

# ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Lessons and Carols

Featuring "People and Places of the Nativity"  
by Rob Toornstra



### CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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

† Worshipers are asked to stand in body or spirit.

**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. Come, let us adore Christ the Lord!

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve

10:30AM

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

Emmanuel, shine Your light into the darkness of our world, that all the earth might know Your glorious presence and that all people might find hope in Your love and grace. In Your glorious name we pray. Amen.

**PRELUDE**

*Sheep May Safely Graze*

J.S. BACH

**LIFE AT ST. ANDREW'S**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Isaiah 40:1-11

One: The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here.

**Many: The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here.**

One: The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here.

**Many: We come to prepare a way for the Lord.**

One: We come to ready ourselves for the transformation of our lives.

**Many: For the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it.**

**All: Come, let us adore Christ the newborn king!**

† **INTRODUCTION**

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
 Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
 Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.  
 Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
 Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
 He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
 Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## PEOPLE AND PLACES OF THE NATIVITY

### NARRATOR

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Samuel 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Then Hannah prayed and said: “My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. <sup>2</sup>There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. <sup>3</sup>Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. <sup>4</sup>The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. <sup>5</sup>Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. <sup>6</sup>The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. <sup>7</sup>The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. <sup>8</sup>He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the Lord’s; on them he has set the world. <sup>9</sup>He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. It is not by strength that one prevails; <sup>10</sup>those who oppose the Lord will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

#### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 1:39-56

<sup>39</sup>At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup>where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. <sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful <sup>55</sup>to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.” <sup>56</sup>Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*  
 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
 And with fear and trembling stand;  
 Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
 For with blessing in His hand,  
 Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
 Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
 As of old on earth He stood,  
 Lord of Lords, in human vesture,  
 In the body and the blood,  
 He will give to all the faithful  
 His own self for heavenly food.

## NAZARETH

### NARRATOR

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 7:14

<sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

### HYMN 9 (vv. 1, 3)

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
 That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice!  
 Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
 Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice!  
 Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

# BETHLEHEM

NARRATOR

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” <sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. <sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace...

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

† HYMN 44 (vv. 1, 2)

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

TIME FOR CHILDREN

## THE COUNTRYSIDE OF JUDEA

NARRATOR

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 52:6-7

<sup>6</sup>Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I.”  
<sup>7</sup>How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## HYMN 31 (vv. 1, 3)

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Andrew, Callie, Phoebe, and Penelope Johnson

One: We light this candle in Love.

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

# THE HOME OF THE MESSIAH

## NARRATOR

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Numbers 14:17-19

<sup>17</sup>“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth. <sup>18</sup>Edom will be conquered; Seir, his enemy, will be conquered, but Israel will grow strong. <sup>19</sup>A ruler will come out of Jacob and destroy the survivors of the city.”

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” <sup>7</sup>Then

Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**HYMN 66 (vv. 1, 5)**

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Pew Bible p. 980-981  
Large Print p. 1732-1733

**SERMON**

Humble Brag

**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**

**OFFERTORY**

*What Child Is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

† **HYMN 592**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
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.

OLD HUNDREDTH

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

# TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

NARRATOR

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-4

<sup>1</sup>“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. <sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip.”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

† HYMN 411

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.  
Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.  
Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

† NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 5:14-16

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

† BENEDICTION

† SENDING SONG

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

POSTLUDE

*O Holy Night*

CANTIQUÉ DE NOËL

*The flowers were given to the glory of God and in praise of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, by Steve and Julie Odle.  
Merry Christmas to our St. Andrew's Family!*

*We thank Turner Partain for sharing his gift of music with us in worship today.*

Please use the **CONNECT** 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.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed tomorrow, Christmas Day, and will close at 12:30PM on Thursday, December 28. It will be open from 8:30AM-4:30PM on December 26 and 27.

There will be **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, CHOIR PRACTICE, OR YOUTH GROUP** on December 31, New Year's Eve.

Special thanks to our readers this morning: Brian Armstrong, Lynn Burnside, and Charlotte Schwarzlose.

## St. Andrew's Prayer List

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

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY:** Family of Brad Walker, Family of Lance LaDuke, Tim Smith, 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

### CHURCH STAFF

Tara Thompson, Pastor

Thomas Furlow, Music Director

Rachel Stiles, Admin Assistant/Organist

Joyce Stillwell, Admin Assistant

Patricia Williamson, Pianist

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

1350 N. 23rd Street ✕ Beaumont, TX 77706

409.892.8611 ✕ [www.saintandy.org](http://www.saintandy.org)

### DAY SCHOOL STAFF

Tori Armstrong, Interim Co-Director

Tricia Behnken, Interim Co-Director

[dayschool@saintandy.org](mailto:dayschool@saintandy.org) ✕ 409.892.8246

**“Praise be  
to the Lord,  
the God of  
Israel,  
because  
He has  
come to His  
people and  
redeemed  
them.”**

*Luke 1:68*

