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Rev-o-lution Resources, <http://rev-o-lution.org>, © 2020. Used by permission. First Sunday of Advent (Year C) — Liturgy & Hymns by Stephen M. Fearing ([stephenmfearing.com](http://stephenmfearing.com)) John van de Laar; from the Sacredise.com website. *Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C*, Lavon Bayler, United Church Press, 1994

**Music:**

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come – Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt. Music: George Job Elvey, 1816-1893; Contributors: St. George's, Windsor; Come Now, O Prince of Peace – Tune: © 1990, Geonyong Lee; Text: O-so-so © 1990 Geonyong Lee; para. by Marion Pope © 1990, Marion Pope; The Days Are Surely Coming – Words: David Gambrell © 2011 (admin. by Presbyterian Publishing Corp; Music Welsh folk melody; *Llwybrau Moliant*, 1972; harmony from The English Hymnal, 1906; There is Now a New Creation – Text: © 2011 David Gambrell, (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.); In the Bulb There is a Flower – Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Company; All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-732021

**Special Thanks To:**

Denise Baccaduttre – Piano

Sharon Macklin – Postlude Cello

Elmer Jackson – Liturgist

Barbara Sanders – Worship Planner

Jim Copeland – Mission Focus

David Schneider – Audio/Video

Jan McEwen – PowerPoint

Jim Copeland – Special Music

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

# 367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,  
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;  
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.

All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
 from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
 Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
 give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
 there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:

Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

# 103 Come Now, O Prince of Peace

오소서

1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.  
2 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.  
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
4 Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y.

Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec-on-cile all peo - ple.

## KOREAN

- 1 오소서 오소서 평화의 임금  
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
- 2 오소서 오소서 사랑의 임금  
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
- 3 오소서 오소서 자유의 임금  
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
- 4 오소서 오소서 통일의 임금  
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서

Originally created for a 1988 world conference for the peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, these four stanzas centering on peace, love, freedom, and unity demonstrate how texts for particular situations can become hymns that speak deeply to shared human longings.

## 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.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009

MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; *Lhwybrau Moliant*, 1872; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906  
 Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

LLANGLOFFAN

7.6.7.6.D

# 774 There Is Now a New Creation



1 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ,  
 2 Call the lost and found to - geth - er; tell the news to ev - ery - one:  
 3 Wrap the prod - i - gal in wel - come; run to greet the way - ward child.  
 4 Come and join the cel - e - bra - tion; come and join this hap - py feast;  
 5 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ.



peace and rec - on - cil - i - a - tion with the God of end - less life.  
 now the past is gone for - ev - er and a new life has be - gun.  
 All is fin - ished and for - giv - en; let us now be rec - on - ciled.  
 Je - sus makes an in - vi - ta - tion to the great - est and the least.  
 Sing, with thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, to the God of end - less life!



At the center of this text stands a reference to the well-known parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32), and the fourth stanza forms an effective bridge between that gospel story and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The first and last stanzas draw on 2 Corinthians 5:17.

# In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

## Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) (Em)  
F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)  
C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)  
F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)  
Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."  
Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.