



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sermon by Pastor Jami Anderson, November 27, 2011

- I. Song- Signs of endings all around us; death and darkness and winter days.
Can it be that from our endings, new beginnings you create? Can it?
- II. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- III. This Old House T.V. show – the restoration of old homes. Finding dry rot, mold, unusable space, benign neglect. New owners redo the home and are SO delighted to move into it. The home has new life.
- IV. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- V. Young man – taught Sunday School, enjoyed church. Drifted away. Grandfather tragically died. Decided God wasn't worth much. Two men asked him if he knew for sure whether God existed or not. He asked, he was Reborn! New life was/is filled with joy and excitement and zeal.
- VI. Restore us, O God of hosts' show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- VII. Advent – a time of preparing and waiting for new life. We do not know for sure when that new life will begin. But we are asked, encouraged to be paying attention, being strengthened, using our spiritual gifts, looking for the dry rot or the sloth.
- VIII. Similar to the call at Lent. In this time of waiting – what needs repaired, renewed? It is a call both individual and corporate. Where has St. Andrew's become too comfortable? Where are we falling asleep? What can be polished and shined? What spiritual gifts to share?
- IX. Isaiah warns us about the falling away, about forgetting, about living with iniquity. God asks us to return. God asks us to keep working, keep paying attention. Keep awake. This is serious work and this season provides a focus. How can we get ready for new life?
- X. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- XI. Thanks be to God.