

All are welcome here. Worship is a series of invitations; accept only those you feel called to accept. Feel free to change language in a respectful manner if it helps the hour to be more worshipful for you. All ages are welcome in worship.

As a gentle reminder, please only read aloud what is italicized and bold. (Anything else indicates a time to listen and reflect on the spoken word.)

GATHERING

Prelude

Ring of the Bell

Welcome

Time to Center



Lighting the First and Second Advent Candles

Person A: We are prepared.

Person B: God has prepared us.

Person A: God has given us what we need to navigate whatever circumstances may unfold.

Person B: Today we light the candles of hope and peace.

Light the first and second candles.

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| <p><i>Did you know there are paragraphs beneath each hymn in our hymnal explaining their origins or interesting features? Maybe worth checking out!</i></p> <p><i>Children are encouraged to join Pastor Sarah for the Opening of the Bag.</i></p> <p><i>Prayer of Confession by the Rev. Teri Peterson, shared with the Bible Worm Collective in which Pastor Sarah is a member.</i></p> | <p>Person A: Hope is a powerful gift that brings light even into the darkest times and places.</p> <p>Person B: Peace is a gift that allows cooperation and thriving, supporting the preservation of life.</p> <p><i>All: Thank you for packing our go-bags and getting us ready for faithfulness in our world. Even when all seems lost, you bring new life. Thanks be to God. Amen.</i></p> <p>Song Come Now, O Prince of Peace (v. 1 only) Glory to God #103</p> <p>Opening the Bag</p> <p>Opening Prayer ...in anticipation that barely dares to hope, we look for you. <i>Amen.</i></p> <p>*Hymn While We Are Waiting, Come Glory to God #92</p> <p>Call to Confession</p> <p>Prayer of Confession <i>You know, O God – You know where life is planted, You know what peace is possible, You know how the fragments fit together. We confess that we aren't sure whether to believe it or not. We look around and much seems hopeless. We are so scattered in our own corners, we choose everything except peace, we reject the way that leads to life. Forgive us. Breathe new life into us.</i></p> |
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*Gather us together in all our many parts,
and rebuild your Body.
Teach us your way once again,
that we may shine a glimmer of light
where once all life seemed impossible.
Re-member us, O God,
that we in turn may remember your promise,
true to the ends of the earth and the end of the age.
We ask in the name of the coming One who is Life,
Jesus the Christ.
Amen.*

Silent Prayers of Confession

...In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear and believe this good news:
We are prepared.
Whatever your situation today,
this is not the end of the story.
God's word brings light and life to all —
even to the ends of the earth.
Know God's promise of abundant life is for you,
and be at peace. *Amen.*

***Sung Response of Praise | Gloria**

(Refrain only from Angels We Have Heard on High)

Glory to God #113

Sharing the Peace of Christ

One of the gifts God gives to prepare us for faithfulness
in this threatening world is peace, deep peace,
peace that passes all understanding.
Our experience of this peace grows
when we share it with one another.
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

