

PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS AND  
RECEIVING THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING  
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God, you have given us all good gifts: love, mercy, faithfulness, joy, peace, and the gift of your Son. Thank you for giving us all that truly matters. In humble gratitude we offer back the fruits of our labor, but more importantly, we offer you our hearts. In Christ's name we pray.  
Amen.**

OFFERTORY                      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*                      Hobby

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
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.**

### **BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN 300                      *Down to Earth, as a Dove*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                      *Join the Triumph of the Skies!*                      Wagner

# ***St. Andrews Presbyterian Church***

## **December 23, 2018 ☩ 11:00 a.m.**

### ***4th Sunday of Advent***

*St. Andrews Presbyterian Church is a gathering of God's people following the call of Jesus Christ and moved by the Holy Spirit to praise God and grow in faith, welcoming and serving the greater community in God's love for the salvation of all people.  
~ Our Mission Statement*

### **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

PRELUDE                      *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*                      Whitworth

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH                      liturgy by Rev. Allen Presby  
A Candle for Serenity (See screen for responses.)  
Sung response:  
***One small Child in a land of a thousand, One small dream in a people of might,  
One small hand reaching out to the starlight, One small Savior of life.***

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

God's works are glorious. Sing praises to God on high!  
**Let us sing God's praises to the ends of the earth.**  
Shout and sing for joy, people of God!  
**Sing praises to the Holy One of Israel who is coming to dwell among us.**  
Let us worship God.

\*HYMN 3                      *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious and loving God, long ago you spoke to your people through prophets, but they didn't listen or understand. Every year we hear the story of your greatest gift but sometimes we also fail to listen or understand. We have not made room for wonder in our lives. Surprises throw us off balance and we fear the unknown. Amaze us again with your grace and help us recognize your marvelous deeds. May we wear our faith as Mary did when she said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."**

Silent Prayers

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

COMING TO CHRIST AS A CHILD

Rob Cochran

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist: Bill Mulligan

**Holy God, as we prepare to hear your word this morning, give us new eyes and new ears. May we see you clearly and be ready to hear what you have to tell us. Speak to our hearts. May the words of your Scriptures fill us and move us. Change us because we have been together in your presence. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible O.T. page 865

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

Pew Bible N.T. page 57

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*Almost There*  
Chancel Choir

Heather Sorenson

GOSPEL

Luke 1: 46-55

Pew Bible N.T. page 57

SERMON

*“Living for Now and Then:  
Sing a Song of God”*

Elder Rosamond Presby

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\*HYMN 308

*O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Rick and Ellen Arnold as new members of St. Andrews, coming to us by letter of transfer from Derry Presbyterian Church.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH A Christmas Creed

by Walter Russell Bowie

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.**

**I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.**

**I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.**

**I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.**

**I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.**

**I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.**

**I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for my selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.**

**I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.**

**I believe in Jesus, the Son of the living God, born in Bethlehem, for me and for the world.**

SUNG RESPONSE

*What Star Is This (verse 4)*

***To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, three in one,  
May every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise.***