

**St. ANDREW'S CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014**



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[www.saintandrewscc.org](http://www.saintandrewscc.org)**

**THE REV. ERNEST R. D. SMART, *Pastor*  
Patricia McKewen Amato, *Music Director***

**Sunday, December 21, 2014**

**9:00 a.m.**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

PRELUDE: Selected Christmas Music These Three Remain (Faith, Hope, Love) --  
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 I 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 11: 1-9

SPECIAL MUSIC: Theme from Judas Maccabeus –  
Georg Frideric Handel/Friedrich August Kummer

GOSPEL LESSON

St. Matthew 2: 1-14

\*HYMN 129 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

Truro

SERMON: GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL! WHAT AN ADVENTURE! Rev. Ernest Smart

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

\*HYMN 582 Come Down, O Love Divine

Down Ampney

THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY On the Wings of Song - Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

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:

Baltica by The American Virtuosi/Borowsky Family  
(traditional Baltic song; arranged)

## WELCOME NOTES

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

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP TODAY.** This is our twelfth 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. Ceylia

### **WE GIVE A SPECIAL AND WARM WELCOME TO THE BOROWSKY**

**FAMILY, CEYLIA, ELIZABETH AND EMMANUEL.** You truly bless us with your musical gifts and spirit. We thank them for sharing their wonderful talents with us.

**MANY MANY THANKS** to those who contributed towards the magnificent arrangements and beauty of our 2014 Poinsettias.

**COME AND JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS CHOIR** for the Christmas Eve service. Patti Amato is inviting all spirited singers to come for a rehearsal at 10:10 a.m. today here in the sanctuary.

**ADVENT TOUR AT THE WALTERS** will take place today, December 21. Barbara Pour will be our tour leader. Everyone is invited. Please come early at 12:15 p.m. for some lunch at the Café. The tour will begin at 1:00 p.m. The tour is free.

### **MUSICAL INVITATION**

**BALTIMORE MUSICALE** will hold a Christmas concert tonight, December 21 at 6:30 P.M. here in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to enjoy some wonderful Christmas music. Our own Patti Amato will be the accompanist. A donation of \$10 is suggested.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 at 7:15 p.m.** All of our Christian congregations here will gather to sing and celebrate together. Neighbors, family and friends are all invited. Spread the word! Helping Up Mission will be receiving our offerings.

**CHRISTMAS- A SEASON FOR CARING, SHARING, GIVING.** A thousand thanks to everyone who enabled St. Andrew's to support over 25 mission projects, including Shepherd's Clinic, Helping Up Mission Meals on Wheels, Brehmns Lane Elementary School, Veterans Organizations, Women's Housing Coalition, and many others in need, amounting to over \$26,000.

**PASTORAL NEEDS?** Please do not hesitate to contact our pastor, Ernest Smart, either for yourself or someone you know. Best contact number is 410-893-9470.

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

“What we love we shall grow to resemble.” – St. Bernard of Clairvaux-