



## ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DENTON, TEXAS

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 27, 2020

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### GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

*In person worshippers: please remain seated throughout the service, wear masks, and sing or speak softly to yourself.*

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord!

**Praise God from the heavens.**

Young men and women alike,

**old and young together!**

Let us praise the name of the Lord,

**whose name alone is exalted above earth and heaven. Alleluia!**

#### OPENING PRAYER

#### HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us, merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (time of silent confession).**

#### SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn 110, third stanza of *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!**

#### DECLARATION OF PARDON

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven.

**Blessed be the God of our Salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.**

#### CALL TO FAITHFULNESS

(Titus 2:11-14)

Hear the teaching of Christ: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

#### SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn 112, *On Christmas Night All Christians*

**All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night; all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: "Glory to God in highest heaven; peace on earth and goodwill. Amen!"**

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

David Strutton

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-14

See Insert

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.  
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Once in Royal David's City  
Gail Dunn, piano

arr. Sharon Wilson

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Simeon and Anna...What happened to them in the Temple

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

See Insert

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Answered Prayer

CJ Prater

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

APOSTLES' CREED (ECUMENICAL VERSION) (unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn 108, *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

**Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be. Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore! Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## WELCOME!

**W**e proclaim that ALL people are created in the image of God and affirm that each person is a beloved child of God, worthy of God's love and grace. 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.

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### Prayer Concerns

Joe Alford  
Rafat Haddad  
Steve Shirley  
Steve Plunkett

Judy Cherry  
Pat Hiler  
Helen Harrison  
Allyn Harrison

Scott Hendrix  
Suzanne Baroody  
Carol Hill

Suzanne Benson, sister in law of Lisa Patterson  
Gino Curcuruto, uncle of Chris Curcuruto  
Don Samuelson, husband of Gini Samuelson  
Maggie Steward, sister-in-law of Lynn Ebersole  
Barbara Smith, sister of Linda Heilig  
Shirley Graham, mother of Natalie Garcia  
James Earp, friend of Paden Neeley  
Valerie Nevil, sister-in-law of Sharon Lunsford  
Friends of Chris Curcuruto  
Drennan Fuller and Family, friend of Caitlyn Coyner  
Steven Purser, brother of John Purser  
John Pierce, father of Bekah Barnett  
Lee Speir, brother of Ray Speir  
Sally Kyser, friend of Belle and Ray Speir  
Alice Condry, mother of Berniece Condry

Jane Stroud, sister of Lynn Carrico  
Sharon and Johnny Miller, cousins of Barbara Sims  
Kathy Torneo Whatley, cousin of Barbara Sims  
Darryl Spiegel, brother of Sandy Spiegel  
Rachel Moore, mother of Sharon Lunsford  
Ouida Henderson, mother of Joyce Kain  
Matthew McIntyre, son of Linda and Jim McIntyre  
John Murphy, faculty member at UNT  
J. B. Fincher, friend of Barbara Sims  
Charlie Leavell, grandfather of Shannon Konkle  
Allison Burk, Kendall Young's grandmother  
Nancy Burk, mother of Kendall Young  
Ashley Burk, uncle of Kendall Young  
Family of Chris Miller, friend of Katie Raabe

### Sabbatical from In-person Worship

The Session voted to take a six-week sabbatical from in-person worship in the face of the rising numbers of Coronavirus cases in Denton County. There will be no in-person worship from December 27, 2020 – January 31, 2021. The service will continue to be live streamed at 10:45am on Sunday mornings from our web-site. The Session will continue to monitor the number of coronavirus cases as it evaluates a return to in-person worship.

### Sunday School Schedule for Sundays of December 27 and January 3

No Sunday school for all ages on December 27.

Pastors' Class will meet on January 3. All are invited to attend and participate.

### Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25 in observance of Christmas. The church office will also be closed on Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1 in observance of the new year holiday.

### Share Your Advent Wreath Pictures on Facebook

Thank you to those of you who are sharing your Advent wreath pictures on Facebook. It's encouraging to see St. Andrew observing Advent together, even while we apart due to the pandemic. We'd love to share your post on our Facebook page! Be sure to let us know how you're observing St. Andrew's Advent traditions during the pandemic in your post with a picture of your lit Advent wreath. If possible, please use the tag #adventatstandrew in your post so that we know you'd like to share it on our Facebook page. Or, please email Alison McStravick, alison.mcstravick@gmail.com, and she will share your post.

### Give-a-Meal - \$2.29

St. Andrew donated \$438 to the Give-a-Meal program in November! 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](http://standrewdenton.com/give) and be sure to choose Give-a-Meal from the fund options to the right of your monetary donation.

The Denton Community Food Center (DCFC) is open two days a week from 1pm-3pm. Families are only able to pick up food once a month. DCFC is asking for online donations so it can purchase essentials and limit how many people handle food items. Thank you so much for supporting this program since the number of people who are needing this service is only growing due to the economic fallout during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### By the Numbers: As of 11/30/20

Income (pledges + other income)	\$814,594.80
Expenses	\$809,334.43
Difference	\$5,260.37

Attendance 12/20/20 348 Views

Give online at: [standrewdenton.com/give](http://standrewdenton.com/give)



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is a  
Stephen Ministry Congregation.

### ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 W. Oak Street Denton, TX 76201

Phone (940) 387-3897 Fax (940) 381-2404

[www.standrewdenton.com](http://www.standrewdenton.com)

[info@standrewdenton.com](mailto:info@standrewdenton.com)

Richard B. Culp, Senior Pastor  
Lisa Patterson, Associate Pastor  
Jeff Snider, Director of Music  
Parker Hinnenkamp, Organist  
Stephanie Raesz, Youth Director  
CJ Prater, Seminary Intern



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

# 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

# O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*

born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est!  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

# 113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

## Scripture Lessons

### Isaiah 61:10-62:3

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring  
up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.  
The Vindication and Salvation of Zion

<sup>62</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

<sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the  
Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### Luke 2:22-40

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.