

# **ST. ANDREW'S CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011**



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[www.saintandrewscc.org](http://www.saintandrewscc.org)**

**THE REV. ERNEST R. D. SMART, *Pastor*  
Patricia McKewen Amato, *Music Director***

Sunday, December 18, 2011

9:00AM

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

PRELUDE God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Moonlight Sonata and Good King  
Wenceslas/Canon in D Elizabeth Borowsky, Piano Emmanuel  
Borowsky, Violin Frances Borowsky, Cello

GATHERING MUSIC AND CAROLS (Please remain seated)

Verse 1 of Carol 143 Joy to the World  
Verse 1 of Carol 144 O Little Town of Bethlehem  
Verse 1 of Carol 147 Away in a Manger  
Verse 1 of Carol 165 Once in Royal David's City

THE WELCOME AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP

\*Carol 149 Angels, from the Realms of Glory Regent Square

CALL TO PRAYER, PRAYER, AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Gracious and loving God, we praise You for this season of Advent, this time of preparation and celebration, exulting Your goodness. We praise You for coming in Jesus Christ, bringing in a new kingdom, and anticipating an era of peace and justice for all Your children.**

**Forgive us that we sometimes lose sight of Your purpose, and underestimate Your greatness and power.**

**Open our eyes to the breadth of Your love, the wonder of Your mercy, and the extent of Your goodness, so that we may give You the worship and adoration that is due to You, this and every day...(moment of silent reflection)**

Pastor: through Christ our Lord, we pray. **People: Amen.**

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PROMISE OF NEW LIFE

CEREMONY OF LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES – PEACE, HOPE, JOY,  
and LOVE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 11: 1-9

SPECIAL MUSIC Ihr Kinderlein Kommet (German carol) and Przybiezeli do Betlejem  
(Polish carol)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

St. John 3: 1-16

\*CAROL 125

Come, O Long-expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

SERMON:

FOR THE SHEER LOVE OF IT

Rev. Ernest Smart

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

\*HYMN 582

Come Down, O Love Divine

Down Ampney

THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY O Holy Night

THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER AND THE PASTORAL PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*using trespasses*)

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

\* CAROL 148

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

BENEDICTION (*Unison*)

**May the light of God illumine us heart and soul;  
May the flame of Christ kindle us to love;  
May the fire of the Spirit free us to live this day and forevermore. Amen**

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World and We Three Kings

## **MAY CHRISTMAS SUNDAY BE FOR YOU ALL GRAND AND GLORIOUS**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP TODAY.** This is our ninth celebration of Christmas together and we have much for which to be thankful, especially you! God has richly blessed us with faith, friendship, and fortitude. Thank you everyone. May this week be full of God's blessings.

**WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME BACK Elizabeth Borowsky, Piano, Emmanuel Borowsky, Violin and Frances Borowsky, Cello.** Their magnificent music has inspired us on many occasions.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS.** A joint Christmas service with First Christian Church will be held here in the sanctuary on Saturday evening, December 24, at 7:30 P.M. Let all come to enjoy an experience of lessons and carols. Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, at 11:00 A.M. come and enjoy a real Christmas day celebration. Bring family, friends, neighbors, and not least, yourself. Let the message fill your heart and soul.

**LIFE OF CHRIST ADVENT TOURS.** will take place today at the Walter's under the guidance of Barbara commencing at 1:00 P.M. Barbara suggests that everyone meet at 12 noon in the café for a light lunch.

**THE NEXT P&R MEETING (PLANNING AND REVIEW) will** be held on Monday, December 19, 2010, at 7:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting is open to all and creates an opportunity to review programs, plans and finances, past, present and future.

**TAIZE ON TUESDAYS DURING ADVENT,** Noon to 1:00 P.M. Everyone is invited to share a quiet, meditative time here in the sanctuary for all or part of the hour. This will be followed by a job hunter's support group at 1:00 P.M. with a sandwich lunch provided by First Christian Church.

**CHRISTMAS—SEASON OF CARING, SHARING, GIVING.** A thousand thanks to everyone who enables St. Andrew's Christian Community to support at least twenty-five projects in 2011, including Shepherd's Clinic, Helping Up Mission, Troops overseas, Women's Housing Coalition, The Family Crisis Center and many others in need, amounting to over \$25,000

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:**

“The genius of Christianity is to have proclaimed that the path to the deepest mystery is the path of love.” --Andre Malraux