

“The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise: I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness.”

-Jeremiah 33:14a, 15

GATHERING MUSIC

Dr. Bill Holda

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming.

We are preparing ourselves for the days
when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;

**nations shall not lift up sword against nations,
neither shall they learn war anymore.**

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf, lion, and fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

***HYMN – No. 95**

“Prepare the Way of the Lord” (3x)

PREPARE THE WAY

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts
and smooth the paths made rough by sin.

Keep our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness,
and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.

**We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, whose day draws near, Amen.**

***HYMN – No. 104**

“O Lord How Shall I Meet You?”

GEBEN

***CALL TO AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of the future, you are coming into power to bring all nations
under your rule. Help us to believe in our future serving you.**

We confess we have not expected your kingdom, (Continued on the next page.)

**for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth,
and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.
(Time of silence, prayer, lament, and confession.)**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?
Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
**The old life has gone, and our new life has begun; know that you are
forgiven, and be at peace, now and always. Amen.**

***SHARING IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you. (*Sharing the Peace of Christ*)

ENGAGING WITH THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

reader, Katy Manck

Living God, help us hear your holy Word so that we may truly understand.
Through understanding, we may believe, and, believing,
we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 1:1-13

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.
Full of Grace and Truth, thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 11:9-17

Now, God has spoken to us through Jesus Christ the Son.
**Thanks be to you, O Christ; Praise be to you.
Thanks be to God.**

Hebrew Lesson: Joel 2:1,2, 12-17, 28, 29

The Lord bless the reading of these words.

The Lord bless the hearing of these words that we may treasure them.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“God’s Spirit; Come Bless this Mess”

Rev. David F. Judd

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

INVITATION TO BECOME THE CHURCH

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH- Nicene Creed**

Let us confess with all the churches of Jesus Christ what we believe.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly
human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD

CALL FOR OFFERING TO GOD

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

*HYMN– No. 606

“Doxology”

OLD HUNDRETH

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise and it is our greatest joy

O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe...

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son,
our Lord...He came among us as one of us, sharing human suffering.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this juice and celebrate his
dying and rising as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be
a living and holy sacrifice dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit
to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight,
to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people.
(Please see insert.)

Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory,
and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm
and praying privately and corporately the prayer Jesus teaches us.

***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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD, SHARING THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH TO LIVE THE WORD

***HYMN – No. 133**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

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(903) 619-0530 or email DJudd@standrewpres.org

*As Saint Andrew we are called to worship, serve God,
reflect the love of Christ and grow in our discipleship.*

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!

Meals with Love will deliver meals on Tuesday. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our coordinator, Janet Martin, at 903-237-8295.

Wednesday Night Live dinner is served at 6 p.m. Please call or email the church office by noon on Tuesday. The cost is \$10 for adults, with reduced prices for children. This week's menu includes King Ranch chicken, sides, salad, dessert, and a drink.

We invite you to attend **Advent Services** each **Wednesday at 6:50 p.m.** in the sanctuary, following the Wednesday Night Live meal.

Christmas Eve's service at 7 p.m. will include a small choir and handbell ringers. **We invite St. Andrew and Community United Methodist Church members to participate with the bells and singing.** We will have a brief 15-minute rehearsal following worship on December 8, December 15, and December 22. You do not need to read music or have played bells previously.

The next "**Food Bag Day**" for One Love Longview is **December 11**. To complete our goal of 150 snack bags, we need **chips, peanuts, and tuna packs**.

The **Angel Tree** is up in the Narthex! Please return the gifts by **December 11** and make someone's Christmas a little brighter.

Poinsettias are available to purchase for \$10.00 each to adorn the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Order forms are in the church narthex. The deadline is December 15.

As the year ends, we remember the friends and family we've loved and cherished who have passed. To honor their memory, consider a gift to **Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church's Memorial Fund**, supporting the church's mission. We extend our **heartfelt thanks** to Tom and Robin Burns for their generous donation of a maple tree in Bill Gammans's memory.

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

This Advent text artfully interweaves what is hidden and what is revealed, primarily in the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. But Christ himself taught us about another hidden truth, his presence in the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40, 45), whom we are also called to welcome.

JEFFERSON
 8.7.8.7.D

plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
 splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
 strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to

neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
 grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Prepare the Way of the Lord 95

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D)
 E^b A^b E^b (chords continue)

* Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord,
 and all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

*May be sung as a canon.


All three synoptic gospels identify John the Baptist as the forerunner of the Messiah (Matthew 3:3/Mark 1:2-3/Luke 3:4) in accord with Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 40:3b). Because the latter part of the text (Isaiah 52:10b) has yet to be accomplished, this is still our mission today.

