

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Perkasie, Pennsylvania
Rev. Barbara Pence

Phone (215) 257-2880
9:00 am Faith Formation

Website: www.standrewsucc.org
10:15 am Worship Service

December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

Liturgist: Karen Gossard

PRELUDE
GREETING

ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING

Light one blue candle

SING #165 vs. 1 When God Is a Child

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.

Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present.

We only have to look for it.

Light one blue candle.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE #165 vs. 2 When God Is a Child

If able, please rise in body or in spirit

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 122)

I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the Lord!

Our feet are standing

Within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Prayer for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls,
Peace be within you."

Hymn #176 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

Please be seated

CALL TO CONFESSION

Near the end of his ministry, John the Baptist reached out to Jesus with a heart full of anxiety. John was in jail. He knew he might not get out, so he asked Jesus, "Did I make a mistake? Am I making a difference here? Or did I get it all wrong?" Like John, let us be fully honest with Jesus about our innermost thoughts. We can pour our heart out to God because God always meets us with grace, tenderness, and mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On-the-move God,

we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, "Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?" Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Family of faith,

in our honesty, **we are heard.**

In our worries, **we are held.**

In our failings, **we are forgiven.**

In our fear, **we are not alone.**

Friends, this is the good news of the gospel!

When we're running out of hope, God is still at work.

Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR

Waiting for a King

Martin/Williams

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, we need bread and we need laughter. We need music and we need a hand to hold. We need a chair to sit in and we need work to do. But maybe more than anything, we

need your Word and a reason to hope. So move through this space today and speak to us as only you can. Speak a word of hope deep into our weary bones. For we need bread and we need laughter, but most of all, we need you. Amen.

Scripture: Isaiah 43:19-21
Matthew 11:1-11

The word of the Lord.

Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
SERMON

If able, please rise in body or in spirit.

Hymn #156 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Please be seated

Koinonia Time (community; communion; fellowship; intimacy)
(Please date, sign, and pass the pew pad to your neighbors)

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Prayers of Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator/Mother/Father/Spirit, 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.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Peace makes us generous. God's abundance pours through us to our neighbors, just as God's love showers us with blessing. As each of us gives what we can, we know that our community is only as resilient as our most vulnerable neighbor.

OFFERTORY

If able, please stand in body or in spirit

Offertory Response

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host.
Praise Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Emmanuel, hear our prayer! We bring these gifts before you to spread peace throughout our homes, our communities, and our world. On every street corner, beside rivers, lakes, oceans, at the top of your tallest mountains, and dwelling below the cliffs, your people are in need. Take these gifts to strengthen our church and bring relief to your beloved children. Amen

Hymn #158 Blessed Be the God of Israel

BENEDICTION

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit.
May you reach for each other's hands.
May you choose courage whenever you can.
And in all things, may you remember
that good news is louder than fear.
In the name of the one who calls,
the one who sends, and the one who journeys with us—
go in peace and **be not afraid**. Amen.

Please be seated

Postlude

Portions of today's liturgy are reprinted from Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*, Copyright 2015 and What Do You Fear: Insisting on Hope This Advent, Words for Worship Advent-Epiphany, *Worship and Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*"

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**Head Usher for December are Herb Volk and Ron Grace**  
**Ushers today are Jim & Amy Smith**  
**Altar Guild this week is Amy Smith**  
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**Pastor Barb's contact information: Email – [pastorbarb90@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbarb90@gmail.com); Cell 267-374-5692**

### **Consistory 2025**

Elders: Ron Grace, Doris Lindmeier, Lee Metzger (President), Karen Peterson  
Deacons: Robert Creager, Cindy Grace, Tara Howell, Lance Ide, Erin Rush,  
Herb Volk (Vice President)  
Consistory Secretary – Angela Stofflet; Treasurer – Jen Flexer

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### **St. Andrew's White Gift Service**

The suggestions for Phoebe are listed below for the White Gift Service on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 AM. The White Gift Service is a long-time tradition at St. Andrew's. Please choose a gift from the list, wrap in white tissue paper and mark the outside with "Phoebe" male or female. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation, please place your gift in an envelope and mark it appropriately. All checks should be made payable to St. Andrew's U.C.C (one check will be sent with all donations included). An offering plate will be available. Thank you for sharing in the holiday spirit of blessing others.

**Gift suggestions: general items such as packs of tissues, hand lotion, chocolates without nuts, DVDs and CDs of classic movies or music, soft snacks such as Tastykakes, easy large print puzzle books, Adult coloring books and colored pencils, fleece or sweatshirts with zippers, Beanie Baby-sized stuffed animals. These items are always enjoyed by the resident.**

**Gift suggestions for Bethany Children' Home are listed as well. Please note the age range for the youth is 10-21 years of age.**

**Thank you for your support in these ministries for the holidays.**



**Thank you for helping create new, positive memories in our youth's lives!**  
**Bethany youth are 10-21 years of age. We kindly ask that all items are new and unwrapped.**  
**We appreciate age-appropriate gifts with the consideration of parental warnings, modesty and safety.**

#### **Clothing - various adult sizes S-4XL**

bath robes: young women and men • slippers • white t-shirts, esp. small and medium • underwear S-4XL • men's athletic shorts • bras • sports bras • pajamas • low-cut socks

