



ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DENTON, TEXAS

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 22, 2024

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland BWV 659

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

BethAnn and James Black

SUNG RESPONSE

Congregation sings (to tune of "Frere, Jacques")
Light of Jesus (echo: light of Jesus); show the way (show the way.)
Shine in us forever (shine in us forever); this we pray (this we pray)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Psalm 80)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

OPENING PRAYER

Lisa Patterson

*HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O God, that we are timid people. Rather than being inspired to great heights in anticipation of your coming in Christ, we cower at the implications and expectations of his coming. Rather than being empowered by our belief that Christ will come again, we act as if the world's powers are the final authority. Give us the confidence of those who know you continue to be at work in the world and call us anew to give our lives over to the one who comes as the Christ-child. In his name we pray. Amen. (Time of silent confession).

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

CALL TO FAITHFULNESS

(Adapted from Isaiah 43)

Hear the words of the voice crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. "

*SUNG RESPONSE 583

Glory to God

GLORIA (TAIZE)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Proclaiming God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Darhyl Ramsey

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1: 39-45

New Testament, page 53

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Savior of the Nations Come
Chancel Choir with Daeun Kim, Piano
Susan Davis, Narrator

arr. Richard Nance

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here your home. Marvel now, O Heav'n and Earth, That the Lord chose such a birth. Wondrous birth! O wondrous child Of the virgin undefiled! Mighty God and Mary's Son, eager now, his race to run! Thus on earth the Word appears, Gracing his created spheres; Hence to death and hell descends, then the heavenly throne ascends! Come, O Father's saving Son, who o'er sin the victory won, Boundless shall your kingdom be, grant that we its glories see.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 5: 2-5a

Old Testament, page 815

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Looking for God in Bethlehem

Richard B. Culp

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)

(The Confession of 1967)

In Jesus of Nazareth true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all humanity. Amen.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Emergency Relief Fund

Russ Tillman



The offering at this year's Christmas Eve worship service offering will be devoted to the Emergency Relief Fund. In 2024, 19 fund awards were made for a variety of needs including recovery from the Valley View tornado, rent assistance, and vehicle repair. Donations can be submitted via the St. Andrew web site using the QR code.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

Lisa Patterson

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Keep Your Lamps!

arr. Andre Thomas

Chancel Choir with Kirsten Trachsel, Percussion

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, The time is drawing nigh. Children, don't get weary, 'Til your work is done. Christian, journey soon be over, The time is drawing nigh.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn 137, *He Came Down*

*He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Rowland Richard arr. Sooyoung Choi

*Bold Text indicates congregational participation. *Those who are able are asked to stand.*

The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Steve and Margaret Plunkett by their children, Alison McStravick and Stephen Plunkett.

Soren Trachsel is serving as acolyte and Sophia and Ella Armstrong are serving as ushers for today's worship service.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

Glory to God

583

Gloria, gloria

Capo 3: (Bm) (Em) (A) (D)

Dm Gm C F (chords continue)

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**May be sung as a canon.*

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979
Music © 1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

GLORIA (Taizé)

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



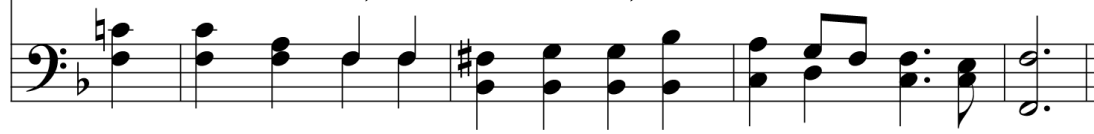
A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.

105

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look
 a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

east and sing to - day:



Peo-ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
Love, the Bird, is on the way.
Love, the Star, is on the way.
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo-ple, look east:

(Love is on the way.)



Luke 1: 39-45

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Micah 5: 2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

ADVENT MUSIC AND FLOWERS

In Memory of

Donna Lynn Speigel Jones	Van and JoNell Kent
Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Speigel	Christi Kent
Lois C. Williamson	John Steger
Hal H. Williamson	Dan and Jean Heilig
Ralph B. Culp	Barbara Smith
Helen Culp Schutts	George Heilig
Ray Janes	Vickie Armstrong
Deborah Kilgore	Willis and Catherine Mitchell
Ed Moorehead	Nancy and Robert Brown
The parents of Darhyl and Jonny Ramsey	Hazel Powell
Jim Chaplin	Linda Fite
Aileen Lowry-Allison	Jeanie Fite
Larry and Betty Schwoyer	Johannes and Sophie Bogevold
Melvin Swenson	Jim Cornelius
Phil and Cynthia Hooper	Marian and Doug Heil
Jim and Janet Widmer	Beth Wells
Tim and Norma Burgess	Patsy and Fred Patterson
Randal and Laura McCullar	

Those who donated a poinsettia are invited to take one following the worship service on December 29, 2024.

