

## Bell Carol

Ding dong! Ding dong! Ding dong! Ding dong!  
Sing we Noel, glad tidings tell.  
Be of good cheer, Christmas is here.  
Loudly we're singing, church bells are ringing,  
children are singing "Christmas is here!"  
Trumpets are sounding, glad earth resounding,  
nature is shouting "Christmas is here!"  
Dark has gone away, night has turned to day.  
Peace has come to earth from a little Baby's birth!

Gloria, gloria! Peace has come from a little Baby, humble, royal birth! Ding dong!  
Star shining bright, gone is the night, hope has appeared, Christmas is here!  
Prophets foretold, shepherds behold, myst'ry now clear, Christmas is here!  
Ding dong! Ding dong! Dark has gone away, night has turned to day.  
Loudly we're singing, church bells are ringing,  
children are singing "Christmas is here!"  
Trumpets are sounding, glad earth resounding,  
nature is shouting "Christmas is here!"  
Merry Christmas, merry Christmas! Sing we Noel, glad tidings tell.  
Be of good cheer, Christmas is here!  
Dark has gone away, night has turned to day.  
Peace has come to earth from a little Baby's birth, little Baby's birth!  
Sing we Noel, Ding dong ding!



## Joy to the World

**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.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!**  
**Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and**  
**plains**  
**repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,**  
**repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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.**



## ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
4th Sunday of Advent  
*Musical Gifts of Christmas*  
December 20, 2020 10:30 am

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

WE AWAIT YOUR COMING  
CHRISTINE SINE

Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,  
We wait filled with hope, knowing your light will shine in the darkness.  
We wait anticipating your peace, believing that one day it will fill our world.  
We wait with joy, bubbling us in expectation of your birth.  
*We wait embracing your love, may we reach out to share it with our neighbors.*  
Lord, we wait, come soon and fill us with your life.

PRELUDE

CHRISTMAS RHAPSODY

SCHAUM

LIFE AT ST. ANDREW'S

ADVENT WREATH

THE CANDLE OF LOVE  
Jennifer & Luke Nichols  
Isaac, James and Allison

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Host of Hosts, from sunrise to sunrise,  
and generation to generation, we are your people.  
**You have been with us wherever we have gone.**  
**You will be with us wherever we may go.**  
You planted us in a land flowing with milk and honey,  
then you planted our salvation in Mary's womb.  
**Jesus, who is the Christ, is planted firmly in each one of us.**  
Our souls magnify the Holy One.  
**Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

LUKE 2:13-20

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,*

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

CAROL

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

CONGREGATION

*Please join in  
reading aloud  
those parts of  
the service  
printed in **bold**.*

*See insert for  
all words to  
music.*

Please join in reading aloud those parts of the service printed in bold.

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO CONFESSION

PIE JESU

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

Merciful Jesus, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them peace, everlasting peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**It's getting harder and harder to focus on the true meaning of Christmas, the incarnation of God's love in the birth of God's Son Jesus Christ. We are caught in the web of festivities, travel, gifts, and glitter. And we have to admit that we really do enjoy all the holiday opportunities. But as we get closer to the big family celebrations and the actual celebration of Christmas, we begin to wonder how we are going to "survive" it all. We say to ourselves, "We won't let all this stress happen to us next year." But we know better. We allow ourselves to be continually drawn into the demands of others, leaving little or no time for ourselves, our families, and especially for You, gracious God. Forgive us. You are all too familiar with our reasons and excuses for what is happening. Help us to make some changes in our lives and our focus, so that this time of celebration may have the deepest sense of joy and purpose, not just be the rush and clamor of yet another holiday season that disappears all too quickly. Keep us focused on the eternal "yes" response to Your call to us, to live our lives as those who would joyfully serve You. Heal and comfort us, Lord, this day and always. For we ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior.**

*(Silence for personal confession)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

OLD & NEW TESTAMENT READING

LAMENTATIONS 3:24

ROMANS 15:4, 8:24

*"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.*

*For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?*

SONG

BRING US HOPE

RUTH SCHRAM

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD & NEW TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 7:14

MATTHEW 1:18-23

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.*

*Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:*

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."*



*Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

**Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?**

**Refrain**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

**Refrain**

*Bring Us Hope*

Bring us hope, bring us love; bring us peace from above.

Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above.

Bring us hope, bring us hope.

Bring us light, take our darkness away.

Bring us light, turn our night into day.

Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above.

Bring us hope, bring us hope. Hope to replace our hopelessness,

love to refill our emptiness, our emptiness,

peace in the midst of our distress; oh, how we need Your joy!

Bring us hope, bring us love; bring us peace from above.

Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above.

Bring us hope, bring us hope, bring us hope!



See insert for all words to music.



*O Come, O Come 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 Day-spring come and cheer, Thy people with 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

O come thou rod of Jesse free, Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of hell Thy people save, And give them victory o'er the grave

Rejoice Rejoice Emmanuel, Shall come to thee O Israel

Rejoice Rejoice Emmanuel, Shall come to thee O Israel

THOSE LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY:  
**SOUND** MARK CHAMPION  
**LITURGIST** SHELLEY PLUNKETT  
**PASTOR** REV. JOHN ALEXANDER

**LIVE STREAM** JOHN BUEHRLE  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR** LEVI DUNCAN  
**ORGANIST & SOLOIST** THOMAS FURLOW

**ST. ANDREW'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

SARAH SCOTT ALYSSA MILLNER ZOEY HENDERSON  
 AUSTIN DYKES MICHELLE WHITE ERIC GONZALES  
 ALEX MUSGROVE HERIBERTO SANCHEZ

**ST. ANDREW'S CHRISTMAS MUSICIANS**

MARTHA GIARRATANO, CELLIST  
 PAULA NICHOLS, PIANIST

**JOY OFFERING:** This offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. Please give this season as God leads.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** will be a Family Candlelight Service. It will be held this Thursday, December 24, at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary. We hope you will join us for this joyful event (COVID guidelines will be followed).

