St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026
10:00am, Sanctuary

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

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.

*How to read the bulletin like a pro: when text is **bold and italicized**, you are invited to join the congregation in reading the text aloud. When there is an asterisk (*) before an element of worship, you are invited to stand.*

GATHERING

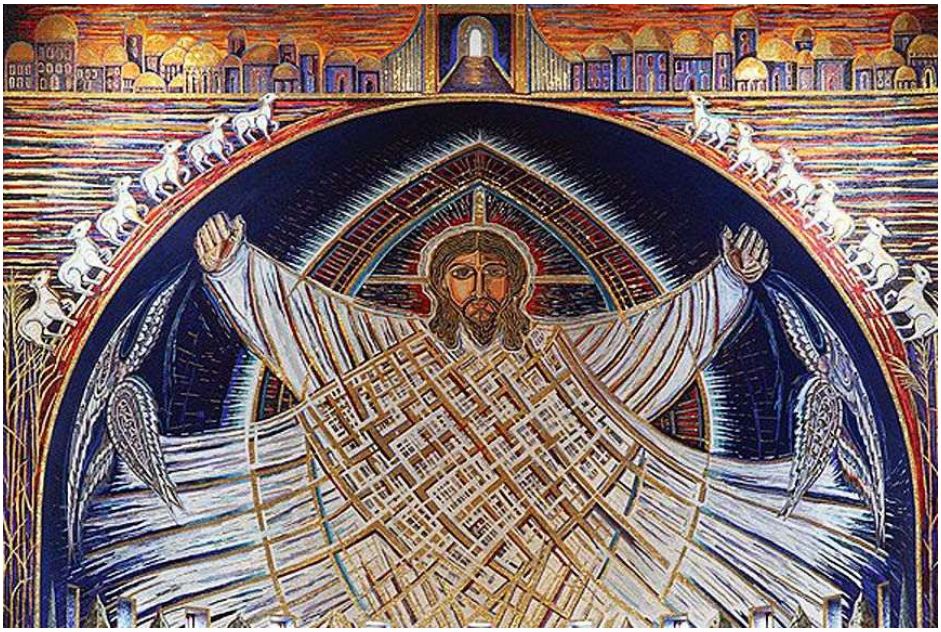
Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Kim Jackson

Time to Center



Lighting the First Advent Candle

Isaiah 64:1, 4

…the prophet Isaiah urges the Lord,

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

One blue candle is lit.

	…Gracious and merciful God, ***help us to remember all you have declared for our good,*** ***and help us to be patient as we watch and wait for you to return again in all your glory.*** ***We pray this in the holy name of Jesus, Amen.***
	Advent Response | *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* *(verse 1 & refrain only)* *Glory to God #88*
Inspired by Isaiah 64:1-9	**Opening Prayer** Our glorious God, who is like you? The heavens exalt at the sound of your voice. The mountains quake at the mention of your name. The people you have crafted bow down in worship of you. Still our minds, our souls so we might glory in the gift of this season, the time when we anticipate our coming Messiah. Amen.
Psalm 80:1-3, 7, 17-19	***Call to Worship** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. ***Stir up your might,*** ***and come to save us!*** ***Restore us, O God;*** ***let your face shine, that we may be saved.*** Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. ***But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,*** ***the one whom you made strong for yourself.*** Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. ***Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;*** ***let your face shine, that we may be saved.***

Inspired by "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

***Opening Hymn |** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*
Glory to God #82

Prayer of Confession

God with us, we come before you held captive
by our fears, our doubts, our worries.
We struggle to believe, to trust in you and your promises.
The way forward seems bleak,
and so we choose to stand still.
For it seems easier to live in misery rather than courageously to follow you into the promised land.
Forgive us, rescue us, redeem us from ourselves.
And receive from us now our prayers.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*…**Thanks be to God.***

***Response of Praise |** *Gloria (Angels We Have Heard on High) (refrain only)*
Glory to God #113

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

… May the Peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Shine your light upon us, loving God,
so we may encounter your living Word anew this day.
Amen.

First Scripture Reading
Isaiah 64:1-9

…The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-32

…The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon *O That You Would Tear Open the Heavens*

Rev. Dr. Kim Jackson

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

From 20th Century Creed from South Africa

***Affirmation of Faith**

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.
We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good.
We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever.
One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.
True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ.
This is our faith.
This is our hope.

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.

Thank you for your faithful giving that fuels the mission and ministries of St. Andrew's!

Worshipping God with our Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Anthem | *Carol for Advent*
by Claire Cloninger & Robert Sterling
Jordan Paulus, French Horn

***Song of Praise |** *Doxology*
Glory to God #609

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of our Advent journey as we anticipate the arrival of our Messiah. Bless these gifts, our lives, so all may come to know the name of Jesus. We pray this in your holy name, Amen.

SENDING

***Closing Hymn |** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (vv. 1 & 4)*
Glory to God #100

Charge and Benediction

***Sung Response |** *A Nativity Prayer*
Arr. by Don Feely

Postlude

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Focal image: McLean, Helen. *Christ in Glory*, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/56321 [retrieved November 23, 2026]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Apse_mosaic_Christ_in_Glory.jpg.

