THE LORD'S DAY

1st Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

St. Andrew PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Community UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worshipping together, through Christ,
we are made one with God.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Kris King, Worship Leader

PRELUDE *"Creator of the Stars of Night"* — CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

*UNITY HYMN *(*stand as we are able)* — AURELIA

In Unity, we gather to worship and rejoice.
From our own faith traditions, we pray with one strong voice:
Lord, help us love each other and serve all those in need,
and live as your disciples – in heart and word and deed.

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH — John & Jenna Hargrave

The prophet Isaiah declares, "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".
Today, we continue to wait and call out in hope for God's restoration
to meet us here, believing that God knows our struggles
and works even now for the fulfillment of our salvation.
When God feels far away, and our lament feels too heavy to bear,
we remember God's steadfast love.
May this love empower us to wait and watch in hope
for the day when God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of God's promises,
that we might persevere in hope, a hope grounded not in wishes and whims
but in the trustworthy and persistent love of God
already at work among us to save and restore all creation.
[Light the first candle of the Advent wreath]

*HYMN – verse 1 of ***Advent Song*** (on insert)

*CALL TO WORSHIP
O God that you would tear open the heavens and come down!
Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.
Be alert! Keep awake! The time is drawing near:
The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

*HYMN – No. 82 GTG ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*** HYFRYDOL
Please add your chosen Chrismon ornament to the tree as we sing.

*OPENING PRAYER
God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down;
to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall
until all nations tremble at your presence!
But you will not perform according to our wants and whims.
Instead, you come like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet.
Instead, you are born among us as an infant.
Instead, you show us how love is made perfect in weakness.
So, we will stay alert, or at least we will try, because we are your people
and there is no other God besides you. Amen.

*CALL & PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up;
faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done.
Yet, God loves us still
and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.
God-with-us, even in Advent,
we confess that you can seem far away.
You are hidden when we need you near. *(continues)*

In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you;
instead, we lash out -- against you, our neighbor, even those we love.
Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us!
Let your face shine until our tears are dried,
our sins are faded, and our hope is restored.
After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end
so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.
Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into
the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord!

*RESPONSE – No. 581 GTG ***Glory Be to the Father*** GLORIA PATRI

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also, with you.
(As a forgiven people, greet one another and share the Peace of Christ)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Katy Manck, Reader

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away:
Your Word stands forever. May our generation be attentive so that,
by the power of your Holy Spirit, we remember your ways
and gladly do right, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear.
In Christ's name we pray. **Amen**.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Old Testament: Isaiah 64:1-9
New Testament: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*HYMN – No. 362 GTG ***Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*** LLANGLOFFAN

*GOSPEL READING: Mark 13:24-37 Reverend Stanley Larson

Holy wisdom, holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

*AFFIRMATION: Pg. 35 GTG ***Apostles' Creed***

*INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has enriched us in every way-- in speech, knowledge, and spiritual gifts.
From the fellowship of Jesus Christ, we are sent out
to share with thanksgiving what we have received.
(Please place tithes and offerings in the designated offering plates.)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

*DOXOLOGY – No. 606 GTG ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow***

PRAYER CONCERNS AND JOYS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

*HYMN – No. 105 GTG ***People, Look East*** BESANCON

*CHARGE & BLESSING

*POSTLUDE "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" JOHN GOTTFRIED WALTER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome friends! May the welcome you feel here be worthy of the gracious God that we serve. In this service, an asterisk (*) invites you to stand as health allows. Material printed in **bold** is for the congregation to sing or say. Let us worship God!

Please **choose a Chrismon** from the table at the Sanctuary entrance. We will decorate the tree as we sing *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* after the Call to Worship.

Poinsettias will soon adorn our Sanctuary, so please order yours by 12/1 using the envelopes in the Narthex. The list of honor and memorial dedications will be included in the bulletins on 12/22 and 12/24. You may take yours home after the Candlelight Christmas Eve service (5 p.m.).

The **Wednesday Night Live** menu on December 2nd features **Lasagna**, dessert, and a beverage. Adults pay $10, with reduced prices for children. Please RSVP by 11:30 a.m. on Monday. Please sign up in the Narthex or call the office at 903.758.4952.

Feeding our Firefighters – We feed all three 7-person crews at Station 6 once a month. Our December theme is Breakfast, with deliveries on Mon. 12/14, Wed. 12/16 & Fri. 12/18 afternoons. Please contact Rose Briggs (903-238-6463) or Katy Manck (903-918-1154 katyroo@gmail.com) to sign up or ask questions.

The Angel Tree in the Narthex holds Christmas wish lists for 12 little ones. Please sign your name on a tag when you take a wish list and keep them in mind while you shop. Gifts need to be returned unwrapped, in a gift bag with the tag attached, by December 20th. Your support for these little ones is greatly appreciated by Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services and helps make Christmas merry for these children.

One Love has a training opportunity today and will be meeting in the John Calvin room at 4:00 p.m.