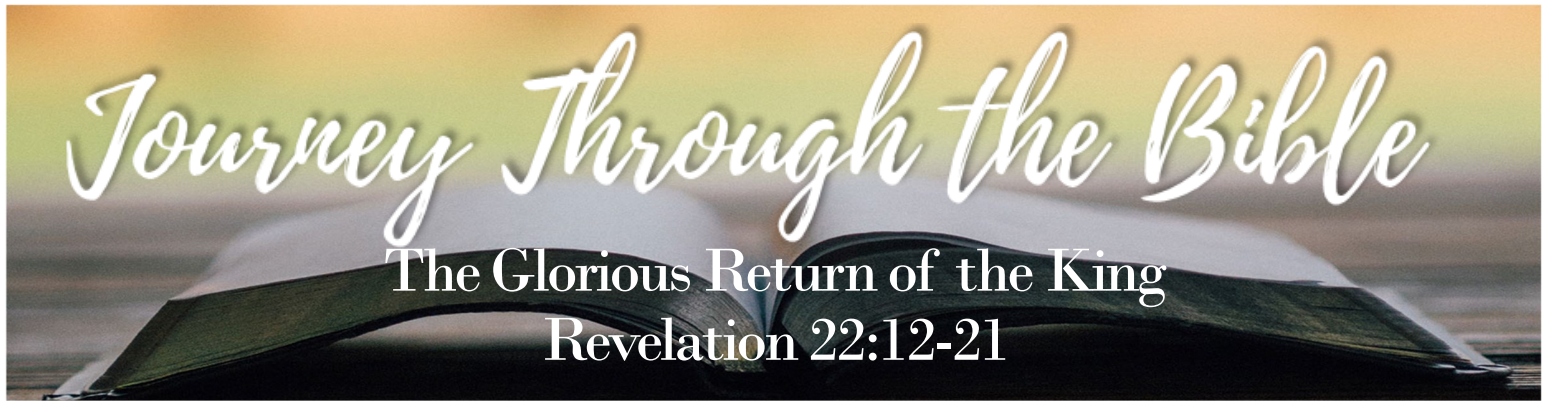


# ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Please note that all text in **bold** is spoken in unison.

† Worshipers are asked to stand in body or spirit.

December 10, 2023

10:30AM

**WELCOME!** What a delight that you are here! We hope you will experience the love of Jesus and the joy of community in this time of worship. If we can be of help to you, please let us know. We would love to assist you in finding ways to get involved and grow in your faith.

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION** (*You are invited to pray this prayer in silence.*)

Almighty God, let our gratitude be great, our praise be plentiful, and our worship be filled with wonder, through Christ Jesus our Savior King! Amen!

**PRELUDE**

*Around the Manger*

ARR. LINDA LAMB

**LIFE AT ST. ANDREW'S**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Revelation 21-22

One: Let us prepare our hearts as we await the coming of our Lord.

**Many: Let us watch for the One who heard our cries and shouldered the world's suffering.**

One: Let us anticipate the coming of Christ's eternal world of wholeness and reconciliation.

**Many: Let us wait in expectation for the day when God's glory is revealed in all its fullness.**

**All: Let us rejoice in the Holy One who sets us free!**

† **HYMN 7**

*Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth*

MIT FREUDEN

Lord Christ, when first You came to earth, upon a cross they bound You,  
And mocked Your saving kingship then by thorns with which they crowned You;  
And still our wrongs may weave You now new thorns to pierce that steady brow, and robe of sorrow round You.

O wondrous love, which found no room in life, where sin denied You,  
And, doomed to death, must bring to doom the power which crucified You,  
Till not a stone was left on stone, and all a nation's pride, o'erthrown, went down to dust beside You.

New advent of the love of Christ, shall we again refuse You,  
Till in the night of hate and war we perish as we lose You?  
From old unfaith our souls release to seek the kingdom of Your peace, by which alone we choose You.

O wounded hands of Jesus, build in us Your new creation;  
Our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled, we wait Your revelation.  
O Love that triumphs over loss, we bring our hearts before Your cross; Come, finish Your salvation.

† INVITATION TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, raise our sights and our hopes. Even as we yearn for Your glorious inheritance, we settle for much less. Even as we long to behold the extraordinary, we keep our eyes fixed on the ground. Even as we hope to inherit Your glorious kingdom, we keep our hearts attuned to earthly power. Even as we desire to rest in the arms of Your love, we listen to voices that sow discord. Forgive us and renew our spirits so that Your Holy Spirit may find us ready when Jesus returns in glory.

† ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.  
And also with you.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Mike and Barbara Warren

One: We light this candle in Peace.

*All: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

ANTHEM

*Soon and Very Soon*

ARR. JACK SCHRADER

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King; Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.  
No more dying there, we are going to see the King; Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Revelation 22:12-21

Pew Bible p. 1076  
Large Print p. 1892

SERMON

The Glorious Return of the King

† HYMN 446

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

AUSTRIAN HYMN

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;  
God, whose word cannot be broken, Formed thee for a blest abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded, What can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, Springing from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters And all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river Ever flows their thirst to assuage?  
Grace, which like the Lord the giver, Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering, See the cloud and fire appear  
For a glory and a covering, Showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from their banner Light by night and shade by day,  
Safe they feed upon the manna Which God gives them when they pray.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

[Give Online](#)

### † HYMN 592

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

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

### † HYMN

*Shall We Gather at the River*

HANSON PLACE

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Chorus: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;  
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.

Soon we'll reach the shining river; soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.

### † BENEDICTION

### † SENDING SONG

*Lift Up Your Heads*

TRURO

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

*You are encouraged to sit and enjoy the postlude after the sending song.*

### POSTLUDE

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

*The flowers today were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her mother, Joel Martin, by Martha Pate.*

*We thank the St. Andrew's Handbell Choir and Cameron Montgomery for sharing their gifts of music with us in worship today.*

Please use the **C O N N E C T** cards in the pews to let us know about prayer requests or areas of interest. If you are a visitor, please also include your contact information and help us get to know you better! You can place completed cards in the offering baskets.

The nursery is located near the sanctuary and is available for children ages 0-5. Children's activity bulletins and large print bulletins, Bibles, and hymnals are available on the sanctuary tables.

**SOME OTHER PLACE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE:** Please return gifts TODAY wrapped and with the tag attached.

Join us for a **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** following worship TODAY. Chicken enchilada soup, tamales, chips and dip, and cookie decorating are on the menu! We will also stuff Christmas stockings and make cards for Girls' Haven.

The **GOLDEN TRIANGLE HANDBELL ENSEMBLE'S WINTER CONCERT** is tonight at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary! Don't miss an evening of beautiful music to ring in the Christmas season.

We will collect the **CHRISTMAS JOY** special offering next Sunday, December 17. This offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need, but also goes to developing future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

## St. Andrew's Prayer List

**MEMBERS:** Eleanor Alexander, Pat Caywood, Bob Fisher, Shelley Plunkett, Lee Plunkett, Barbara Abel, Dalton Abel, Kay Long

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY:** Erika Russell, Charlie Monaghan, Ron Williamson, Lance LaDuke, David Cobble, Karen Thompson Butler, Val Rayzor, Mary Kennedy, Mickey Shuffield, Thomas Fisher, Jack Dillard, Erin Lenhart, Jerry Linn, Janie Niederstadt Verderame, Rachel Lawrence, Esmee Foster

## St. Andrew's Calendar

Sunday, December 10, 2023

- 9:15AM Sunday School
- 10:30AM Worship
- 11:30AM Christmas Luncheon
- 12:15PM Choir Rehearsal
- 4:00PM Boy Scouts
- 7:00PM GTHE Concert

Monday, December 11, 2023

- 10:00AM Monday Group
- 5:30PM Strings After School
- 6:30PM La Hacienda Meeting

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

- 5:30PM Strings After School
- 5:30PM Finance/Property Meeting
- 6:30PM Tuesday Group

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

- 9:30AM Day School Chapel
- 6:30PM Worship Team

Thursday, December 14, 2023

- 8:30AM MOW Cooks
- 9:00AM Day School Practice
- 10:00AM MOW Delivers

Friday, December 15, 2023

Saturday, December 16, 2023

Sunday, December 17, 2023

- 9:15AM Sunday School
- 10:30AM Worship
- 12:00PM Deacons Meeting
- 3:00PM Boy Scouts
- 3:00PM Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00PM Youth Christmas Party
- 5:30PM Choir Christmas Party

### CHURCH STAFF

Tara Thompson, Pastor  
Thomas Furlow, Music Director  
Joyce Stillwell, Admin Assistant  
Rachel Stiles, Admin Assistant/Organist  
Patricia Williamson, Pianist

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
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