

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Lessons and Carols

adapted from *"To Us a Child Is Born: A Service of Scripture, Song, and Symbol"* by John D. Paarlberg

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 29, 2024

10:30AM

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

On this day, Gracious Lord, You come to us as Word, as light, as flesh. Teach us to know You so well that our lives may befriend this world You have made, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

Pastorale

C. WESLEY

LIFE AT ST. ANDREW'S

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Galatians 4:4-7

One: The time of our salvation is drawing near.

Many: The day of our redemption is at hand.

One: When the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son.

Many: He was born of a woman born under the law,

One: In order to redeem those under the law,

Many: So that we might be adopted as God's children.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

† **HYMN 49**

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Once in royal David's city, Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby, In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on, To the place where He is gone.

INTRODUCTION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Cameron, Mason, and Kyleigh Montgomery

ADVENT SONG

Light the Advent Candle

Arr. Ruth E. Schram

**As we light the Advent candles with the light of Christ 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.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

LESSON 1

Genesis 3:8-15

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

SYMBOL

Thorns

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.

LESSON 2

Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

SYMBOL

Sand

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!"

LESSON 3

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder ⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

SYMBOL

Yoke

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Holy Night

CANTIQUE DE NOËL

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our Friend!
He knows our need—to our weakness is no stranger. Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother And in His Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His holy Name!
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

LESSON 4

Isaiah 11:1-9

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord— ³and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. ⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. ⁹They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

SYMBOL

Branch

† 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!

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

LESSON 5

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail." ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

SYMBOL

Angel

HYMN 23 vv. 1,3

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

LESSON 6

Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So 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. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and 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.

SYMBOL

Cloth

HYMN 44 vv. 1,4

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, Thy great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

LESSON 7

Luke 2:8-16

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

SYMBOL

Lamb

† HYMN 22 vv. 1,2,4

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light;
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King

All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising, To the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King

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.

LESSON 8

Matthew 2:1-11

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and 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." ³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When 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. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶"'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.'" ⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He 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." ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On 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.

SYMBOL

Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

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 of 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 of royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Offering baskets are located at the chancel steps.)

† 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

LESSON 9

John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

SYMBOL

The Christ Candle

† HYMN 40 vv. 1,3,4

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King:
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow, Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

† BENEDICTION

† SENDING SONG

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

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!

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

POSTLUDE

Menuet from "Rodelinda"

G.F. HANDEL

The flowers today were given to the glory of God and
in honor of our 53rd wedding anniversary by Linda and Terry Sparkman.

We thank Martha Giarratano, Valera Messer, Dorothy Moorefield, Lauren Sanchez,
Jillian Sanchez, and Alyssa Millner for sharing their gifts of music with us in worship today.

We also want to thank our readers for this morning's service of lessons and carols:
Paige Neyland, Bruce Partain, Lauren Pember, and Charlotte Schwarzlose.

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 close at 12:30PM on Tuesday, December 31 and will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

BOOK CLUB will meet on Thursday, January 2, at 1:30PM in the parlor. Join us as we discuss December's Christmas cheer reads.

Men, you are invited to our **FIRST FRIDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST** on Friday, January 3, at 7:00AM! Enjoy some food, prayer, and a short devotion.

St. Andrew's Prayer List

MEMBERS: Karen Spivey, Sandra LaBorde, Family of Evelyn Lord, 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, 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

CHURCH STAFF

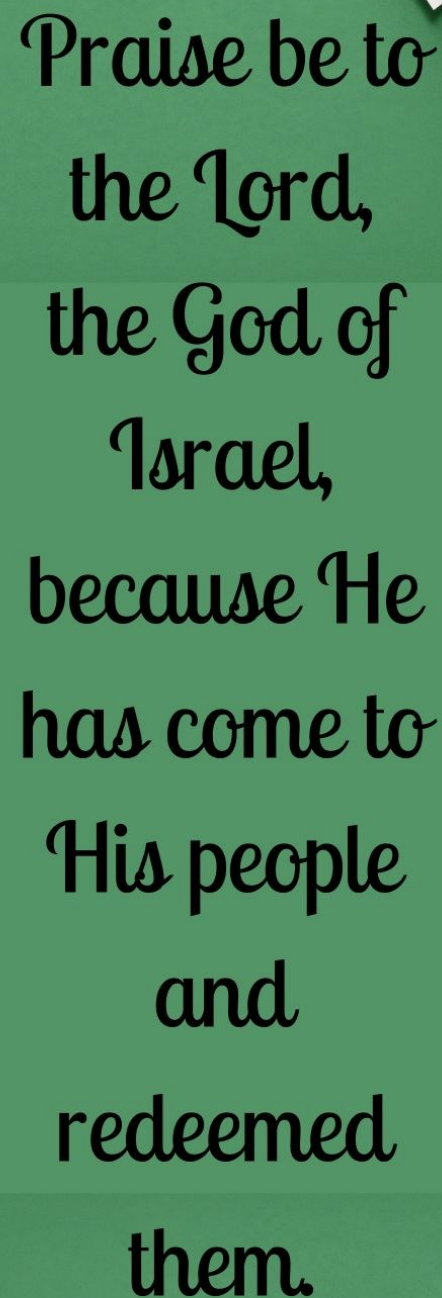
Tara Thompson, Pastor
Thomas Furlow, Music Director
Rachel Stiles, Organist
Joyce Stillwell, Admin Assistant
Patricia Williamson, Pianist

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30AM - 4:30PM
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DAY SCHOOL STAFF

Gloria Pierce, Director

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

Luke 1:68