First-St Andrew's UNITED CHURCH

Order of Service

November 29, 2026 – First Sunday of Advent - Communion

Hymn and anthem texts reprinted under
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Bold type indicates congregational response. * indicates to stand in body or spirit

Gathering / Candle Lighting Hymn: TLUS #55 "We light this candle" – "hope" *(sung twice)* Pat Mayberry

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence (he/him)

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Opening Prayer with Land Acknowledgment Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

***Hymn:** VU #1 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" – verses 1, 2, 6 & 7 VENI EMMANUEL

Children leave for Worship & Wonder

Scripture: Isaiah 64: 1-9 Merran Neville
One: A Word of God for all people,
ALL: thanks be to God.

Musical Reflection: "Hope Will Not Fail" Mark A. Miller
Choir; Soloist: Alastair Smyth (he/him), baritone

Hope will not fail, no, hope will not fail.
Though anguish and apathy seem to prevail,
no, hope will not fail; hope, hope will prevail.

Peace will not fail, no, peace will not fail.
Though vengeance and violence seem to prevail,
no, peace will not fail; peace, peace will prevail.

Believe in the coming, the coming of peace!
Though vengeance and violence seem to prevail,
no, peace will not fail; peace, peace will prevail.

Joy will not fail, no, joy will not fail.
Though mourning and misery seem to prevail,
no, joy will not fail; joy, joy will prevail.

Love will not fail, no, love will not fail.
Though hatred and hopelessness seem to prevail,
no, love will not fail; love, love will prevail.

Believe in the power, the power of love!
Though hatred and hopelessness seem to prevail,
no, love will not fail; love, love will prevail.

***Scripture:** Mark 13: 24-37 Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Sermon: "The Mysterium Tremendum"

Musical Offering: "Oh, Freedom, Freedom Is Coming" South Africa
Choir; Janis Wallace (she/her), djembe

Freedom is coming, freedom is coming,
freedom is coming, oh, yes, I know.

Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming,
Jesus is coming, oh, yes, I know.

Prayers of the People:

Sung Refrain: VU #22 "Wait for the Lord" WAIT FOR THE LORD

Prayer of Jesus: *(unison)*

Creator of the stars and the deep night, holy is your name, beyond all our naming. Let your new world break upon us like dawn over a waiting earth. May your will be done here, as it is done throughout the cosmos. Feed us today with bread enough for all. Release us from our debts, as we release those who owe us. Do not abandon us to the trial but deliver us from the power of evil. For the realm is yours, the power, and the glory, the quaking mountains and the gentle child, now and forever. Amen.

Communion

Eucharistic Prayer: Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

One: The Lord be with you.
ALL: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
ALL: We lift them to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sung Acclamation: VU #951" Holy, Holy, Holy" anon., Argentina; vs. 2 Chris Fischer

1. Holy, holy, holy, my heart,
   my heart adores you!
   My heart is glad to say the words:
   You are holy, God!
2. In God's name is coming
   the One whom we call blessed.
   Hosanna in the highest!
   Praise and thanks to God.

Remembering Jesus at the Table Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup

At FSA we receive Communion by Intinction.
You will be invited up the centre aisle to one of the stations at the front. When you receive the bread, dip it lightly into the cup and partake. You may then return to your seat by the outside aisle. If you prefer, there will be pre-packaged elements available. For those wishing to have Communion served in their pew, please signal the roving server and they will bring Communion to you.
Today's Communion elements are gluten free.

***Communion Hymns:** MV #90 "Don't Be Afraid" – *sung 4 times* John L. Bell

MV #45 "You Are Holy" Traditional South African
(Zulu 3 times; English: 3 verses – holy, freedom, justice)
with djembe

Prayer of Thanksgiving Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

***Hymn:** VU #688 "O Day of God, Draw Nigh" ST MICHAEL (OLD 134TH)

Blessing:

The light of God surrounds us;
The love of God enfolds us;
The power of God protects us;
The presence of God watches over us;
Wherever we are, God is!

Sending Music: "Saviour of the Nations, Come" Mark Sedio
Chris Fischer (they/them), organ

The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Frank Kearney, Annie Jannaway and Winifred Wake
Narthex Co-ordinator: Carol Riddell-Elson
Service Support: George Jolink
Tech Team: Isaac Gelbard, Robin Neaves, Jim Silcox, Kathryn Skelly and Allison Wyant
Coffee and Conversation: Board of Trustees
Gift Card Table: Margo Christodoulou and Barbara Dalymple

We thank God for all those who share their gifts and talents.

First-St. Andrew's United Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence Minister of Worship and Congregational Life
Rev. Anne-Louise Jannaway Minister of Pastoral Care
Chris Fischer Minister of Music
Christina Lindsay Children's & Youth Program Coordinator
Kathryn Skelly Office Manager
Rev. Karen Low Voluntary Associate Minister
Rev. Dr. David McKane Minister Emeritus
Paul Merritt Organist Emeritus
Dr. Jo Ann Silcox Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer
Steve Elson, George Jolink, David Wardlaw Co-Chairs of Council