

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011**



**5802 Roland Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21210-1398  
410-435-9470  
[www.saintandrewscc.org](http://www.saintandrewscc.org)**

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

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

PRELUDE    Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme    S. Bach, arr. Emma Lou Diemer

THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor:    At this Advent season, our eyes are set on Table and Manger.

**People: For there we see God's great love for us displayed.**

Pastor:    How shall we respond?

**People: Let us ponder the significance of both and in them discover what God is accomplishing.**

**Unison: Through hymns and prayers, Scripture read and expounded, and in anticipation of what God will do this hour, let us worship God. Amen**

\*HYMN 119

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

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

**O God, save us from the frantic pace and commercial intensity of this season and bring us to its depth of wonder and welcome peacefulness. We confess that we allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the shallow joy and forced celebration of the season, rather than to delve into the unfolding drama of God's love for us. We confess our sins to You – the ones others know, the ones kept to ourselves, but the sins You know completely. Forgive us and, by Your Spirit, lead us into a rich season that heralds our Lord's birth. In the name of Jesus, Lord of Manger and Table, we pray. Amen.**

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PROMISE OF NEW LIFE

Pastor:    We have come to know that Your forgiveness out-distances our sin.

**People: Scripture tells us that if we confess our sins with sincerity and repentance, You are eager to forgive us.**

**Unison: By this we know that we can trust Jesus' assurance that our sins are forgiven. Amen.**

CEREMONY OF LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE – HOPE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 24

SPECIAL MUSIC    Intermezzo Op. 117, No.1 "Schlaf Sanft, mein Kind" J. Brahms

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

St. Matthew 11: 28-30

\*HYMN 322                      O Word of God Incarnate                      Munich

SERMON:                      “Christmas Is For \_\_\_\_\_”                      Rev. Dr. George Gray Toole

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

\*HYMN 140                      Hail to the Lord’s Anointed                      Sheffield

THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY                      Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,    16 C,    R.E. Marryott

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.**

COMMUNION HYMN 411    For the Bread, Which You Have Broken    Kingdom

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (all are welcome at Christ’s holy table)

COMMUNION MUSIC                      The Journey to Bethlehem                      Caesar Franck

CALL TO PRAYER AND THE PASTORAL PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

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 165                      Once in Royal David’s City                      Irby

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                      Come, O Long Expected Jesus                      Stuttgart

## **WELCOME NOTES TO YOU FOR THIS SEASON OF ADVENT**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP.** May everyone present this morning for the worship of Almighty God be truly blessed with God's special gifts of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love for every day this week.

**WE ARE DELIGHTED AS ALWAYS** to welcome to our pulpit today the Rev. Dr. George Gray Toole. His worship leadership will be an uplifting experience for everyone.

**A DELIGHTFUL RECEPTION** has been prepared for you immediately following worship. Please join us.

**LIFE OF CHRIST ADVENT TOURS.** Barbara Pour will lead this Advent tour today, December 4, and on Sunday, December 18, at the Walter's, each 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.

**OUR FINAL P&R (PLANNING AND REVIEW) MEETING** for this year will be held on Monday, December 19, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. This is an open meeting to which all are invited to hear budget and practical plans for 2012.

**OUR GUEST PREACHER NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11,** will be the Rev. David Caldwell, retired pastor of First Christian Church. David has always been very supportive of St. Andrew's and welcomed us all here in November, 2003. He is a good friend of Ernest.

**EXCELLENT CHILD CARE** is available every Sunday morning during worship. Please spread the word.

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

**"The ultimate form of hope is prayer." –Reinhold Niebuhr**