**CONTRIBUTIONS** for 2020 need to be turned in or postmarked by December 31, 2020 in order to be counted for the 2020 year. Anything that comes in after this time will go towards the 2021 year. Thank you again for your generous and faithful giving to the Kingdom of God.

**SESSION MEMBERS** are praying for you and the church.

**OFFICE CLOSURES:** The church office will close at 12:00 pm on Thursday, December 24 and will re-open on Tuesday, December 29. It will close again at 12:00 pm on Thursday, December 31 and will re-open on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

**THANKS** to each of you for following our safety guidelines below. All Glory to God!

- Masks are required on entering, exiting, and moving about in the sanctuary. When seated, masks are optional.
- The congregation is to remain seated during the service even during the singing.
- All songs are printed in the bulletin. A music score is available upon request.
- Passing of the Peace: stand or sit in place and wave SILENTLY, yet ENTHUSIASTICALLY!
- Instructions will be given for the Offering at the appropriate time.

**HOSPITAL TODAY EMAIL** is now being handled by Martha Giarratano. She can be reached at (409) 347-0940 between 8 am and 9:30 am. If she does not answer, please leave a message and she will get back to you as soon as she can.

**PRAISES & PRAYER LIST**

**Members:** Family of Dorothy Schwarzlose, Family of Bea Peters, Ruth Jurik, Kay Sutton, Family of Eloise Evans, Bill Roe, Ralph Lunsford, Wallace Bryan, Bill McClrath, Bob Fisher, Baby JD Dillard, Rev. Wayne Rhodes, Mac'kia & Katrina, Mary Collier, Elmer Long, Dean Lovejoy, Gary Sitton, Thomas Fisher and Bryan Rao.

**Friends and Family:** Bill Taylor, Family of Austin Evans, Family of Diane Goetschius, Family of Shirley Spears, Family of Pat Bell, Barbara Hornbuckle, Tiffany, Newt Cole, Mary Jane Buttrel, Family of Zach Ross, Glenn Helderbran, Mary Weitzel, Lucie K., Shauntaryle & Zach, Erin Lenhart, Mary Kennedy, Eric, Diane P., Billie & Brett Taylor, Katie B., Jean & Ron Williamson, Courtney Glover, Weston Sitton, Gary Graham, Janie Verderame, Rachel Lawrence, Eric Booker, Evan Johnson, Jill Botkin, Phil Storms, Shawn Kennedy & Lorry, Bill McKeon, Cheryl Bryan, Jennifer Patton, Cindy Woodland, Bob Janecek and Canyon Cassidy.

**St. Andrew's Calendar**

**Sunday, December 20, 2020**  
 10:30 AM Worship  
 "Musical Gifts of Christmas"  
 Rev. John Alexander

**Monday, December 21, 2020**  
 6:15 PM There's A Solution/AA  
 6:30 PM La Hacienda Alumni

**Tuesday, December 22, 2020**  
 9:30 AM Staff Mtg  
**Thursday, December 24, 2020**  
 12:00 PM OFFICE CLOSES  
 5:30 PM Family Candlelight Service  
 Julie Odle, CRE

**Friday, December 25, 2020**  
 ~ OFFICE CLOSED: MERRY CHRISTMAS ~  
 6:15 PM There's A Solution/AA  
**Sunday, December 27, 2020**  
 10:30 AM Worship  
 Rev. Margaret Desmond

**ST. ANDREW'S  
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 1350 N. 23RD STREET • BEAUMONT, TX 77706  
 PH: (409) 892-8611  
 OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY, 9AM TO 2PM

**Pastoral Associate**.....Julie Odle, CRE  
**Day School Director**.....Deanna Weitzel  
**Office Administrator**.....Melissa Hoyt

**Director of Music Ministry**.....Levi Duncan  
**Organist/Pianist**.....Thomas Furlow

*See insert for  
 all words to  
 music.*

*Please join in  
 reading aloud  
 those parts of  
 the service  
 printed in **bold**.*

CAROL O COME, O COME EMMANUEL SELAH  
 SCRIPTURE READING ROMANS 8:38-39  
 The Word of God, for the people of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE *God's Christmas Embrace* REV. JOHN ALEXANDER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OLD & NEW TESTAMENT READING ISAIAH 9:6-7  
 LUKE 2:14

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

SONG BELL CAROL HEATHER SORENSON

CALL TO COMMITMENT AND OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING PSALM 98:4-9

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.*

CAROL JOY TO THE WORLD CONGREGATION

THE CHARGE AND THE BLESSING

BENEDICTION HYMN *Love Has Come*

**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!**

POSTLUDE FANFARE LEMMENS

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** were given today to the Glory of God and in memory of Nelson Jones by Barbara & Michael Warren.

**WELCOME!** God's house is a house of hospitality where all are welcome and visitors are a blessing from the Lord. Please return often. We are a church that ministers to the world in many ways, calling all to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, and freely sharing his love and forgiveness. We pray for the life and needs of all visitors. We hope you can be with us on Christmas Eve!