



## †JOYFUL RESPONSE

*Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

**Love will come - a light in the darkness! Love will fill the Bethlehem skies.  
Soon, all heaven will come to proclaim it – Soon, their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

## †SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Peace on the earth; good will to all. Let us share the peace we have received from Christ with one another and with the world. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

You are invited to greet one another with a handshake, saying “The peace of Christ be with you.”

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Tom Evans

### HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible, page 815(OT)

### MUSICAL OFFERING *Rejoice, rejoice, God’s Kingdom Is Coming*

James Biery

Text: Johann Olearius

### GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-55

Pew Bible, page 53(NT)

### CHILDREN’S LESSON

### SERMON

*Draw Near to One Another*

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

### †HYMN 99

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

MORNING SONG

### †AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

When the people were broken and thought God had forgotten them, a prophet called Isaiah spoke for God:

**Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. Shepherd God will feed the flock, gathering up the lambs, carrying them, and leading the mother sheep.**

When the people felt defeated by the tasks before them, another prophet Isaiah rose and spoke for God:

**I bring good news to the oppressed from God. Mend the brokenhearted, shout liberty to all who feel locked up, comfort any who mourn, and tell everyone that the year of the Lord’s favor is here.**

Years later a new prophet appeared in the land. John the Baptist announced the coming of the long-awaited Messiah:

**Make God’s path straight! Repent! See now the Lamb of God!**

But some thirty years before John’s message, two women greeted one another with great joy, giving praise to God:

**The mother of my Lord comes to me. Blessed is she who believed.**

And singing of God’s great works:

**My spirit rejoices in God. God has fulfilled the promise to Abraham and Sarah. The hungry are filled, and the rich sent away empty. The lowly are raised, and the powerful put down. God has done great things. Holy is God’s name.**

Now we who wait for the arrival of the Messiah who has already come, take up the song and praise God with word and deed.

**Amen and amen.**

### SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Because we have been forgiven in Christ, we can forgive one another. We demonstrate this by sharing Christ’s peace with one another.

### SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

After each scripture reading the reader will say, “The Word of the Lord.” All are invited to respond, “Thanks be to God.”

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Following the proclamation of the Word, the congregation is given the opportunity to respond to hearing God’s Word by affirming what the church believes and expressing our faith. This gives us the opportunity to say what we believe about God and what God has done in history. Our faith statements should reflect the deep commitment of our lives.

## SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS OF GOD'S CHURCH, COMMUNITY & WORLD

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

### OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

#### Offertory

*Trio on 'Gloria'*

Michael Helman

#### †Offertory Response

*What Can I Give Him*

CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

#### †Prayer of Dedication

### GOING TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

#### †HYMN 127

*Jesus, Light of the World*

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

#### †INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

#### †BENEDICTION IN WORDS

#### †BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Canticle of the Turning*

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise that which us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, For the dawn draws near, And the world is about to turn.

#### BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Raymond Haan

#### OFFERTORY

Today's offertory is a setting of *Angels We Have Heard on High*, (Hymn 113) a traditional French carol dating from the 18th Century.

#### CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

Each week during Advent our response to the benediction in word will be a stanza

## Christmas Eve Services

5:00 pm Candlelight Family Service

10:30 pm Organ Prelude

11:00 pm Communion Service Celebrating  
Christ's Coming



## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship

### **Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 PM Worship  
8:00 PM AA/ALAnon  
11:00 PM Worship

### **Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

### **Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

### **Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM Church at Prayer  
8:00 PM AA/ALAnon

### **Saturday, December 29<sup>nd</sup>**

### **Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM Worship  
(No Sunday School)

## PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

If you have a prayer concern, please complete a Prayer Request Card, and place it in the offering plate. Please update the office about any changes in the condition of your loved ones.

**Jeff Bunce**

**Faratiana Ranaivoarisoa's  
Mother**

**Earl Meeks**

### In the Nursing Home, Home Care, or Assisted Living:

**Sharon Shenkman**-North Decatur  
HRC, **Evelyn Wallace**-at home,  
**Clyde & Jane Wentz**-The Phoenix at  
Tucker, **Sue & Bona Puckett**-The  
Phoenix at Tucker **Orin & Barbara  
Mattheis**-Regency House.

## WELCOME

We invite you to join St Andrews, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), in ministry and in worship.

Please note your presence in the registry of friendship so that members of our church family may welcome you.

Your presence is a joy for us.

Nursery Care is available in the Education Building, Room 107.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Christmas Eve Services

**5:00 PM Candlelight Family Service** Come sing carols and hear the Christmas story told by our children and youth.

**10:30 PM Organ Prelude** Candlelight organ prelude of carols telling the Christmas Story.

**11:00 PM Communion Celebrating Christ's Coming** Celebrate with Word, the Lord's Supper, and Candlelight.

**The Gospel Reading Project** aims to get people reading their Bibles and to build friendships among our congregation's members. One way we hope to reach these goals is through reading groups. These groups will meet weekly for no more than 1 hour, be self-directed, and have a host to help convene the group. Resource materials are now available for the second section in the narthex, church office, and electronically.

**Children and Youth** Those participating in the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, please come at 4:00 p.m. to the sanctuary on December 24th. No youth activities this evening, December 23. Contact John McCrosky with any questions.

**No Sunday School next Sunday December 30** Many thanks to all who teach our children, youth, and adult classes every Sunday. We will resume Sunday School classes on January 6.

**Holiday Office Hours** The office will be closed December 24th-January 1st. Any pledges or contributions you wish to apply to 2018 must be in the offering by Sunday, Dec. 30th, or post-marked by December 31st. Please contact our finance administrator, Debbie Hutto, with any questions. 770-938-2833 ex. 104 or [finance@saptucker.org](mailto:finance@saptucker.org).

**Out of Office** Camille will be out of the office from December 26-January 2. Please contact your deacon if you need pastoral assistance during this time.

**Please mark your calendars** for our annual congregational meeting on January 27, after worship.

## CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Camille LeBron Powell, Pastor  
John McCrosky, Director of Children and Youth Ministries  
David Lukens, Director of Music  
Edward Weaver, Associate Director of Music and Organist  
Ann McKinney, Director, St. Andrews School  
Gretchen Perkins, Administrative Assistant

## CONNECT AT ST. ANDREWS

**Facebook-** [facebook.com/saptucker/](https://www.facebook.com/saptucker/) *Like and follow us – for photos and announcements.*

**Website-** [saptucker.org](http://saptucker.org) *Church Calendar, Sunday School Page, Youth News, Sermon Archive*

**Instagram-** [st.andrewspresbyterianatucker](https://www.instagram.com/standrewspresbyterianatucker/) *Follow us- pictures and updates*

**Weekly Email and Monthly Newsletter-** [office@saptucker.org](mailto:office@saptucker.org) *to be added to our list.*