

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS:

The Gift of Love

Luke 1:39-55

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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

† Worshipers are asked to stand in body or spirit.

December 22, 2024

Fourth 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.*)

Make this the place and time, good Lord, when heaven and earth become one, and we in word and flesh know ourselves beloved. Amen.

PRELUDE

Noel

by Chris Tomlin

LIFE AT ST. ANDREW'S

† **Call to Worship**

One: All creation holds its breath.

Many: The time is almost here.

One: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

Many: Excitement is all around us.

One: Prepare your hearts as the grace of God takes on human form.

Many: Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

All: We gather to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.

† **HYMN INSERT**

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; Hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!

Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of His mother; What is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love!

Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love!

Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

† **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mighty God, when our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness, forgive us. When we ignore the mighty things You have done and when we doubt Your mercy, forgive us. When we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts, when our power rests on the oppression of others, when our wealth causes others to go hungry, forgive us, God. Help us, Your servants, according to the promises You have made, to live as heirs of love.

† 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

Paige and Penelope Neyland

ADVENT SONG

Light the Advent Candle

arr. Ruth E. Schram

As we light the Advent candle with the light of love 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

The Coming of the Lord

by Pepper Choplin

Lift up your heads, O gates, and make the highway straight,
Prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord.
Your waiting soon will end, God's glory will descend.
Rise up and welcome in the coming of the Lord.

Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord!
The ancient words foretell. God with us, He will dwell,
Christ, our Emmanuel, and all will see the glory of the Lord!

Your waiting soon will end, God's glory will descend,
Rise up and welcome in the coming of the Lord.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.
Prepare the way, O come, prepare the way of the Lord,
And then the deaf will hear, the blind will see Him clear,
The mute will find their voice, the lame will leap for joy,
Prepare the way of the coming of the Lord!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

Pew Bible p. 879
Large Print p. 1558-1559

SERMON

The Gift of Love

† HYMN 14

Savior of the Nations Come

HEILAND

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

From the Godhead forth You came, and return unto the same,
Captive leading death and hell. High the song of triumph swell.

You, the chosen Holy One, have o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall Your Kingdom be; when shall we its glories see?

Brightly does Your manger shine, glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'er-cloud this light; ever be our faith thus bright.

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 309

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

O ye heights of heaven adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

† 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

What Star Is This

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

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 **CHRISTMAS JOY** special offering TODAY. 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.

The church office will **CLOSE** at 12:30PM on December 24 and be **CLOSED** on Wednesday, December 25.

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

Join us this Sunday, December 29, 2024 for a **WORSHIP SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS** adapted from "To Us a Child Is Born: A Service of Scripture, Song, and Symbol" by John D. Paarlberg.

On Sunday, January 5, 2025, we will **ORDAIN AND INSTALL** the new deacons, elders, and church officers.

St. Andrew's Prayer List

MEMBERS: Sandra LaBorde, Family of Evelyn Lord, Greta Ott, Kay Long, Susanne Nichols, Linda Sparkman, Beth Ann Mistrot, Bob Fisher, Barbara and Dalton Abel

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Betty Spurlock, Jacob Walton, Family of Jerry Linn, Don Linn, Family of David Nelson, Ellen Wiemers, Charlie Monaghan, David Fertitta, Geneva Broussard, 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 22, 2024

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

Monday, December 23, 2024

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

12:30PM Office Closed
6:30PM Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

5:30PM AA Group

Thursday, December 26, 2024

8:30AM MOW Cooks
10:00AM MOW Delivers

Friday, December 27, 2024

Saturday, December 28, 2024

Sunday, December 29, 2024

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

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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