



Advent
Devotional
2015

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WWW.SAINT-ANDREW.COM

Sunday, November 29, 2015

Dear Friends,

Paul's imperative in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "pray without ceasing", offers a picture of the gift and responsibility of the forgiven life as Christians. Prayer has been a vital part of the community's worship, as well as the individual life of each Christian who tries to respond to the gifts of grace and salvation. The question then, as well as now, is how do we "pray without ceasing" amidst our busy schedules?

During the Advent season, we will offer a variety of ways to participate in daily prayer at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. We include opportunities for evening prayer in worship in the sanctuary two times a week and for at home use each day, alone or with family. Included with this devotional is an order of worship to use for the service of daily prayer during the meetings of committees and groups that come together so regularly and often at our church.

Ways that you can participate:

- Take home a copy or download a copy of the *Evening Prayer for Advent 2015*.
 - o Use this order of worship for:
 - Family and home use. All ages can take turns leading different portions each day during Advent, because daily prayer is for all ages.
 - Committees and Groups. Use this suggested worship for all gatherings during Advent.
- Attend evening prayer services December 1-17, 2015 that are held two times a week in our sanctuary. The services are short and led by lay leaders.
 - o Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. on December 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 & 17
- Download **PC(USA) Daily Prayer App** on your smart phone to pray the daily office.

Daily prayer and Paul's "pray without ceasing" remain the ideals for our prayer life. This discipline is one that is sustained by grace, powered by the Holy Spirit and nurtured by God's faithfulness. When we attend to God, we discover that we are already held by God. I look forward to praying as a St. Andrew community, corporately and individually, during this Advent season.

Blessings,

Lisa Patterson
Associate Pastor

EVENING PRAYER FOR ADVENT 2015

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*OPENING SENTENCES

O God, come to our assistance

O Lord, hasten to help us.

A voice cries out: Prepare the road for the Lord through the wilderness,

Clear a highway across the desert for our God.

Isa. 40:3

*HYMN OF LIGHT 672

O Gladsome Light

See Insert

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

PSALMS 40 & 67

(Silent prayer is followed by psalm prayers after each psalm reading)

Psalm Prayer for Ps. 40: O God, none can compare with you, for your wondrous deeds for our salvation are without number. Make us bold witnesses to your faithfulness that all the earth may rejoice in your love toward us in Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen**

Psalm Prayer for Ps. 67: Be gracious and bless us, Lord, and let your face shed its light on us, so that we may make you known with reverence and bring forth a harvest of justice. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING

(choose one passage from the attached list to read, followed by silent reflection on the passage)

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Receive my prayer as incense, O God,

my uplifted hands as an evening sacrifice.

(Free prayer or use the prayer offered below, adding individual thanksgiving and intercession)

God of power and splendor, we praise you for your great gift in sending Jesus Christ to be one with us. Keep us alert in this season as we await with joyful hope our Savior's coming again, to be thankful always for every blessing that announces your constant love.

Especially we thank you for the good news your church is to proclaim . . .

 blessings of love and kindness we have received . . .

 promises kept and signs of hope for the future . . .

 opportunities to show your love . . .

 those who act out the compassion of Christ . . .

Ever-present God, you are always at work in the world to overcome evil with good. As you have come to us in Jesus Christ, enable us to go to others in ministries of caring and healing. Especially we pray for peacemakers in the councils of nations . . .

 the home of those single or married . . .

 the poor and needy, the oppressed and outcast . . .

 those in mental or physical pain . . .

 those who grieve and mourn . . .

Christ's church in particular need . . .

and in this place . . . Silent prayer

Concluding Petition – God of the prophets, you sent your messenger into the wilderness of Jordan to prepare human hearts for the coming of your Son. Help us to prepare for Christ's coming, to hear the good news and repent, that we may be ready to welcome the Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.** *The Lord's Prayer*

HYMN 675

All Praise To Thee, My God, This Night

See Insert

DISMISSAL

Followed by the Sign of Peace (Passing the Peace)

May we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Bless the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

Adapted from the Book of Common Worship.

