



## ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DENTON, TEXAS

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2023

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### GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE Christmas Carols arr. Steve Winstead  
Jiazhi Zhang, violin; Kevork Esmeryan, violin; Jianhe Chen, viola; Tyler Aguillard, cello

WELCOME

INTROIT I Wonder As I Wander arr. Ledgerwood/Trachsel  
Andersen Trachsel, alto sax; Connor Callaway, bassoon; Ethan Hart, percussion

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE The Fair Family (5:00 p.m.)  
Sam and Jim Bays (7:00 p.m.)

SUNG RESPONSE Light One Candle Mark Patterson  
*Light one candle for hope, hope that the whole world needs. Light one candle for hope, hope that the Savior will bring.*  
*Light one candle for peace, peace that the whole world needs. Light one candle for peace, peace that the Savior will bring.*  
*Light one candle for joy, joy that the whole world needs. Light one candle for joy, joy that the Savior will bring.*  
*Light one candle for love, love that the whole world needs. Light one candle for love, love that the Savior will bring.*  
*Light one candle for Christ, Christ is the new born king. Light one candle for Christ, Christ the Savior is born.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Psalm 148)  
Praise the Lord from heaven! Praise God on the heights!  
**Sun and moon, praise God! All of you bright stars praise God!**  
Praise God all of you who are messengers!  
**Praise the Lord, all the earth!**  
Let everything praise the Lord, for God commanded and they were created!  
**God set them in place always and forever. God made a law that will not be broken!**

OPENING PRAYER Lisa Patterson (5:00 p.m.)  
Caitlin Culp (7:00 p.m.)

\*HYMN 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELIS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, nor trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. In his name, we pray. Amen (Time of silent confession).

DECLARATION OF PARDON  
Friends, the Christ child arrives bringing us good news of great joy for all the people.  
**The Christ-child comes to save us from our sins. Thanks be to God!**

## CALL TO FAITHFULNESS

(John 1: 1)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

## \*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 132, Vs. 3)

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 1: 1-4

New Testament, page 204

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### ANTHEM

(5:00 p.m.)

*Gloria with Angels We Have Heard on High*  
Noel and Covenant Choirs

Robin Cain

(7:00 p.m.)

See Amid the Winter's Snow  
Chancel Choir with String Quartet; Daeun Kim, piano; and Steve Danbom, percussion

arr. Dan Forrest

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 1-7

New Testament, page 54

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON

"Skipping Christmas: No Baby Jesus"

Richard B. Culp

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

#### \*HYMN 145

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

#### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

The Christmas Eve offering will support the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's** international humanitarian responses that currently include the Israel/Palestine conflict.

#### OFFERTORY

(5:00 p.m.)

"O Holy Night"  
Megan Grey, mezzo soprano; Daeun Kim, piano

(7:00 p.m.)

"O Holy Night"  
String Quartet

arr. Winstead

#### \*SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn 143, Vs. 4 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!*

## SEALING OF GOD'S WORD

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise....we beheld your glory, Emmanuel!

**(People sing: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel. - Hymn 147, refrain)**

You are holy, O God of majesty...new covenant by water and the Spirit.

**(People sing: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel. - Hymn 147, refrain)**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit....body of Christ in the world.

**(People sing: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel. - Hymn 147, refrain)**

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.**

Breaking of the Bread and Lifting of the Cup

*When communion is served by intinction:* You are invited to take a piece of bread and dip it into the chalice of wine or juice. The wine chalice has three rings and will contain white wine; the juice chalice has no rings and will contain red grape juice. As you move back to your pew, notice those who have come to the Lord's Table with you and be reminded of those with whom we share the journey to meet and follow Christ.

Communion Music

Prayer

\*HYMN 122

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

Noel and Covenant Choirs, rainbow bells & handchimes (5:00 p.m.)

*Please remain seated as ushers assist the congregation in lighting candles. Receive light from the center aisle and pass to the side aisle. The lighted candle should remain upright and the unlighted candle tipped for lighting. To assure the safety of everyone, please extinguish all candles before moving from your seat.*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Silent Night

arr. Winstead

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

# 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.

# 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

# 145

## What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

# 143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;  
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,  
 you have seen his na - tal star:  
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

147

The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord  
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.  
 frankincense. *Refrain*

*Refrain*



# Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - riant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

## GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*  
*Alles schläft, einsam wacht*  
*nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.*  
*Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,*  
*schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,*  
*schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

## KOREAN

1 고요한밤 거룩한밤  
 어둠에 묻힌밤  
 주의부모 앞서서  
 감사기도 드릴때  
 아기잘도 잔다  
 아기잘도 잔다

## SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*  
*Todo duerme en derredor,*  
*entre los astros que esparcen su luz,*  
*bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,*  
*brilla la estrella de paz,*  
*brilla la estrella de paz.*

