

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve
December 24th, 2023
11:00 PM



Welcome

We are glad that you are worshipping with us this Christmas Eve.
No matter where you have been or where you are going, you are welcome here.
If you seek communion with God and with neighbor, you will find it in this house.
We invite you to participate with our congregation in worship, study, and service,
as we seek to be faithful followers of Jesus. Please join us on the journey of faith.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is for those who love Jesus, and want to love him more, and who come in faith, repentance and love. All are invited to the Lord's Table to receive Communion, which is served by intinction. Proceed via the center aisle to receive the bread (gluten-free bread and individual cups of juice are available at the center station), which you then may dip into the chalice of nonalcoholic grape juice. Return to your seat by the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, we will come to you in your seat.

Candle Lighting: During Silent Night ushers will bring the flame from the Christ Candle to worshippers in the pews. Lit candles should always be held upright; allow the person seated beside you to light his/her candle, passing the light down the row. Please extinguish candles following the benediction, and place them in the boxes at the doors when you leave.

Prelude for Christmas Eve

The Christmas Story in Historic Carols set by American Composers

Veni, Veni Emmanuel

12th century Plainchant

Noël Goemanne

(1926-2010)

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

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Wachet Auf ~ 16th century German chorale

Paul Manz

(1919-2009)

“Sleepers wake!” a voice astounds us, ~
The shout of rampart guards surrounds us: “Awake, Jerusalem arise!”
Midnight’s peace their cry has broken; Their urgent summons clearly spoken:
“The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up and give us light; The Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding feast may share.

Il Est Né Le Divin Enfant

Traditional French Carol

Noël Goemanne

He is born, the divine Christ-Child; Send forth the oboes with pipes replying
He is born, the divine Christ-Child, Sing we praise to the infant mild.

What Child Is This?

16th century English melody

Searle Wright

(1918-2004)

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angel sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe the son of Mary.

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

18th century English carol

Noël Goemanne

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from woe and sin when we were gone astray. O, tidings of comfort and joy.

Lo, How a Rose e’er Blooming

Es ist ein’ Ros’ ~ 14th century German carol

Jean Pasquet

(1896-1977)

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung
Of Jesse’s lineage, coming as men of old have sung.
It came a floweret bright amid the cold of winter when half spent was the night
Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind.
With Mary, we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God’s love aright she bore to us a Savior when half spent was the night.

Gathering in God's Name

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

† When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit, as able.

INTROIT

Hodie Christus Natus Est

12th century Plainchant

David Lukens ~ Cantor

Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Salvator apparuit. Today Christ is born. Today our Savior has appeared.

Hodie in terra canunt Angeli laetantur Archangeli. Today angels sing on earth and archangels sing in heaven.

Hodie exsultant justi decentes, Gloria in excelsis Deo. Today we rejoice to sing: Glory to God in the highest.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

There is room for you here. If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.

If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.

If you're new to this place, or have been here before.

Come in, come in. There is room for you here.

The angels are singing,

"Be not afraid."

The angels are singing,

"Good news and great joy!"

So come in, come in!

There is room for us here.

†PROCESSIONAL CAROL 133

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!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Very God, begotten, not created! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Loving Christ, Scripture tells us that you were born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. There was no room in the inn for a woman in need, no room in the inn for an innocent baby. Forgive us. We should have learned our lesson by now, but just as others turned their backs on you, we continue to turn our backs on one another. Teach us how to make room for one another. Teach us how to make room for you. Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love, for we do not want to build hostility here. We want to build your promised day. Guide us forward. With hope and honesty we pray,

(a time of quiet personal confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, the angels say, "Be not afraid," but they also say, "Unto you a child is born." Christ is born for you. Christ walked this earth for you. Christ forgives you. That's what love does. It makes room. It offers grace. It learns your name. So repeat these words of hope after me:

Unto us a child is born.

Unto us a child is born.

Unto us grace is given.

Unto us grace is given.

May this good news change the very fabric of our lives.

Christ has made room for all of us. Amen.

†JOYFUL RESPONSE

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

IN DULCE JUBILO

Come Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!

Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!

He hath opened heaven's door and we are blessed forevermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Hearing and Responding to God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

MUSICAL OFFERING

Sing We Now Christmas

NOEL NOUVELET

Based on the late 15th century French carol Arranged by Mark Hayes

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

SERMON

We Make Room

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

†**CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 113**

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!

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

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!

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Offertory

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Kjersti Lukens, Soprano

†**Sung Response**

LAST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

Giving Thanks to God: Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Communion of the People

Communion Music

Still, Still, Still
Chancel Choir

Austrian Carol
Arranged by Norman Luboff

Prayer after Communion

We Share the Light of Christ

ENTRANCE OF THE CHRIST CANDLE John 1:1-14

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 122 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!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"

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!

Silent night, Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King:
"Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born."

†**CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 134** 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.

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.

†**BENEDICTION IN WORD**

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC Toccata on 'Angels We Have Heard on High'

Michael Helman

Wishing you a truly blessed Christmas, and God's joy and peace in the new year.

You are welcome at St. Andrews. We have Sunday school for all ages and nursery care for babies and preschoolers Sundays at 9:00 AM. Worship is every week at 10:00 AM.

This evening's Christmas offering will be donated to the Calvin Center in Hampton, Georgia. For 60+ years Calvin Center, originally named Camp Calvin, has been a place where kids have come for the adventure of summer camp and horseback riding, while others have come to retreat and find rest and renewal surrounded by nature on the beautiful campus. Over the years St. Andrews youth have participated in service days and mission retreats here, while our adults have enjoyed numerous music and Presbyterian Women retreats as well. Of special note, SAPC member Paul Burns is currently the Facilities Director who lovingly tends to the 536-acre campus. Calvin Center offers a welcoming sanctuary for re-creation and Christian nurture.

Part of the liturgy for this evening's service is by Rev. Sarah Are Speed. | © A Sanctified Art, LLC | sanctifiedart.org

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Camille LeBron Powell, Pastor
LaVerne Byas-Smith, Coordinator of Congregational Vitality
David Lukens, Director of Music
Edward Weaver, Associate Director of Music and Organist
Pat Baker, Director of Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries
Lonnelle Bruce, Director, St. Andrews School
Gretchen Perkins, Office Manager

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