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| <p>We will offer affirmations of faith each week of advent, focusing on the particular gifts God gives of hope, peace, joy, and love. The source of these affirmations is unknown. Pastor Sarah used them a few years ago and wanted to use them again.</p> | <div data-bbox="883 163 1094 210"> <h2>THE WORD</h2> </div> <div data-bbox="493 231 870 277"> <h3>Prayer of Illumination</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="526 277 1429 407"> <p>O Holy Love, Please prepare our hearts through your Word this day. Open our ears, our minds, our hearts. <i>Amen.</i></p> </div> <div data-bbox="493 449 1276 495"> <h3>A Reading from the Gospel According to John</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="1240 495 1477 533"> <p><i>John 11:25-26</i></p> </div> <div data-bbox="526 533 1318 579"> <p>...Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. <i>Thanks be to God.</i></p> </div> <div data-bbox="493 621 1114 667"> <h3>A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="1218 667 1477 705"> <p><i>Ezekiel 37:1-14</i></p> </div> <div data-bbox="493 768 623 814"> <h3>Sermon</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="935 768 1477 814"> <p><i>Pastor Sarah Sanderson-Doughty</i></p> </div> <div data-bbox="740 877 1237 924"> <h2>RESPONSE TO THE WORD</h2> </div> <div data-bbox="493 945 1380 991"> <h3>Silent Reflection on the Word Read and Proclaimed</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="493 1024 867 1071"> <h4>*Affirmation of Peace</h4> </div> <div data-bbox="535 1071 1477 1932"> <p>One: Siblings in Christ, let us proclaim the peace of our faith: While we were ashamed of our sin, All: <i>our Creator dressed us in righteousness.</i> One: While we were at war with our neighbor, All: <i>the Righteous Judge called us to lay down our weapons.</i> One: When we were in despair, All: <i>the Holy Spirit granted us rest and recovery.</i> One: While we held prejudice dividing us from others, All: <i>Jesus showed us the way of welcome.</i> One: When we held riches, privilege, and inheritance, All: <i>our Great Provider led us to share in the bright light of community.</i> One: When we were stressed by the demands of this life, All: <i>the Loving Parent brought peace of mind.</i> One: When our trauma made us anxious and we could not calm down,</p> </div> |
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| <p><i>We respond to our generous God by practicing grateful generosity. You are encouraged to give as you are able, to honor or even exceed your pledge!</i></p> | <p>All: <i>the Mother Hen kept us close in the darkness of her nest.</i></p> <p>One: When we could not find common ground and there was no hope for peace,</p> <p>All: <i>Jesus held the space between us, nursing our pain.</i></p> <p>One: We have seen God’s faithfulness in the past.</p> <p>All: <i>And because of our past, we have hope for the future.</i></p> <p>Worshipping God with our Tithes and Offerings Invitation to Generosity</p> <p>Offertory Anthem Come, Messiah! by Lloyd Larson & Abbe Simon-Joseph Pellegrin</p> <p>*Response of Praise (to the tune of Midnight Clear) <i>Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God, above, ye heavenly host Praise Parent, Child, and Holy Ghost!</i></p> <p>*Prayer of Dedication <i>O living God, we thank you for your constant presence in our lives and in response to the constant blessings you give, we offer you our gifts today. Accept our offerings of time, talents, and treasures that they may further your work here on Earth so that one day all will truly know your Kin-dom here on Earth. Amen.</i></p> <p>The Sacrament of Holy Communion Invitation The Psalmist declares “You set a table for me, in the presence of my enemies.” And so Jesus has done for us. Even in a threatening world, we are welcome and fed at Christ’s table.</p> |
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*Sung communion liturgy
from Beth Quick's Book
"Singing at the Table:
Sung Communion
Liturgies and
Reflections"*

We are prepared at Christ's table.
You are welcome here.

Sung Communion Liturgy

*May love be with you as we gather here
Lift up your hearts unto Love our God.
For it is right to give God our praise.
Let us prepare our hearts for coming days:
**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*You created all things and called them good,
Made us like you, but we cast off your love.
You set us free and claimed us as yours,
Through sage and prophet spoke to us your word.
**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*O Holy God of power and might,
Bless'd be the one who comes in your name,
Hosanna in the highest, God!
Hosanna in excelsis.*

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

*Holy are you and blessed is your Son,
Jesus, the Light, your presence here with us.
You sent him in the fullness of time,
He came to preach good news to all.
**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*And on the night he was betrayed,
Christ took the bread, and unto you gave thanks
He broke the bread and shared it with friends.
"Take, eat, my body given for you."
**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

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| <p><i>All the bread is gluten-free, all the juice is unfermented. All are safe at this table. Please come forward if you are able, bringing food offerings and receiving bread and cup. If you wish to be served in your seat, please raise a hand when the traveling server comes near. Hold on to the bread and cup until all have received so we might receive as one body with our kindred at home.</i></p> | <p><i>After the meal he lifted up the cup, “My blood, my life, I pour it out for you. This covenant I make anew. Set free from sin! Remember me!” Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.</i></p> <p><i>Spirit of God descend upon us now, And make these gifts become for us. The body and the blood of Christ A holy, living sacrifice Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.</i></p> <p>Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus We lay our thanksgiving and concern at Christ’s feet as we come to his table. O God, hear now the prayers of your people today. <i>Prayer cards and zoom prayers are read aloud.</i> Love, in your mercy. Hear our prayer. And now with the confidence of the children of God we pray...</p> <p>Sharing the Bread and Cup</p> <p>Sung Prayer after Communion <i>We thank you God of Mystery For sacred meal, community Send us forth now to share your light, Disciples of the One of Peace! Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">SENDING</p> <p>Our Ministry in Christ</p> <p>Charge and Sung Benediction</p> <p>And All God’s People Say...</p> <p>Postlude</p> |
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Welcome to St. Andrew's PDX!
Welcome Home! We are so glad you are here.