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

## **Hebrews 1: 1-4**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

## **Luke 2: 1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## ADVENT MUSIC AND FLOWERS

### In Memory of

Bob & Nancy Bergan	Randal & Laura McCullar
Robert & Nancy Brown	Fred & Patsy Patterson
Norma & Tim Burgess	Hazel Powell
Jim Chaplin	Sterling & Maxine Ramsey
Dane Cheatham	Larry & Betty Schwoyer
Helen Culp Schutts	Robert & Elizabeth Sherman
Ralph B. Culp	Kevin Sims
John Dusko	Lewis Sims
Coy Fagan	Barbara Smith
Jeanie Fite	Michael Sturm
Linda Fite	Melvin Swenson
Marjorie & John Hatmaker	Rev & Ms. Hjalmar Tillman
George Heilig	Ted Turner
Dr. Gerald Hinkle	Charlie & Clara Dru Wallis
Phil & Cynthia Hooper	Beth Wells
Jettie Holland	James & Blanch White
Jim & Jennie Hundley	Janet & Jim Widmer
Kib & Addie Mae Hundley	Dan & Jean Wilson
Ray H. Janes	Parents of Mike & Debby Ishee
Debra Johnson	Lois C. Williamson
Van, JoNell & Christi Kent	Hal H. Williamson
Deborah Kilgore	Jack and Nettie Cornelius
Aileen Lowry-Allison	Brad and Margaret Gilbert
John, Ruth, Ron Madaras	David Ramey Gilbert
Wanda & VW Martin, Jr.	Steve and Margaret Plunkett

*Those who donated a poinsettia are invited to take one following the worship service on December 31, 2023.*

## ADVENT MUSIC AND FLOWERS

### In Honor of

The daughters of Julie and Glenn Tolle:  
Christin, Katie, and Ashley

Maggie and Duncan McStravick

Nan and Jim McStravick

Faris and Smith Plunkett

Stephen and Katherine Plunkett

Betty Culp

Carlene and Ron Swofford

Sophia & Benjamin Lindsey Boock

Brad Cheatham

Jackson Cheatham

Suan Fagan

Jackson, James & Andrew Fite

Robyn & Matt Heilig

Anna Hinkle

Jessie, Will, Kacen & Karson Hooper

Karen & Jordan Ishee

Laurie LaMonica

Will, Walker & Ann Patterson

Katie Raabe

Jeff, Kristen, Tinley & Holly Roman

Terry & JT Turner

Sid Wells

Carol & Bailey Whilden

Children & Grandchildren of Terry & Bob Widmer

Daughters & Grandchildren of David & Eileen Duffield

Family of Betty Culp

Family of Gayle Strange

*Those who donated a poinsettia are invited to take one following the worship service on December 31, 2023.*

## Prayer Requests

Norma Rockenbach  
Ed Moorehead  
Kendall Hallford  
Jane Loveall

Catherine Mitchell  
Jan Lewis  
Hudson Barnhill  
Phillip Young

Scott Shepherd Halbach,  
grandson of Betsy and Bob Halbach  
Rylen Lewis, grandson of Mark Lewis  
Sharon Schuyler, friend of the Fair family  
Jim Sims, friend of the Culp  
Sharice Modester, Treehouse parent  
Jery Eaton, friend of Chuck Smith  
Richard Jacobs, friend of the Strowe family  
Ben Reynolds, relative of Clarice Luce  
Carolyn Brown, sister-in-law of Janette Hindman  
Amy Langford, sister-in-law of Leslie Culp  
Bonnie Owens, mother of Michelle La Spata  
Jane Jacobek, aunt of Michelle La Spata  
Karin Diaz, friend of Harriet Laney  
Mary Marcello, friend of Betty Culp and Elaine Martin  
Beth Eaton, friend of Chuck Smith  
Ben Pierce and Family, brother of Bekah Barnett  
Rosario Garza, friend of Clarice Luce  
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  
Debra Johnson, friend of Earlayne Martin  
Kim Hundley Owens, niece of Barbara Sims  
John Pierce, father of Bekah Barnett  
Sophia Lilley, mother of Lisa Haddad  
The family of Warren Whitson Kepke, son of Warren Kepke,  
brother of Olympia, grandson of Lynn Whitson Carrico

## 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.

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

### Children's Chapel

*Children's Chapel will not meet December 24 or 31. During the worship service, children ages three years through kindergarten are invited to stay in the pews with their parents.*

### By the Numbers: As of 11/30/23

<b>Income</b> (pledges + other income)	<b>\$858,111</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$904,909</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-\$46,798</b>

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

### ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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



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



**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.