

**St. ANDREW'S CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015**



**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***

Sunday, December 20, 2015

9:00 a.m.

**MAY THIS CHRISTMAS SUNDAY BE FOR YOU ALL GRAND AND GLORIOUS**

PRELUDE: Selected Christmas Music  
The American Virtuosi/Borowsky Family

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 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 and every day... (moment of silent reflection)**

Pastor: Through Christ, our Lord, we pray.

**People: Amen.**

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PROMISE OF NEW LIFE

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 35: 1-10

SPECIAL MUSIC: Selected Christmas Music  
The American Virtuosi/Borowsky Family

GOSPEL LESSON St. Luke 2: 8-14

\*HYMN 153      It Came Upon the Midnight Clear      Carol

SERMON:      “THAT GLORIOUS SONG OF OLD”      Rev. Ernest Smart

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

\*HYMN 150      Hark! The Herald Angels Sing      Mendelssohn

THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY      Selected Christmas Music  
The American Virtuosi/Borowsky Family

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

CALL TO PRAYER AND THE PASTORAL PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you**

Leader: Let us pray . . .

THE LORD’S PRAYER      Hymnal 307      Tune: Malotte

\* CAROL 148      O Come, All Ye Faithful      Adeste Fideles

THE BENEDICTION (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 forevermore. Amen.**

POSTLUDE:      Selected Christmas Music  
The American Virtuosi/Borowsky Family

## **WELCOME NOTES**

### **MAY YOU ALL BE BLESSED WITH A BEAUTIFUL AND HOLY CHRISTMAS**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP TODAY.** This is our thirteenth celebration of Christmas together, and we have much for which to be thankful, especially you! God has richly blessed us with faith, friendship and vision. Thank you, everyone. May this week be full of blessings.

**WE GIVE A SPECIAL AND WARM WELCOME TO THE BOROWSKY FAMILY, FRANCES, ELIZABETH AND EMMANUEL.** You truly bless us with your musical gifts and spirit. We thank them for sharing their wonderful talents with us.

**MANY THANKS to** those who contributed towards the magnificent arrangements and beauty of our 2015 Poinsettias.

**COME AND ENJOY OUR CHRISTMAS CHOIR** for the Christmas Eve service on Thursday at 7:15 P.M. Patti Amato is inviting all spirited singers to meet today at 10:20 a.m. today here in church.

**A CHRISTMAS ADVENT TOUR AT THE WALTERS** will be led today by Barbara Pour at the Walters at 1:00p.m. The Café is temporarily closed but Barbara will meet the tour group at 12:50 p.m. at the Center Street entrance.

**BALTIMORE MUSICALE** will present a wonderful seasonal concert here in the sanctuary **THIS EVENING** Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 6: 30 P.M. Everyone is invited. Admission is free but a donation of \$10 is invited.

**PLEASE MARK CHRISTMAS EVE IN YOUR CALENDARS.** Thursday, December 24 at 7:15 p.m. Spread the word. Bring everyone, including yourself!

### **Thought for the Week Ahead:**

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

**-Arthur H. Kolsti-**