#### **Personal Care/Cottage Needs**

unisex comforters • pillows • waterproof mattress covers Twin XL • bed in a bag • bath towels • battery-operated alarm clocks • bagless vacuums • air fryers • baking sheets and pans • deodorant • conditioner • feminine hygiene products • toothbrush covers

#### **Recreation**

indoor/outdoor basketballs 29.5 inch • Medicine Balls • Lego sets: classic cars, super heroes, Star Wars • Nerf guns and ammo • fishing rods/reels • adult beach volleyballs • footballs • TRX workout bands • badminton racquets and birdies • Olympic weightlifting bar • weights for Olympic bar • yoga blocks • hand wraps or MMA gloves • remote control cars • Tie dye kits

#### **Music Education**

earbud headphones • mp3 players • drumsticks • Drum pads • Hand percussion instruments

#### **Art Studio**

wrapped canvases • canvas boards • acrylic paint • premixed acrylic pouring paint • Gesso (White, Black, & Clear) • clear semi-gloss finish spray paint • spray paint • fabric paint • paint pens • paintbrushes • washi tape • scratch art paper • calligraphy pens and inks • Beads including numbers/letters • Stabilo pencils • Diamond Art kits • jewelry making supplies • pony beads • glass beads • bean bag chair • Coloring books • resin tools and supplies

#### **Gift Cards**

Dick's Sporting Goods, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Lowes, Home Depot, Michaels, Wal-Mart, Target, McDonald's, Boyer's and Redner's Markets, Turkey Hill, Giant, Domino's Pizza, Wawa, Netflix, Game Stop

# 165 When God Is a Child

*Refrain*

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the

*a tempo*

weak shall be strong, and none shall be a -

1-3 4

fraid. 1 Hope is a star that  
2 Peace is a rib - bon that  
3 Joy is a song that  
4 Love is a flame that

1-3 4

WORDS: Brian Wren (1936- )  
MUSIC: John Carter (1930- )  
Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company  
Music © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

GATES  
Irregular

*rit. to Refrain*

shines in the night, lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright. When  
cir - cles the earth, giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth. When  
wel - comes the dawn, tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born. When  
burns in our heart, Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part. When

*rit.*

## 176 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads, O might - y gates: be - hold, the  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart: make it a  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to  
 4 So come, my Sov - ereign, en - ter in! Let new and

King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is  
 tem - ple set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 you: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me your in - ner  
 no - bler life be - gin! Your Ho - ly Spir - it

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy,  
 pres - ence feel: your grace and love in me re - veal.  
 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

WORDS: George Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878); para. Psalm 24:7-10  
 MUSIC: Thomas Williams' *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO  
L.M.

## 156 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Let ev - ery heart be cleansed from sin, make straight the  
 3 For you are our sal - va - tion, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 To heal the sick, stretch out your hand, and make the  
 5 To you, O Christ, all prais - es be, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh: a - wake and lis - ten  
 way for God with - in, and so pre - pare to  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 fall - en sin - ner stand; shine out, and let your  
 sets your peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
 be the home where such a might - y guest may come.  
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more!

WORDS: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. John Chandler (1806-1876)  
 MUSIC: Trier manuscript, 15th c.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621);  
 harm. George R. Woodward (1848-1934)

PUER NOBIS  
L.M.

ADVENT

# 158 Blessed Be the God of Israel

*Unison*

1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,  
 2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,  
 3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,

who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.  
 a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.  
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,

The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;  
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,  
 to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;

God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.  
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day,  
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

WORDS: Michael Perry (1942-1996)  
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson (1933-)

MERLE'S TUNE  
7.6.7.6.D.

Words © 1973 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)  
Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company

PRESENTS A CHRISTMAS HANDBELL CONCERT

## All I want for Christmas!

**DECEMBER 14, 2025 | 4:30PM**

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 615 E. WALNUT STREET, PERKASIE, PA 18944

**TICKETS ARE \$15**  
**BUY TICKETS ONLINE USING THE QR CODE**  
**OR AT WWW.STANDREWSUCC.ORG**  
**OR**  
**CALL US AT (215)-257-2880**

**\*\*SEATING IS LIMITED\*\***



**...WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR,  
THEY WERE FILLED WITH JOY...**

**MATTHEW 2:10**

Be the Light

## Kindness and Support

From the many letters and stories the Pension Boards has received from those touched by gifts from The Christmas Fund, we share these words:

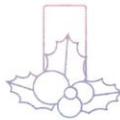


*During this time, I've had to say to God, 'I don't know why this is happening, but I thank you that you have been like footprints in the sand.' It can only be God, in addition to the support we received from our village of friends, family, neighbors, and the kindness of strangers.*

- **Veronica Kyle, Member of Covenant UCC**  
South Holland, IL

Thanks to your generosity, last year The Christmas Fund provided over \$1.7 million in pension and health benefits, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired clergy and their families.

Every gift came from people like you. This year, please give what you can to continue supporting those who have devoted their lives to serving others.



This Christmas, celebrate the blessings in your life by making a gift to our ministers, church workers, and their families.

Visit [christmasfund.org](http://christmasfund.org) to learn more and donate online.



Donate Online Here!