

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS:

The Gift of Peace

Luke 3:1-18

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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

† Worshipers are asked to stand in body or spirit.

December 8, 2024

SECOND 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.*)

Merciful God, You come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with You, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into Your unimaginable peace; in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRELUDE

LIFE AT ST. ANDREW'S

† Call to Worship

based on Matthew 3:1-12

One: The reign of God is drawing near:

Many: The prophet calls us to change our lives!

One: Prepare the way for the Lord:

Many: Let us prepare a just and peaceful path!

All: Let us prepare the way for God's rule of justice and love.

† HYMN 13

Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,

And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

† INVITATION TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In Your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken Your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with Your creation or Your people. We have not trusted Your Word. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise for the One who brings Good News and for the sake of all the world.

† 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

Mike & Kathie Platt

ADVENT SONG

Light the Advent Candle

Arr. Ruth E. Schram

As we light the Advent candle with the light of peace 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

Every Valley

Arr. Victor C. Johnson

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low;
The crooked made straight and the rough places plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together.

Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb; And the leopard will lie down with the goat.
The calf and the lion will live together. And a little child will lead them, And this child will be peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:1-18

Pew Bible p. 881-882
Large Print p. 1562-1563

SERMON

The Gift of Peace

† HYMN 409

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

ABERYSTWYTH

Wild and lone the prophet's voice echoes through the desert still,
Calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's control."

"Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth, and love.

Trust no other claims than those; set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power, burning clean the threshing floor:
Then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God's store."

With such preaching stark and bold John proclaimed salvation near,
And his timeless warnings hold Words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on, led by faith through ways untrod,
Till we come at last like John to behold the Lamb of God.

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 386

O for a World

AZMON

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise,
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

† BENEDICTION

† SENDING SONG

While We Are Waiting, Come

CASON

While we are waiting, come; While we are waiting, come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.

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

POSTLUDE

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

by David Thorne

We thank Martha Giarratano for sharing her gift of music with us in worship.

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

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.

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.

The **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** is December 15, following worship. Join us for chicken enchilada soup, tamales, chips and dip, and fellowship. For dessert, we will decorate cookies.

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

The **YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY** is 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.

We will collect the **CHRISTMAS JOY** special offering on Sunday, December 22. This offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need, and also goes to developing future leaders of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

St. Andrew's Prayer List

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

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: David Nelson, Kenna Gordon, Jacob Walton, Charlie Monaghan, David Fertitta, 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 8, 2024

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

Monday, December 9, 2024

12:00PM Rainbow Room
5:30PM Strings After School
6:00PM GT Square Dancers

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

5:30PM Finance and Property
5:30PM Strings After School
6:00PM GTHE Rehearsal
6:30PM Session

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

9:30AM Day School Chapel
5:30PM AA Group
6:30PM Worship Team

Thursday, December 12, 2024

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

Saturday, December 14, 2024

8:30AM SETX Food Bank

Sunday, December 15, 2024

9:15AM Sunday School
10:30AM Worship
11:30AM Christmas Luncheon
12:00PM Choir Rehearsal
12:00PM Deacons' Meeting
3:00PM Boy Scouts
5:00PM Youth Christmas Party
7:00PM GTHE Concert

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
1350 N. 23rd Street ✉ Beaumont, TX 77706
409.892.8611 ✉ www.saintandy.org