

# 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.

**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 28, 2025

10:30AM

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

By the breath of Your Spirit, inspire us, that in the hearing of Your Word we may be filled with new understanding and fresh desire to please You in all we do, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

**PRELUDE**

**LIFE AT ST. ANDREW'S**

**NARRATOR**

**HYMN**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation! Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!

NARRATOR

LESSON 1

Genesis 1:1, 26-28

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” <sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

HYMN

*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!

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!

NARRATOR

LESSON 2

Genesis 3:14-19

<sup>14</sup> So 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. <sup>15</sup> And 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.’ <sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, ‘I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.’ <sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ ‘Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.’”

NARRATOR

## LESSON 3

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 7:14

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>Of 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.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

## HYMN

*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, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer,  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

## NARRATOR

## LESSON 4

Isaiah 11:1-3a

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> The 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—<sup>3</sup> and 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.

## LESSON 5

Galatians 4:4-5a

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

## NARRATOR

## LESSON 6

Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have

found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus, <sup>32</sup> He 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, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." <sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The 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. <sup>36</sup> Even 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. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail." <sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

## NARRATOR

### HYMN

#### *Silent Night, Holy Night*

#### STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

## LESSON 7

### Luke 2:15-19

<sup>15</sup> When 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."

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

## MARY MONOLOGUE

### SPECIAL MUSIC

#### *Breath of Heaven: Mary's Song*

arr. Michael Barrett

I have traveled many moonless nights. Cold and weary with a Babe inside,  
And I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, You have come  
And chosen me now to carry Your Son.

I am waiting in a silent prayer. I am frightened by the load I bear.  
In a world as cold as stone, Must I walk this path alone? Be with me now; be with me now.

Breath of Heaven, hold me together. Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven;  
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness.  
Pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy, Breath of Heaven.

Do You wonder as You watch my face, If a wiser one should have had my place?  
But I offer all I am, for the mercy of Your plan. Help me be strong, Help me be; help me.

**NARRATOR**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Wrap This One Up*

Christy Nockels

Oh, the call of a shepherd in a field nearby,  
To tend and to carry his flocks by night.  
They were not ordinary sheep; they were set apart,  
Born to be Passover lambs.

And when a spotless male was born, He was held on the manger floor.  
Swaddled up just to keep Him calm until His time, and the shepherd sang:  
Wrap this one up. He is a lamb without blemish.  
Wrap this one up. He'll make His way to the temple.  
Born for sacrifice, He'll join the others and pay the price.  
Wrap this one up. Wrap this one up.

Oh, the call of a mother in a town nearby,  
To tend and to carry on this holy night.  
Not an ordinary Child, but the Son of God,  
Breathed by the Holy Spirit.

And when the Baby King was born, He was held on the manger floor.  
As she swaddled Him up, she knew His time would come as she sang:  
Wrap this one up. He is the One that we adore.  
Wrap this one up. He'll wear the crown forevermore.  
He's come for you and me. He'll finally set us free.  
Wrap this one up. Wrap this one up. He's the One.

Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Sing Gloria! In excelsis Deo!  
Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Sing Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

Oh, the call of a Savior on a hill nearby.  
All alone, He would carry the weight of all mankind.  
Becoming the curse for us, He gave His life,  
For He knew that His time had come.

Wrap this one up. He is the lamb without blemish.  
Wrap this one up. He paid the price, and it is finished.  
That death would have no sting, He rose in victory!  
Oh, hallelujah to the King!

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

† 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

LESSON 8

John 19:28-30

<sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. <sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

NARRATOR

† HYMN

*God Rest You Merry, Gentleman*

GOD REST YOU MERRY

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day;  
To save us all from Satan’s power when we were gone astray.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father, A blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born, The Son of God by name.

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “Let nothing you affright,  
This day is born a Savior of a pure Virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan’s power and might.”

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood, Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas, All others doth deface.

## PASTORAL REFLECTION

## PASTORAL PRAYER

† HYMN

*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

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.

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The flowers today were given to the glory of God  
and in appreciation for the Pew Sisters by Becky Ford.

We thank Lauren Sanchez for sharing her gift of music with us in worship today.

We thank our readers for this morning's service of lessons and carols:

Narrator: Charlotte Schwarzlose

Mary Monologue: Haley Schwarzlose

Lesson 1: Mark Champion

Lesson 2: Katie Hodges

Lesson 3: Zoe Odle

Lessons 4 & 5: Mike Dove

Lesson 6: Lauren Pember

Lesson 7: Maryann Sweeney

Lesson 8: Bruce Partain

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.

The **CHURCH OFFICE** will close at 12:30PM on Wednesday, December 31 and will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2026.

**BOOK CLUB** will not meet in January. They will resume on February 5 at 1PM in the church parlor.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** will meet in the parlor on January 9 at 7AM for food, fellowship, and a short devotional.

### **St. Andrew's Prayer List**

**MEMBERS:** Elizabeth Petit, John Pember, Ron Everett, Bob Fisher, James Wright, Pat Richard, Bobbie Weid, Suzy Buehrle, Barbara & Dalton Abel

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY:** Jean & Ron Williamson, Bruce Williams, David Fertitta, George Busceme, Charlie & Judy Monaghan, Pat Davenport, Pamela Humphrey, Haywood Walker, Janet Dexter, Alison Berry Low, Tenisha Humphrey, Jacob Walton, Madeline Johnson, Erika Russell, Mary Kennedy, Jack Dillard, Erin Lenhart, Janie N. Verderame

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Tara Thompson, Pastor

Thomas Furlow, Music 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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### **DAY SCHOOL STAFF**

Tori Armstrong, 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**