O Gladsome Light

672

1 O glad-some light, O grace of our Cre - a - tor's face,
 2 As fades the day's last light, we see the lamps of night
 3 To you of right be - longs all praise of ho - ly songs,

the e - ter - nal splen-dor wear - ing; ce - les - tial, ho - ly, blest,
 our com-mon hymn out - pour - ing, O God of might un-known,
 O Son of God, Life - giv - er; you, there-fore, O Most High,

our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, joy - ful in your ap - pear - ing.
 you, the in - car - nate Son, and Spir - it blest a - dor - ing.
 the world does glo - ri - fy and shall ex - alt for - ev - er.

This paraphrase of a 3rd-century Christian lamplighting hymn (see also nos. 671 and 673) was created by an English poet who, as a former parish choirmaster, had developed a keen musical sensitivity. He wrote with this Genevan tune in mind, which initiated this continuing pairing of words and music.

675 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

1 All praise to thee, my God, this night, for all the
 2 For - give me, Lord, through Christ, I pray, the wrong that
 3 O may my soul on thee re - pose, and with sweet
 4 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all

bless - ings of the light! Keep me, O keep me
 I have done this day, that I, be - fore I
 sleep mine eye - lids close. Re - fresh my strength, for
 crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye

safe from harm with - in the shel - ter of thine arm!
 sleep, may be at peace with neigh - bor, self, and thee.
 thine own sake, to serve thee well when I a - wake.
 heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

**May be sung as a canon.*

Originally consisting of twelve stanzas, this was the bedtime hymn of the boys at Winchester School in England. Now it is one of the best-known evening hymns in English (usually matched with this tune and sung in canon), and its final stanza has taken on a life of its own.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DAILY PRAYER

Choose One To Read Each Day

***Service Of Evening Prayer @ 6:00pm In The Sanctuary On These Days*

1ST WEEK OF ADVENT

November 29-December 5

Su	Amos 1:1-5, 13-2:8 1 Thess. 5:1-11 Luke 21:5-19
M	Amos 2:6-16 2 Peter 1:1-11 Matt. 21:1-11
**Tu	Amos 3:1-11 2 Peter 1:12-21 Matt. 21:12-22
W	Amos 3:12-4:5 2 Peter 3:1-10 Matt. 21:23-32
**Th	Amos 4:6-13 2 Peter 3:11-18 Matt. 21:33-46
F	Amos 5:1-17 Jude 1-16 Matt. 22:1-14
Sa	Amos 5:18-27 Jude 17-25 Matt. 22:1-14

2ND WEEK OF ADVENT

December 6-12

Su	Amos 6:1-14 2 Thess. 1:5-12 Luke 1:57-68
M	Amos 7:1-9 Rev. 1:1-8 Matt. 22:23-33
**Tu	Amos 7:10-17 Rev. 1:9-16 Matt. 22:34-46
W	Amos 8:1-14 Rev. 1:17-2:7 Matt. 23:1-12
**Th	Amos 9:1-10 Rev. 2:8-17 Matt. 23:13-26
F	Hag. 1:1-15 Rev. 2:18-29 Matt. 23:27-39
S	Hag. 2:1-9 Rev. 3:1-6 Matt. 24:1-14

3RD WEEK OF ADVENT

December 13-19

Su	Amos 9:11-15 2 Thess. 2:1-3, 13-17 John 5:30-47
M	Zech. 1:7-17 Rev. 3:7-13 Matt. 24:15-31
**Tu	Zech. 2:1-13 Rev. 3:14-22 Matt. 24:32-44
W	Zech. 3:1-10 Rev. 4:1-8 Matt. 24:45-51
**Th	Zech. 4:1-14 Rev. 4:9-5:5 Matt. 25:1-13
F	Gen. 3:8-15 Rev. 12:1-10 John 3:16-21
S	Zeph. 3:14-20 Titus 1:1-16 Luke 1:1-25

4TH WEEK OF ADVENT

December 20-Christmas

Su	1 Sam. 2:1B-10 Titus 2:1-10 Luke 1:26-38
M	2 Sam. 7:1-17 Titus 2:11-3:8A Luke 1:39-48A(48B-56)
Tu	2 Sam. 7:18-29 Gal. 3:1-14 Luke 1:57-66
W	Jer. 31:10-14 Gal. 3:15-22 Luke 1:67-80
Th	Isa. 60:1-6 Gal. 3:23-4:7 Matt. 1:18-25 Isa. 59:15B-21 Phil. 2:5-11
Xmas	Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4 1 John 4:7-16 John 3:31-36



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