

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 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 11, 2011**

**9:00AM**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

PRELUDE                      Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates                      arr. Jan Bender

THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known His deeds among the peoples.

**People: Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of His wonderful works.**

**ALL: Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**

\*HYMN 119                      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel                      Veni Emmanuel

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

**Gracious God, in all the dark places of our experience, help us to find a little goodness. In all the dark places of intolerance, conflict and suffering, let us speak well of everyone who plants a seed of goodness. Counter those memories which sadden us with memories that enlarge and enrich us. Balance the negatives we run into with positives that are awaiting us. Gather the spirit of goodness around us and let us know, feel and believe in Your forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PROMISE OF NEW LIFE

CEREMONY OF LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE – JOY

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON                      Malachi 3: 1-4

SPECIAL MUSIC                      For Behold...The People that Walked in Darkness,                      Messiah  
G.F. Handel                      Tommy Zepp, baritone

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON                      St. Luke 1: 46-56

\*HYMN 160                      Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming                      Es Ist Ein Ros

SERMON:                      BE PREPARED                      Rev. David Caldwell

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

\* HYMN 150                      Hark! The Herald Angels Sing                      Mendelssohn

THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY                      The Trumpet Shall Sound                      Messiah      G.F. Handel,  
Tommy Zepp, baritone

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.**

\* HYMN 143                      Joy to The World                      Antioch

BENEDICTION (*Unison*)

POSTLUDE      O Come, All Ye Faithful      ADESTE FIDELES, arr. Austin Lovelace

## **WELCOME NOTES TO YOU FOR THIS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**ADVENT IS A GOD-GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO ARRANGE AND RE-ARRANGE PRIORITIES IN OUR DAILY LIVES** by focusing on God's gift of Jesus Christ. May this experience of worship become an encouragement to us all as we journey on our pilgrimage towards our spiritual Bethlehem.

**OUR GUEST PREACHER TODAY** is no stranger to us. The Rev. David Caldwell, retired pastor of First Christian Church, played a large part in helping St. Andrew's to find its home here. We welcome him most enthusiastically.

**WE HOPE EVERYONE** will remain after worship to enjoy a light reception and good company. Many thanks to those who make this happen.

**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.** Barbara Pour will lead this Advent tour on Sunday, December 18, at the Walter's commencing at 1:00 P.M. Barbara will meet tour members at 12 noon for a light lunch. The tour is free.

**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.

**THE SAINT ANDREW'S BOOK CLUB** will have its wassail dessert meeting at the home of Barbara Pour on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 P.M. Bring along your favorite book, plus a secret Santa gift. For more information, call Barbara at 410-377-4046.

**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.

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

**"To have joy, one must share it. Happiness was born a twin." - Lord Byron-**