

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS:

The Gift of Hope

Luke 21:25-36



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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

† Worshipers are asked to stand in body or spirit.

December 1, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.*)

Holy One, You have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland

arr. Busoni

LIFE AT ST. ANDREW'S

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are entering the time of Advent, in preparation for Christmas.

Many: If God is to be born again in the most ordinary parts of our world and lives,

All: We need to prepare for it.

One: We need to make the space in our lives,

Many: Where love might be born.

All: Together, let us practice being ready in the faith that Christ will come.

† **HYMN 2**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

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.

† INVITATION TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus, we are told to be on guard, to be prepared for Your coming. We confess, merciful God, that too often we are lazy and do not trouble ourselves with the prayerful sabbath that is required on this Advent road. Help us to be alert at all times, to be aware of Your presence in our lives. Make us to know Your ways, O Lord; teach us Your paths and lead us in Your truth. This we pray in Your holy and merciful name.

† ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

† HYMN 579

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Missy and Chris Beach

ADVENT SONG

Light the Advent Candle

arr. Ruth E. Schram

**As we light the Advent candle with the light of hope burning bright,
Faithfully we wait for His coming; faithfully it shines through the night.
In our humble hearts, a fire burns as well;
Hear the prayer these flames would tell.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Brenda E. Austin

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, Thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 21:25-36

Pew Bible p. 905
Large Print p. 1604

SERMON

The Gift of Hope

† HYMN INSERT

There's Something About That Name

THAT NAME

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!
There's just something about that name! Master, Savior, Jesus!
Like the fragrance after the rain. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!
Let all heaven and earth proclaim: Kings and kingdoms will all pass away,
But there's something about that name!

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (*Offering baskets are located at the chancel steps and sanctuary entrances.*)

† 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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.

† HYMN 452

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

ST. MICHAEL

O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power,
Come with Your timeless judgment now to match our present hour.

Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,
The quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.

Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,
And finely build for days to come foundations that endure.

Bring to our world of strife Your sovereign word of peace,
That war may haunt the earth no more and desolation cease.

O day of God, draw nigh as at creation's birth;
Let there be light again, and set Your judgments on the earth.

† BENEDICTION

† SENDING SONG

While We Are Waiting, Come
While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

WAITING

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

POSTLUDE

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

The chancel flowers today were given to the glory of God and
in loving memory of Alberta Ozen, by Vivian Holsopple.

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.

BOOK CLUB meets on December 5, at 1:00PM in the church parlor. Join us as we discuss our November's Family Fiction Reads!

MEN'S BREAKFAST will meet on December 6, at 7am in the parlor. Men, join us for food, fellowship, and prayer.

This year St. Andrew's **ANGEL TREES** will sponsor gifts for children through Some Other Place and for residents of Harmony Care. Wrapped gifts should be returned by December 9.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON will be December 15, following worship. Join us for chicken enchiladas, tamales, chips and dip, and fellowship. For dessert, we will decorate cookies.

Join us in making a difference by assembling **WINTER KINDNESS KITS** for the homeless following our Christmas Lunch, December 15.

The **YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be on December 15, from 5-7PM. Join us for food, games, and fellowship! Wear your most festive outfit and bring a gift to exchange (no more than \$10).

The **GOLDEN TRIANGLE HANDBELL ENSEMBLE** Winter Concert will be on December 15, at 7PM, in the sanctuary.

St. Andrew's Prayer List

MEMBERS: Lee Plunkett, Susanne Nichols, Howard Caywood, Greta Ott, Bobbie Wied, Bob Webb, Evelyn Lord, Linda Sparkman, Beth Ann Mistrot, Bob Fisher, Barbara and Dalton Abel, Kay Long

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: David Fertitta, Charlie Monaghan, Geneva Broussard, Ellen Wiemers, Jerry Linn, Madeline Johnson, David Cobble, Erika Russell, Karen Thompson Butler, Mary Kennedy, Thomas Fisher, Jack Dillard, Erin Lenhart, Janie Niederstadt Verderame

St. Andrew's Calendar

Sunday, December 1, 2024

9:15AM Sunday School
10:30AM Worship
11:45AM Choir Rehearsal
1:30PM Worship Staff Meeting
3:00PM Boy Scouts

Monday, December 2, 2024

5:00PM Day School Board
5:30PM Strings After School
6:00PM GT Square Dancers

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

10:00AM PW Coordinating
11:00AM Staff Meeting
5:30PM Strings After School
5:30PM Fellowship Team
6:30PM Christian Education

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

8:15AM Soup Kitchen
9:30AM Day School Chapel
5:30PM AA Group Meeting
5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal
6:30PM Mission & Evangelism

Thursday, December 5, 2024

8:30AM MOW Cooks
10:00AM MOW Delivers
1:00PM Book Club
6:00PM GTHE Rehearsal

Friday, December 6, 2024

7:00AM Men's Breakfast

Sunday, December 8, 2024

9:15AM Sunday School
10:30AM Worship
11:45AM Choir Rehearsal
3:00PM Boy Scouts
5:00PM Youth Group

CHURCH STAFF

Tara Thompson, Pastor
Thomas Furlow, Music Director
Gloria Pierce, Day School Director
Rachel Stiles, Organist
Joyce Stillwell, Admin Assistant
Katrina Strong, Custodian
Patricia Williamson, Pianist

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