

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 17, 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.*)

God, our Creator, interrupt our lives and awaken us to Your possibilities. Surprise us and open our hearts to new directions. Transform our minds and sight with visions of Your truth and love. Amen.

PRELUDE

A Suite Christmas

ARR. ROBERT EWING

LIFE AT ST. ANDREW'S

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Isaiah 12

One: Sing to the Lord, for He has done wonderful things!

Many: We will tell the whole world what He has done.

One: For God is great and God is here, with us and among us.

Many: God is our strength and our song.

All: We will trust in Him and not be afraid.

† **HYMN 462**

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine; scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

† INVITATION TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, You are hard to pin down. We want to be able to tame You and speak of You with certainty, but You are always bigger than our words and faster than our thoughts. Forgive our attempts to control You, and our desire to speak our words on Your behalf. Forgive our halfhearted 'yes' and our excuses for saying 'no' to Your call. Help us to truly listen to Your living Word, so that we may fully love as You love and humbly serve as You serve.

† ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, proclaim the Good News!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

TIME FOR CHILDREN

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

James, Emma & Anna Hackman

One: We light this candle in Peace.

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

ANTHEM

Day by Day

ARR. TOM FETTKE

Day by day, day by day, sovereign Lord, three things I pray:
To see You more clearly, love You more dearly, follow You more nearly,
Day by day.

Day by day and with each passing moment, strength I find to meet my trials here.
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment, I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure gives unto each day what He deems best.
Lovingly, it's part of pain and pleasure, mingling toil with peace and rest.

Help me then, in every tribulation, so to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting, e'er to take, as from a Father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting, till I reach the promised land.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Revelation 12:1-17

Pew Bible p. 1069-1070
Large Print p.1879-1880

SERMON

How to Slay the Dragon

† HYMN 293

This Is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world: oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven one.

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 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTART

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

† 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

The flowers today were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nelson Jones, by Barbara and Michael Warren.

We thank the String Trio 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.

We will collect the **PCUSA CHRISTMAS JOY** special offering TODAY. Envelopes are available in your bulletin. 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.

The church office will **CLOSE** at 12:30PM on December 21 and December 28, and be **CLOSED** on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1, 2024.

The **YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY** is TODAY from 5:00PM-7:00PM in the Youth Center. Wear a Christmas sweater and join us for a nacho bar, gift exchange and games.

Join us on **CHRISTMAS EVE** at 10:30AM for Lessons and Carols and at 6:30PM for a candlelight service, as we celebrate Christ's birth with a special time for children at both services.

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: Family of Lance LaDuke, Tim Smith, Erika Russell, Charlie Monaghan, Ron Williamson, David Cobble, Karen Thompson Butler, Madeline Johnson, 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 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

Monday, December 18, 2023

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

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

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

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

- 9:00AM Day School Program
- 5:30PM Board of Trustees

Thursday, December 21, 2023

- OFFICE CLOSING AT 12:30PM
- 8:30AM MOW Cooks
- 10:00AM MOW Delivers

Friday, December 22, 2023

Saturday, December 23, 2023

Sunday, December 24, 2023

- 10:30AM Lessons & Carols
- 6:30PM Candlelight Service

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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