

First Sunday in Advent, November 27, 2022

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

3228 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland, Oregon

<https://zoom.us/j/738059997> or <http://www.facebook.com/standrewspdx/live>



## GATHERING

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Time to Center**

**Lighting of the First Advent Candle**

We are waiting.

And sometimes while we wait, we wail, we cry out to God,

How long? How long will the violence persist?

How long will injustice prevail?

And God says... There is a vision.

It will be realized when the time is right.

Wait for it.

Even if seems delayed, it will not be late.

And so we light candles one by one.

Just like mamas and papas in Poland who lined up prams one-by-one.

Preparing for sojourners seeking a better future in the midst of a hard present.

Today we light the candle of hope,

hope in God's promise.

*Light the candle.*

***We give thanks for the advent of promise.***

***We have hope in God's promised vision.***

***We place our trust in God alone.***

Song

*Wait for the Lord*

Glory to God #90

**\*Opening Responses**

God promised!

***Sometimes it doesn't seem***

***like God is keeping those promises the way we want.***

God promised!

***Sometimes we don't like the way God is acting.***

God promised!

***The world will be turned upside down.***

God promised!

***And God is coming: wait for it!***

**\*Opening Prayer**

***So much feels impossible, O God.***

***We are looking for what you will do,  
longing for answers, for help, for inspiration.***

***You offer a vision of hope,  
simpler than we imagined***

***yet beautiful enough to keep us going...***

***And you call us to not only stand there and look for ourselves,  
but to share it, so all may be encouraged.***

***In the midst of everything,***

***bless us with the grace to see and to hold hope for others.***

***Amen.***

**\*Hymn**    *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, v. 1

Glory to God #88

**Call to Confession**

The violence of our world

is the fruit of wounded and sinful human hearts.

Mercy and compassion and generosity

are the fruit of graced human hearts.

Let us devote ourselves this Advent

to the healing of wounded and sinful hearts,

that we might be renewed by grace

to be agents of mercy, compassion, and generosity.

Let us pray first in silence and then together in speech.

**Silent Prayers of Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

***In you we have every reason to rejoice, loving God,  
for you are our strength and our salvation.***

***And also in the world we see so few reasons to rejoice.***

***We confess that we would rather ignore the hard parts,  
and focus on the "positive."***

***We find it easy to demand cheerfulness and smiles,  
and harder to admit that not everyone feels cheery  
or wants to fake a smile for us.  
We confess that we are uncomfortable  
with the upheaval all around us,  
and uncertain what it means for the world to turn upside down  
when we are at the top of the global ladder,  
so we focus on shallow happiness  
instead of the full depth of reality.  
Forgive us for ignoring the whole truth.  
Forgive us for focusing on ourselves and our comfort  
at the expense of knowing our neighbor enough to love them.  
Give us courage to be honest about the unraveling of the world,  
that we may experience both depths and heights together,  
trusting your presence to lead us onward.  
We ask in the name of Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.***

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Christ's grace is sufficient for us.  
Christ's power is perfected in weakness.  
Know that you are forgiven. And be at peace.  
***Amen.***

**\*Song of Praise**      *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout v. 1*  
Glory to God #100

### **Sharing the Peace of Christ**

We are waiting for the fullness of peace promised in Christ.  
As we wait, let us be practitioners of peace,  
bearing peace to one another.  
Let us be the change we wish to see!  
May the peace of Christ be with you.    ***And also with you.***

## **THE WORD**

**Sung Prayer of Illumination**    *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You, v. 1*  
Glory to God #104

**A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew**    *Matt 26:36-38*  
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.      ***Thanks be to God.***

### **A Conversation with the Younger Church**

**A Reading from the Prophet Habakkuk**      *Hab 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:17-19*  
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.      **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**      *Pastor Sarah Sanderson-Doughty*

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Silent Reflection on the Word Preached**

**Hymn**      *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence v.1*      *Glory to God #347*

**Worshiping God with our Tithes and Offerings**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

We make offerings in gratitude for all God has done,  
And as a testimony to our confidence in all God will yet do.  
Let us continue our worship with an act of dedication.

### **Offertory Anthem**

*Come Messiah by Lloyd Larson*      *Dagny Regan, Oboe*

**\*Response of Praise** *to the tune of Midnight Clear*

*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!*

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

## **SENDING**

**\*Song**      *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (vv. 2-4)* *Glory to God #100*

**Our Ministry in Christ**

**Charge and Sung Benediction**

**And All God's People Say**

**Postlude**

*Please remain seated for a brief postlude before heading to fellowship and beginning the greening of the church.*

### **Worship Sources**

Focal Metaphor identified by the Advent Creative Worship Planning team, the image is used with permission by the photographer, Francesco Malavolta. We are grateful for a gift that allowed us to compensate him for use of the image.

Opening Responses, opening prayer, prayer of confession by the Rev. Teri Peterson as shared with the Bible Worm Collective in which Pastor Sarah is a member.