



ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DENTON, TEXAS

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT (5:00 p.m.)

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
Westminster Youth Ensemble

arr. James Curnow

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Brennes Family (5:00 p.m.)
Ron Harris and Kirsten Brown (7:00 p.m.)

SUNG RESPONSE, (Hymn 132 Verse 1)

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this holiest of nights, we come looking for God.

Find us, O God, like Mary and Joseph, ready to follow where you lead.

On this most silent night, we come looking for God.

Find us, O God, like the shepherds, stunned by wonder at the news of the birth of Christ.

On this night of carols and candlelight,

Find us, O God, as we join with the choir of angels singing of your glory.

On this night, we tell the story of God's arrival as the Christ-child,

Send us out, O God, transformed by the story of your coming as Emmanuel, "God with us."

OPENING PRAYER

Lisa Patterson (5:00 p.m.)
Chrissy Stevens (7:00 p.m.)

*HYMN 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

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, or 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 Savior. 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

Luke 2: 1-7

New Testament, page 54

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

(5:00 p.m.)

Christmas Is Here, Sing Noel
Noel and Covenant Choirs with Daeun Kim, piano

arr. Berry

(7:00 p.m.)

Carols Around (and a Round)
Dona nobis pacem
Grant them peace

arr. Carl J. Nygard Jr.

Also includes words from Hymn 147, "The First Noel," Hymn 123, "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," and Hymn 114, "Away in a Manger."

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 8-20

New Testament, page 54

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"A Story to Tell"

Richard B. Culp

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING



The Christmas Eve offering will support the **Emergency Relief Fund of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church**. Donations may be made in the plate offering or via the QR code presented here. When making a donation via the QR code, please choose "Christmas Eve Offering" as the fund.

OFFERTORY

Gesu Bambino

arr. Linda Spevacek-Avery

Diana Benoit, soprano; Leah VanHorn, soprano; Kathryn Davidson, alto

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snow upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced.
And at his blessed birth the stars their exaltation voiced.

Again the heart of rapture glows to greet the holy night
that gave the world its Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.
Let ev'ry voice acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell.
From paradise to earth he came that we with him might dwell.

O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him, o
come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him, o
come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn 133, Vs. 3 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

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 right to give God thanks and praise.

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.

Prayer after Communion

*HYMN 122

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

Noel and Covenant Choirs, hand chimes (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

(5:00 p.m.)

Pastorale in F major BWV 590

J. S. Bach

(7:00 p.m.)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Richard Willis arr. Youngtae Han

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

*The Prayer of Confession used tonight is adapted from a prayer written by Rick Lindholtz as shared on the blog, re:Worship,
Confession for Christmas Eve*

Sarah Barnett is serving as acolyte for the 5:00 p.m. worship service.

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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

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.

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

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!

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.

KOREAN

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

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.

Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

Luke 2: 8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

ADVENT MUSIC AND FLOWERS

In Memory of

Jack and Nettie Cornelius	Larry and Betty Schwoyer
Marian and Dog Heil	Melvin Swenson
Jim Cornelius	Phil and Cynthia Hooper
Randal and Laura McCullar	Linda Raabe
Van and JoNell Kent	George and Marie LaMonica
Christi Kent	George and Pat Thompson
Ralph B. Culp	Debbie LaMonica
Helen Culp Schutts	Hazel Powell
AJ and LaWayna Smith	Linda Fite
Ed Moorehead	Jeanie Fite
Maxine and Sterling Ramsey	Michael Sturm
John and Marjorie Hatmaker	Norma and Tim Burgess
Jean and Dan Wilson	Janet and Jim Widmer
George Heilig	Rev. Hjalmar
Barbara Smith	Ms. Emelia Erlandson Tillman
Megan Lewis and Andy Lewis	Joe Alford
Lowell and Lenore Ebersole	Parents of Joe and Bette Allen
Leland and Beverly Steward	David Carolton Fleming-Hughes
Hal H. Williamson	Chris Jones
Lois C. Williamson	Helen McRorie
Gerald Hinkle	Jim Chaplin
Jake Holley	Aileen Lowry-Allison
John Steger	Betsy Reinke
Ray Janes	Patsy and Fred Patterson
Deborah Kilgore	

Those who donated a poinsettia are invited to take one following the worship service on December 28, 2025.