Connecting with Christ and each other to Serve Our Neighbors

Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00am,
both in person and online via Zoom and Facebook.

Join us for Supper Church on second and fourth Sundays at 5pm.

Visit our website for the worship links and the weekly worship bulletin.

Please use blue prayer cards or Zoom chat to share prayer requests. You can pass these to the pastor during the passing of the peace or give them to an usher at any time in the first half of the service.

PRINTED COPIES OF TODAY'S SERMON ARE AVAILABLE



We encourage you to leave your **offerings and sign-in sheets** in the offering plates that are passed during worship. Offerings can also be made anytime on our website, www.standrewspdx.com



3228 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland, OR 97239; (503)246-4276, admin@standrewspdx.com

visit our website at www.standrewspdx.com

Office hours: Mon - Thurs, 8:30 - 2:30, Bookkeeper Hours: Mon & Weds, 9:00 - 3:00

Mission Updates

See your eNews or contact the office for full details.

Neighborhood House - Current legislation and drastic cuts to food assistance and Head Start programs will undoubtedly create more hardship to this organization and the people it serves. You can help by: donating to their social safety net services; contacting your legislators to support SNAP, Head Start, and housing assistance programs; and talking to others to increase awareness of this crisis to our most vulnerable neighbors. Visit their website for more ways to help -- www.nhpdx.org.

Ziploc Ministry - Join us on the first Saturday of each month to fill bags with hygiene and personal items for our community partners, including Operation Nightwatch. The next gathering will be January 3rd, 10:30am-12:00pm. ****New socks and men's boxer-briefs donations always needed****

West Women & Children's Shelter - We prepare and deliver monthly, homemade casseroles and other food items to this domestic violence shelter. Recipes and instructions are provided. Casseroles are dropped off at the first Saturday Ziploc event.

Quilters - Gathers on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, at 9:30am. Contact Gail Planck for more info.

Homelessness Outreach - We support the Multnomah Safe Rest Village and the Southwest Outreach shower program. See your eNews for volunteer opportunities.

December Birthdays

Marilyn Quesnel - December 5, Caroline Sanderson-Doughty - December 5,
Paddy Blair - December 9, Steve Griffith - December 9, Matthew Herb - December 9,
Bobbie Sauer - December 12, Annabelle Tallman - December 14,
Marshall Reynolds-Stein - December 27, Gail Planck - December 30

December Anniversaries

Michael House & Mary Poulsen - December 23,
Earl & Carol Stanfield - December 28,
Howard & Frances Page - December 30

Learning & Fellowship Opportunities

- **Sunday Coffee Hour** - Volunteers are needed for Sundays. Contact Marie Dolson or Gail Planck for more info.
- **Sanctuary Choir** - Rehearsal will be held after service today in the chapel.
- **Enneagram Study Group** - Stay tuned for more information about our next meeting. Newcomers are welcome - no need for an understanding of this subject - just come and learn!
- **Anti-Racism Discussion Group** - Our group is resuming meetings, now at a different time! Please join us on Zoom on December 11.
- **Spiritual Formation Group** - Please join us from 12:30-2:00pm in the lounge on Wednesday, December 17th as we begin a series introducing Celtic Spirituality with a focus on the first seven days of Creation.

Upcoming Events

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| <p>December 7 & 14 10:00am Hybrid Worship</p> <p>December 7 11:00am Sanctuary Choir St. Andrew's</p> <p>December 10 9:30-11:30am Quilters Group St. Andrew's</p> <p>December 10 & 17 7:00pm Songs & Candlelight Services (in the style of Taizé) St. Andrew's</p> | <p>December 11 7:00-8:00pm Anti-Racism Discussion Group Zoom</p> <p>December 12 & 19 10:00am-12:00pm Virtual Coffee House Zoom</p> <p>December 14 5:00pm Supper Church St. Andrew's</p> <p>December 17 12:30-2:00pm Spiritual Formation Group St. Andrew's</p> |
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New News & Announcements

See your eNews for full details

Poinsettia Dedications

The beautiful poinsettias adorning our sanctuary today have been dedicated by friends and members of our church family. The vibrant red leaves remind us of the blood of Christ and God's great love. We appreciate these gifts that brighten our worship space throughout the Advent season (*they will be available for pickup after the Christmas Eve service*).



