

St. ANDREW'S CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016



**5802 Roland Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21210-1398
410-435-9470 www.saintandrewscc.org**

THE REV. ERNEST R. D. SMART, *Pastor*

Patricia McKewen Amato, *Music Director*

Sunday, December 18, 2016

9:00A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE: **Selected Traditional European Carols**

Emmanuel Borowsky, violin Frances Borowsky, cello Elizabeth Borowsky, piano

GATHERING MUSIC AND CAROLS (Please remain seated)

Verse 1 of Carol 143 Joy to the World

Verse 1 of Carol 144 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Verse 1 of Carol 147 Away in a Manger

Verse 1 of Carol 165 Once in Royal David's City

THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*CAROL 149 Angels from the Realms of Glory Regent Square

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

Gracious and loving God, we praise You again for this season of Advent, this time of rejoicing and celebration, exulting in Your goodness. We praise You for coming into our midst in Jesus Christ, bringing in a new kingdom, and anticipating an era of peace and justice for all Your children.

Forgive us that we sometimes lose sight of Your purpose, and underestimate Your greatness. Open our eyes to the breadth of Your love, the wonder of Your mercy, and the extent of Your goodness, so that we may give You the worship and adoration that is due to You, this day and every day...(*moment of silent reflection*)

Pastor: Through Christ, our Lord, we pray. **People: Amen.**

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND THE PROMISE OF NEW LIFE

CEREMONY OF LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 97

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Ancient Hebrew Dance - Joseph Achron (6)

Emmanuel Borowsky, violin Elizabeth Borowsky, piano

GOSPEL LESSON:

St. John 3: 1-16

*HYMN 153

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Carol

SERMON: "AMOR VINCIT OMNIA"

Rev. Ernest Smart

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

THE OFFERTORY **Nearer My God to Thee (Sarah Flower Adams/Lowell Mason)**
Emmanuel Borowsky, violin Frances Borowsky, cello Elizabeth Borowsky, piano

*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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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.

*CAROL 148

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

BENEDICTION (in unison)

**May the light of God illumine us heart and soul;
May the flame of Christ kindle us to love;
May the fire of the Spirit free us to live today and forever. Amen.**

POSTLUDE **Hark The Herald Angels Sing**

Emmanuel Borowsky, violin Frances Borowsky, cello Elizabeth Borowsky, piano

WELCOME NOTES

MAY YOU ALL BE BLESSED WITH A BEAUTIFUL AND HOLY CHRISTMAS

WELCOME TO WORSHIP TODAY. Advent is a God-given opportunity to arrange and re-arrange priorities in our daily life, 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 spiritual pilgrimage to Bethlehem.

WE GIVE A SPECIAL AND WARM WELCOME TO THE BOROWSKY FAMILY ONCE AGAIN, FRANCES, ELIZABETH AND EMMANUEL. You truly bless us with your musical gifts and spirit.

OUR POT-LUCK DINNER LAST TUESDAY EVENING WAS ANOTHER GRAND AND GLORIOUS OCCASION. A thousand thanks are due to everyone who contributed and to Bill and Linda Schneidereith who organized the event. This was also an opportunity to present the Women's Housing Coalition with \$2,000 for their wonderful ministry to women and children.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A DELIGHTFUL RECEPTION AFTER WORSHIP. Many thanks to the wonderful team for producing "goodies" every week.

COME, ENJOY OUR CHRISTMAS CHOIR for the Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m. Patti Amato is inviting all spirited singers to meet for a special rehearsal today after the worship.

MANY THANKS to those who contributed towards the magnificent arrangements and beauty of our 2016 poinsettias.

PLEASE MARK CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE IN YOUR CALENDAR. Saturday, December 24, 2016, at **FIVE P.M.** Spread the word. Everyone is invited.

ADVENT TOUR TODAY at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Barbara Pour will guide church members and friends on a tour tracing the life of Christ in art. Food will not be available due to renovations at the Walters.

BALTIMORE'S MUSICALE will present a wonderful Christmas concert here in the Sanctuary this evening, December 18, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited. Admission is free, but a donation of \$10 is invited.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

"Christmas is more than a day to be celebrated; it is a vision to be lived."

—Arthur H. Kolsti—