ADVENT MUSIC AND FLOWERS

In Honor of

Jessie, Will, Kacen and Karson Hooper

Laurie LaMonica and Jackson Cheatham

Carol and Baily Whilden

Katie Raabe

Shannon Danbom, Scott Danbom, Alisha Danbom

The Family of Betty Culp

The Dower, Straznicky, and Gay Children and Grandchildren

Adele Heilig

Robyn and Matt Heilig

Michael Lewis and Amy Lewis Anderson

Anna Hinkle

Jackson Fite

James Fite

Andrew Fite

Courtney Macy

Charlotte Fite

Ben Lindsey-Boeck

Sophia Lindsey-Boeck

Kasai Holmes

Children and Grandchildren of Bob and Terry Widmer

Tim and DeLila Bergan

William, Samuel, James, Cyril, and Sara

Monroe Culp-McGaffin and her parents, Noelle and Adam

Charlie Okpala and her parents, Caitlin and Charles

Rachel Culp and Chandler Molpus

Will, Walker, and Ann Patterson

Those who donated a poinsettia are invited to take one following the worship service on December 28, 2025.

Prayer Requests

Stephanie Long
David McCullar
Doug Ebersole
Ann Barnett
Terry Phillips
John Todd
Caia McCullar
Evans Odei
Leslie Culp

Teresa Golden
Jim Griffin
Renee Poinboeuf
Billye Akin
Diana Dunklau
Steve Pickett
Harriet Laney
Diann Arthur
Steve Davis

Jim Elliott, husband of Sue Elliott
Shelby Kent-Williams, friend of Landry Raesz
Leanne Harris, friend of Susan Conn
Kay Rockwell, friend of Susan Conn
Dixie McMath, friend of Sandra Giesler
David Agawu, friend of the Haddad Family
Jim Cole, father of Kimberly Luevano
Becky Irving, friend of Chuck and Judy Stoughton
Danny Higginbotham, daughter of TJ and David Strutton
Blaine Smith, grandson of Connie Charat
Royetta Wilkes, sister-in-law of Tom Muehlenbeck
Leo Perez, friend of Steve Davis
Heather Baker, sister-in-law of Diana Dunklau
Ami Gray, friend of Mike Barnett
Meredith Tompkins, friend of the McCullars
Marilyn Boots, friend of many at St. Andrew
Laura Whitaker, daughter of Liz Whitaker
Parker Riggs, brother of Beth Ann Black
Barry Wachal, friend of Chuck Smith
Sophia Lilley, mother of Lisa Haddad
Rosemary Meals, friend of Lisa Haddad
Lori Garrett, sister of Shim Garrett
Ryker Elliott, grandson of Sue Elliott
Cindy Fisher, sister of Harriet Laney
Bill Tilley, uncle of Sara Armstrong
Carol Syverson, mother-in-law of Karen Raabe
Peter DiClenti, cousin of Steve Pickett
John Tillman, brother of Russ Tillman
Debbie Kyzer, mother of Dan Kyzer
Ed Simpson, brother of Jan Lewis
Karen Whitson Ansley, niece of Lynn Carrico
Norma Watts, mother of Jill Richmond
Rylen Lewis, grandson of Mark Lewis
Ben Reynolds, relative of Clarice Luce
Megan Terry Crawford,
friend of Betty Sue and Mike Grandey
Kim Hundley Owens, niece of Barbara Sims
Family of Perry McNeill

WELCOME!

We 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. 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 11/30/25

Income (pledges + other income)	\$1,042,804.10
Expenses	\$974,785.56
Difference	\$68,018.54

Give online at: standrewdenton.com/give

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Richard B. Culp, Senior Pastor

Lisa Patterson, Associate Pastor

Chrissy Stevens, Dickson Pastoral Resident

Kathryn Davidson, Director of Music

Stephanie Raesz, Youth Director

Kirsten Trachsel, Director of Children's and Handbell Choirs

Daeun Kim, Organist



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.