PREPARE THE WAY
 7.7.6.7

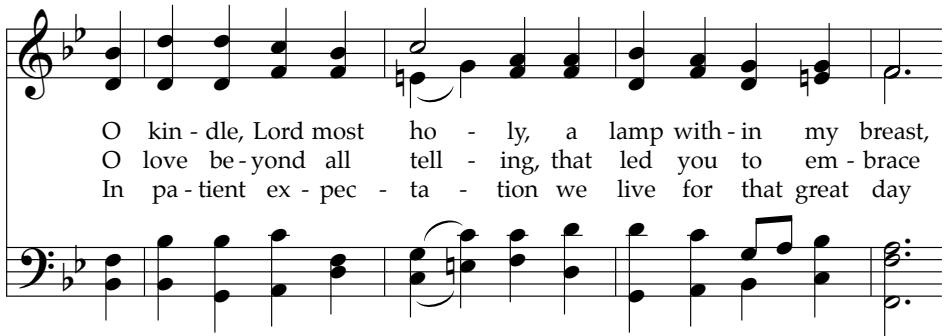
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104



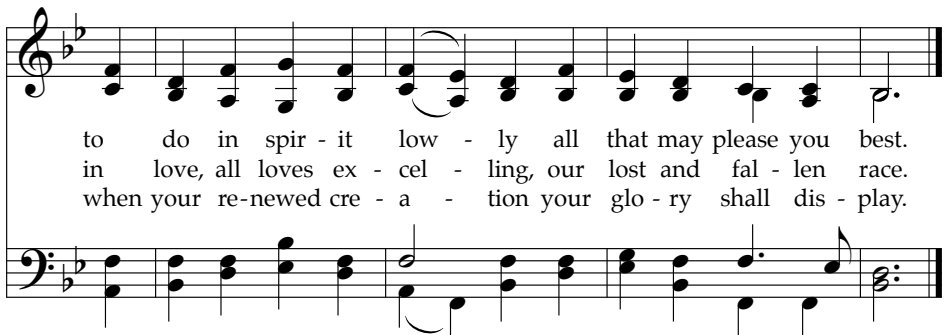
1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

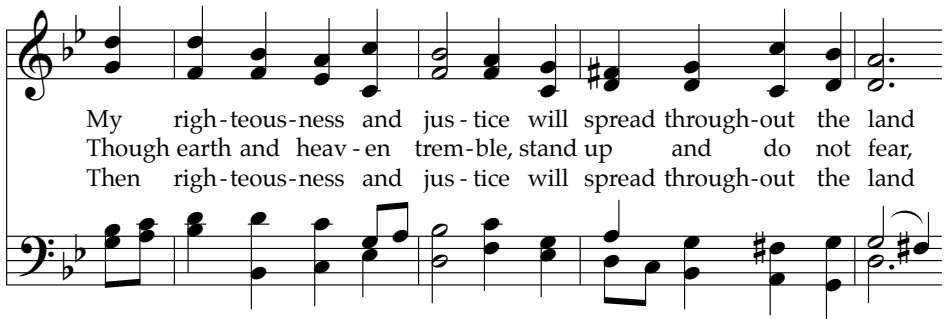
The Days Are Surely Coming 357



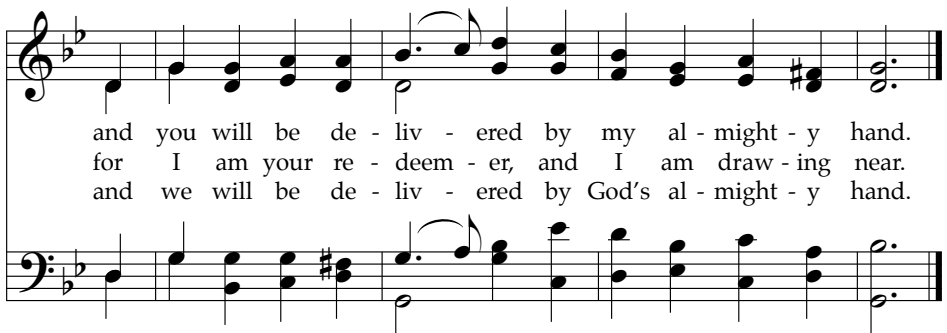
1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last



when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.



My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
 Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
 Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land



and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

This text uses imagery from Jeremiah 33:14–16 and Matthew 24:29–36/Mark 13:24–32/Luke 21:25–36. These passages are especially associated with the beginning of Advent, a season that looks forward to Christ's second coming while also preparing us to remember his first coming.

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.