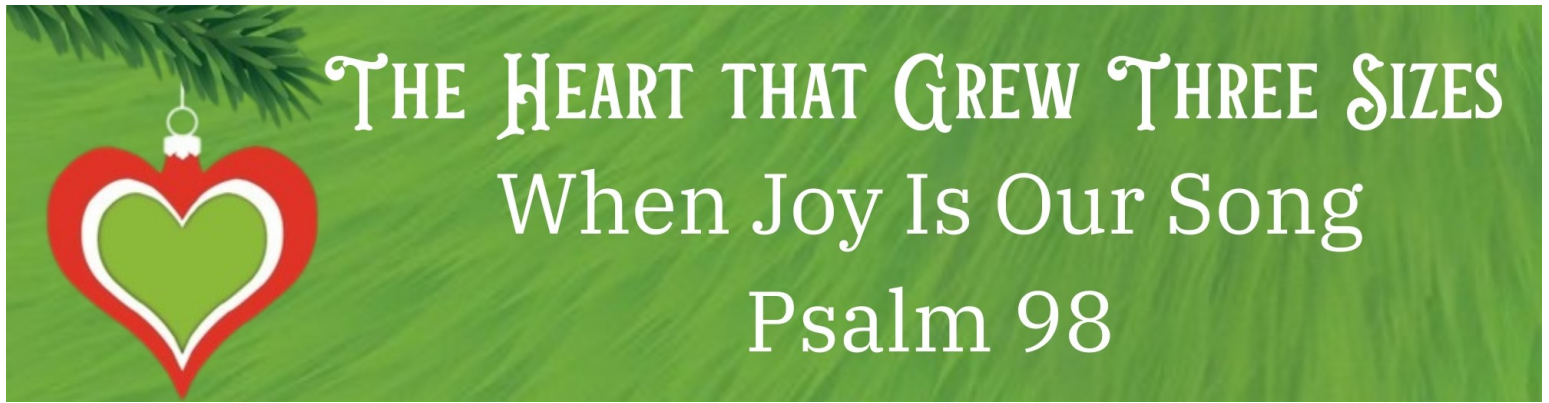


ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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

† Worshipers are asked to stand in body or spirit.

December 21, 2025

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.*)

Christ, our Redeemer, we wait in hope for Your coming. May we always be prepared, attentive to the needs of others, and eager to answer Your call. Amen.

PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

GENEVAN 42

LIFE AT ST. ANDREW'S

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Psalm 146

Joy comes to those who hope in God.

Many: For the Lord is a keeper of promises.

One: Our God is a God of healing, help, and hope!

Many: Our God will keep faith with all generations.

All: Let us praise the Lord both now and forevermore!

† **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

God of Promise, we often place our trust in what we can see, touch, and easily believe. But You did not ask us to believe what is easy; You have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us when we doubt the ways You work. Forgive us when we struggle to believe an ancient story. Forgive our lack of faith and unbelief. Help us to look in faith upon Your Son, who has come to set us all free.

† 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

Kenneth, Ellen, Sullivan and Mirabelle Wiemers

ADVENT SONG

With Empty Hearts, We Wait

Frombach and Dengler

With empty hearts the world awaits the Promised One from heav'n above. O come! O come!
The One who floods our empty hearts with endless peace and lasting love. O come! O come!

**Come, O come, Immanuel into this broken world.
Come free us as God once did, His captive people, Israel.
For we are captive to our sins and long to be set free.
Come, O come, Immanuel. Live in our hearts eternally.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children are invited to meet at the courtyard doors for Children's Church in Room 304.

ANTHEM

Go Tell It, Children!

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Children go where I send thee, How will I send thee, I'm gonna send you one by one
One for the little bitty baby, Born, born, born in Bethlehem,
Yes, He was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem

When I was a seeker I sought both night and day. I asked the Lord to help me
And He showed me the way. He said, children, (Refrain x2)
Yes, Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem, Born in Bethlehem.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 98

Pew Bible p. 515
Large Print p. 875-876

SERMON

When Joy Is Our Song

O splendor of God's glory bright, From light eternal bringing light;
Thou light of life, light's living spring, True day, all days illumining:

Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love, Shower down Thy radiance from above,
And to our inward hearts convey, The Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.

O joyful be the passing day, With thoughts as clear as morning's ray,
With faith like noontide shining bright, Our souls unshadowed by the night.

O Lord, with each returning morn, Thine image to our hearts is born;
O may we ever clearly see, Our Savior and our God in Thee!

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

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

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 INSERT

Jesus, Light of Joy

LAUDA ANIMA

Jesus, light of joy, surround us; let Your splendid glory shine; source of every earthly blessing,
Heaven's everlasting sign. Alleluia, alleluia, we adore You, light divine.

Now the shadows fall around us; now the evening has begun: still Your gracious light is with us,
Brighter than the morning sun. Alleluia, alleluia, God of glory, Three in One.

With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might. All creation shines with glory,
Singing praises day and night: alleluia, alleluia, holy, holy, holy light.

† BENEDICTION

† SENDING SONG

Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR 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.

POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

GOD REST YOU MERRY

The chancel flowers today were given to the glory of God
and in memory of Nelson Jones by Barbara and Mike Warren.

The red rose on the communion table today was given to the glory of God and
in celebration of the birth of Preston Boone Johnson on December 12 to Callie and Andrew Johnson.

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 0-4. Children's activity bulletins and **LARGE PRINT** bulletins, Bibles, and hymnals are available on the sanctuary tables.

We **THANK THE CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH AND DAY SCHOOL** for leading the Anthem in worship today.

We will collect the **CHRISTMAS JOY** special offering TODAY. This offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in 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 Thursday, December 25.

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

Join us this Sunday, December 28, 2025 for a **WORSHIP SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS** adapted from "The Whole Story of Christmas" by Betsy Arkema.

On Sunday, January 4, 2026, we will **ORDAIN AND INSTALL** the new deacons, elders, and commission church officers.

St. Andrew's Prayer List

MEMBERS: Karen Spivey, John Pember, Pat Richard, Suzy Buehrle, Bobbie Weid, Bob Fisher, Barbara & Dalton Abel

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Jeanette Trest, Elizabeth Bickford, Suzanne Knox, Bruce Williams, Jean & Ron Williamson, Quinn Long, David Fertitta, George Busceme, Charlie & Judy Monaghan, Haywood Walker, Pamela Humphrey, Janet Dexter, Alison Berry Low, Tenisha Humphrey, Jacob Walton, Madeline Johnson, Erika Russelll, Mary Kennedy, Jack Dillard, Erin Lenhart, Janie N. Verderame

St. Andrew's Calendar

Sunday, December 21, 2025

9:15AM Sunday School
10:30AM Worship
11:45AM Choir Rehearsal
12:00PM Deacons Meeting
3:00PM Choir Rehearsal
3:00PM Boy Scouts

Monday, December 22, 2025

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

5:00PM Choir Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

8:30AM MOW Cooks
10:00AM MOW Delivers
12:30PM OFFICE CLOSING
5:00PM Final Choir Rehearsal
5:30PM AA Group Meeting
6:30PM Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25, 2025

OFFICE CLOSED
5:30PM AA Group Meeting

Friday, December 26, 2025

OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, December 28, 2025

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

CHURCH STAFF

Tara Thompson, Pastor
Thomas Furlow, Music Director
Tori Armstrong Day School Director
Rachel Stiles, Organist
Joyce Stillwell, Admin Assistant
Katrina Strong, Custodian
Patricia Williamson, Accompanist

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