Irene Fowler: in loving memory of her husband, Don, and her son, Greg.



Carolyn Gazeley and Brad Van Allen: in memory of their parents and in honor of their children.



Linda Jessell: in memory of her mother, Polly.



Rebecca and Scott Nasson: in honor of their daughters.



Merrie Backer: in loving memory of her brother, Ray.



Steve Ihrig: in loving memory of his mom and dad, Lennis and John.



Kara and Jake Errico: in memory of their daughter, Adelyn.

Advent Taizé Services

St. Andrew's will be doing candlelight prayer services in the style of Taizé on Wednesday evenings during Advent at 7pm in the Sanctuary. If you missed it last week, join us at either service (or both!) on 12/10 and 12/17. Please come and experience Taizé!

If you would like to share any musical gifts for the services of song and candlelight, please contact Stephanie Smith (MissSmithPresents@gmail.com).

Christmas Joy Offering

Now through December 21, please consider giving to support Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development. The Christmas Joy Offering allows us to lift up past, current, and future church leadership, and your support also supports education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping those communities.

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up! Please help grant some wishes (and needs) for the individuals at West Women's and Children's Shelter. ***Gifts are due, unwrapped with label attached, by Sunday, December 14.*** You can place them under the tree in the Narthex when you bring them in.

Sanctuary Choir

Choir practice takes place in the chapel after service. Everyone is welcome; just bring a love of singing. For more information, contact Don Feely.

Thoughts from Pastor Sarah (Written December 4th)

Dear Kindred in Christ,

Monday night, about 75 people of faith gathered and committed to non-violence and non-reactivity whatever may happen while we worshiped outside the ICE facility. We each had battery operated candles and walked a few blocks to ICE and participated in responsive readings, sang, and prayed. A counter protester spewed hateful messages via a bullhorn, but we stayed calm and bore witness to the hope of this season. I was particularly heartened because in the gathering were people from St. A's, Valley, and Multnomah who had participated in our book discussions and there were lovely moments of reconnection unfolding. There were, in fact, people from many different faith communities. Thanks to those who joined in and to those who prayed for the event.

Last night, we had a truly lovely gathering in our sanctuary. We were ably led by Stephanie Smith and sang and prayed and lit candles for an hour. If you missed our first mid-week Advent service, you still have two more opportunities-- On 12/10 and 12/17. If you are a singer and want to join the pop-up choir, please arrive by 6pm. If you are an instrumentalist, please contact Stephanie to let her know you'd like to play. Otherwise, arrive by 7pm, take a seat in a circle of chairs (not a pew) at the front of the sanctuary, and let yourself be calmed, centered, and bathed in music and prayer. I know my schedule is overwhelming at the moment; this was just what I need in the midst of my busy week. Invite friends and neighbors, make plans to join us.

This coming Sunday is our Advent Communion service. As is our new practice, you are invited to bring food donations (or money for the Neighborhood House free food market) on Communion Sundays. There will be a box by the door ready to receive your food donations. We also hope you will bring emergency supplies for vulnerable neighbors. This week we encourage the sharing of small first aid kits, blankets (perhaps foil), batteries or chargers. There will be a basket or box in the narthex ready to receive these donations this Sunday. In addition, the giving tree for West Women's and Children's Shelter is up in the narthex. Gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday 12/14, unwrapped with the label attached. So please claim a tag or two this Sunday. So many opportunities for generosity. I hope you will respond to the invitations that make sense to you.

Please continue to hold Merrie Backer and Connie Blumthal in your prayers. And indeed, let's hold our world in prayer. Thanks be to God, we are prepared for

whatever may come, our go bag is ready. I hope you'll worship with us on Sundays and Wednesdays this month to be strengthened in your trust in this good news.

I will be on Zoom for coffee chat between 10am and 12pm tomorrow (I promise not to oversleep this week). If you have questions or concerns, or just want to connect, I hope you'll click on that link and join us.

17 years ago today I was in active labor all day. Caroline entered the world at 2:34 in the morning on December 5th. We'll be celebrating tomorrow. The gift of Caroline is definitely faith inspiring.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Sarah