ADVENT MUSIC AND FLOWERS

In Honor of

Evangel Odei

Rachel Odei

Monroe Culp McGaffin

Noelle Culp and Adam McGaffin

Rachel Culp and Chandler Molpus

Caitlin Culp and Charles Okpala

The family of Betty Culp

Will, Jessie, Kacen and Karson Hooper

Katie Raabe

Bailey and Carol Whilden

Laurie LaMonica and Jackson Cheatham

The children and grandchildren of Bob and Terry Widmer

Kimberly Cole Luevano

Jackson Fite

James Fite

Charlotte Fite

Andrew Fite

Benjamin Lindsey Boeck

Sophia Lindsey Boeck

The children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of Bob and Ruby Crouch

The Widmer Family

The family of Gayle Strange

Barbara and Barry Coleman

Drs. Leslie and Richard Culp

Will, Walker, and Ann Patterson

The children of Susan and Steve Danbom

Those who donated a poinsettia are invited to take one following the worship service on December 29, 2024.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Tuesday, December 24

Candlelight Services

5:00pm and 7:00pm

String prelude at 6:30pm.

Special Christmas Eve Offering

Emergency Relief Fund

The offering at this year's Christmas Eve worship service offering will be devoted to the Emergency Relief Fund. Established as the COVID Relief Fund, the name was changed after the pandemic to the Emergency Relief Fund and its function broadened to provide financial support to those in need. In 2024, 19 fund awards were made for a variety of needs including recovery from the Valley View tornado, rent assistance, and vehicle repair. Awards are limited to \$500 and each application must have the endorsement of a St. Andrew congregation member. Applications can be submitted via the St. Andrew WWW site.

There are several ways to donate to the fund:

- Using the offering envelope during worship service. Please designate the envelope for the Emergency Relief Fund.
- Via Realm at the St. Andrew WWW site.
- Dropping your donation off at the church office.

End-of-year giving

If you are looking for opportunities for "extra" giving, please consider a gift to the operating budget at St. Andrew to help us finish the year well. Or, consider a gift to the Endowment Fund to support St. Andrew's long-term future.

Items Needed for Our Daily Bread

The diaconate is collecting items for Our Daily Bread. Items may be donated in the box in the Narthex. Current needs are: travel size shampoo, travel size body wash, ethnic hair care products, women's new underwear (sizes S, M, L), men's new underwear (all sizes), sports bras (all sizes), food safe rubber gloves, napkins.

Give-a-Meal - \$2.29

St. Andrew donated \$699.07 to the Give-a-Meal program in October! Thank you for supporting the needs of those who are experiencing food insecurity during this time. A monetary donation of \$2.29 feeds a person in need for a week. Donations can be made by mail or online. Please write Give-a-Meal-a-Month on your envelope or check when giving by mail. To give online, visit standrewdenton.com/give and be sure to choose Give-a-Meal from the fund options to the right of your monetary donation.

Prayer Requests

Harriet Laney
Tim Bergan
Kurt Dorr
Kayla Swenson
Gina Anderson
Diann Arthur
Ray Speir

Clarice Luce
Lynn Carrico
Steve Davis
Norma Rockenbach
Jan Lewis
Hudson Barnhill
Phillip Young

Shannon Fronz, friend of Barnett family
Bill Tilley, uncle of Sara Armstrong
Keren Billyack, friend of Connie Charat
Richard Gascoyne, friend of Chuck Stoughton
Carol Syverson, mother-in-law of Karen Raabe
Craig Pickett, cousin of Steve Pickett
Peter DiClenti, cousin of Steve Pickett
Jessica Belcher, niece of Margo Bean and Mark Freeman
Nancilou Jones, mother of Aaron Jones
Laura Bruening, mother of Lisa Dorr
Nancy Anderson, aunt of Margo Bean and Mark Freeman
Mary Stream Soderstrom, friend of the Culp family
John Tillman, brother of Russ Tillman
Debbie Kyzer, mother of Dan Kyzer
Eddie Grier, friend of Jan Lewis
Angela Selvidge, daughter of Liz Whitaker
Ed Simpson, brother of Jan Lewis
Karen Whitson Ansley, niece of Lynn Carrico
Norma Watts, mother of Jill Richmond
Thom Holbrook, friend of Linda Heilig
Rylen Lewis, grandson of Mark Lewis
Ben Reynolds, relative of Clarice Luce
Carolyn Brown, sister-in-law of Janette Hindman
Lynn and Charlie Davis, friends of Chuck Smith
Margie Ball, mother
of Marissa Glasschroeder and Michael Ball
Megan Terry Crawford,
friend of Betty Sue and Mike Grandey
Kim Hundley Owens, niece of Barbara Sims
Sophia Lilley, mother of Lisa Haddad
Family of Phil Sanson, friend of the Trachsel family
Family of Christine Burgess, niece of Terry Widmer

WELCOME!

We proclaim that ALL people are created in the image of God and affirm that each person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all, celebrating our differences while finding unity in Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

If you wish to join St. Andrew today, please contact one of the ministers.

Children's Chapel

During the worship service, children are invited to stay in the pews with their family.

By the Numbers: As of 11/30/24

Income (pledges + other income)	\$943,561
Expenses	\$957,974
Difference	-\$14,413

Pledged income is at 91% of expected giving.

Give online at: standrewdenton.com/give

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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info@standrewdenton.com

Richard B. Culp, Senior Pastor

Lisa Patterson, Associate Pastor

Stephanie Raesz, Youth Director

Kirsten Trachsel, Director of Children's and Handbell Choirs

J. Christine Le, Director of Music

Daeun Kim, Organist



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



Let us know you're here!

Ritual of Friendship Online

Use the QR code to fill out the Ritual of Friendship on your phone! The online form has options to show whether you're in person, at Good Samaritan, or online!



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing situations such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. Please contact Richard Culp or Lisa Patterson to connect with Stephen Ministry.