Hymns: *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

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.
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



Today's worship leadership includes the Rev. Dr. Kim Jackson;
Don Feely, Director of Music; Marie Dolson, worship assistant;
Connie Blumthal, songlead; Ryan Patterson, AV tech assistant;
and Laura Planck, sound technician.



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(503)246-4276, admin@standrewspdx.com
visit our website at www.standrewspdx.com

Office hours: Mon - Thurs, 9:00am – 3:00pm
Bookkeeper hours: Mon & Weds, 8:00am – 2:00pm

Mission Updates

For full details about mission and ministry work, contact the office, and refer to your eNews and Upcoming Events in this bulletin for special events.

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 - This ministry meets monthly **on the first Saturday of each month** to fill bags with hygiene and personal items to be distributed to our unhoused neighbors.

West Women & Children's Shelter – We prepare and deliver homemade casseroles and other food items to this domestic violence shelter throughout the year. Recipes and instructions are provided; reimbursement is available.

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.

Learning & Fellowship Opportunities

- **Sunday Coffee Hour** – Volunteers are needed for Sundays. Contact Marie Dolson or Gail Planck for more info.
- **Family Fellowship** – Please join us on the 2nd Sunday of each month after service downstairs in Calvin Hall for an all-ages, family-focused service (with meal provided). Children in attendance will hear a Bible story and then take part in a craft that mirrors the lesson. Guests are <u>always</u> welcome!
- **Sanctuary Choir -** The choir rehearses on Sunday in the chapel after each service. Please contact Don Feely for more info.
- **Men's Bible Study -** This group meets at 7am via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Contact Larry Kelley for more info.
- **Spiritual Formation Group** – We are taking a break for the rest of the calendar year and will pick up with our sessions in 2027.

We give thanks for the gift of life and love as we celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries of our church family this month, praying for God's continued grace and joy in every new year ahead.

November Birthdays

Jeanette Kloos – November 1
Raylan Gerhardt – November 2
Larry Kelley – November 3
Ron Kleve – November 3
Dave Pebworth – November 3
Mimi Cook – November 4
Larry Dewey – November 7
Todd Jessell – November 7
Diane Calhoun – November 8
Frances Page – November 8
Jeff Sweeney – November 17
Scott Schiefelbein – November 24
Lori Sweeney – November 25
Charles Duncombe – November 27
Larry Patterson – November 28

November Anniversaries

Laurie & Richard Donald – November 4
Becky & Scott Schiefelbein – November 11
Marie Dolson & Dale Sherbourne – November 24
Jo Ann & Ric Tower – November 28

Upcoming Events

November 29 & December 6 10:00am Hybrid Worship **November 25** Quilters Group 9:30-11:30am St. Andrew's **November 28** *Memorial Service for Mary Sherwood* 2:00pm St. Andrew's	**November 27 & December 4** Virtual Coffee Chat 10:00-12:00pm Zoom **December 17** St. A's Book Club 10:00am-12:00pm St. Andrew's

New News & Announcements
See your eNews for full details

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
This Advent and Christmas season, congregations across the Presbytery of the Cascades have a special opportunity to support the past, present, and future leaders of our church. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, your gifts provide vital assistance to Presbyterian church workers and their families in times of need, while also supporting at-risk youth and funding leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Join fellow members across the Cascades in this shared act of generosity so that those who serve and lead our church are cared for and equipped to flourish.

IS YOUR PLEDGE UP TO DATE?
We recently celebrated the formal end of our pledge campaign for 2027. If you've already sent in your pledge card, please disregard this note and accept our thanks for your continued support. We understand if circumstances have changed, however. If you need to discuss your intent for the year ahead, please contact John Calhoun (john@johncalhoun.org) at your earliest convenience and he will pass along the message to the bookkeeper.

Thoughts from Pastor Kim
(Written November 18th)

Dear friends in Christ,

Soon we will embark upon a period of revelation. A time of unfolding, when God's intention for God's creation is unveiled. A savior, the Savior, is about to arrive so that this salvific One may accomplish, once and for all, reunification. A restoration of a relationship, so long wounded, to be what God designed from the very beginning.

Advent is coming so that Christmas may occur, ensuring Easter and the Resurrection and Pentecost and the Return may be fulfilled. In the fullness of time. God's time. Not our time.

A time of great uncertainty, in the midst of ordinary time, so that we do not miss it. So that we are shaken to our core. So that we know that the strength and might and will of our God is greater than God's world fashioned for us. So that we do not mistake our own strength and might and will and think they are sufficient. Or equal to. Or greater than.

Jesus explains how in our second reading this Sunday: "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds 'with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven." (Mark 13:24-27)

Wildness, disturbance, chaos, fear, will surround us. But, in the midst of it, we will be protected and gathered and cared for and changed. We will be changed. The world will be changed. Even as the love of God remains the same.

This Advent season, let us hold onto that. And give thanks.

In Christ,

Pastor Kim