

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Perkasie, Pennsylvania

Rev. Barbara Pence

Phone (215) 257-2880

Website: www.standrewsucc.org

9:00 Faith Formation

10:15 am Worship Service

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve 7:00PM

Welcome

Prelude

Still, Still, Still

Lau

SENIOR BELL CHOIR

Prince of Peace

arr. Ingram

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Redner/arr. Callahan

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

arr. Grossman

Please stand in body or in spirit

CALL TO WORSHIP *Luke 1:68-79 The song of Zechariah*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, **to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Hymn #182

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Please be seated

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY

Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).

We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

Sung Response #153 vs. 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

PRAYER

Eternal God, from the treasure of heaven to the poverty of a stable, your Messiah came forth in light as a tiny baby wrapped in rags; such humble Love astounds us. May we receive your Messiah in our lives and become through him, your blessed children who walk in the light you sent into our world. Amen.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

How Quietly

Joel Raney

Christmas Lessons and Carols

EXPECTATIONS OF THE OLD COVENANT

Micah 5:2-5b The Ruler from Bethlehem

HYMN #180

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Kathy Fretz

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 The peace that Christ will bring
HYMN #185 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Benjamin Gossard

Please rise in body or in spirit

THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW COVENANT

Luke 1:26-38 The announcement of the coming birth of Jesus
Hymn # 181 Of the Father's Love Begotten

Joyce Barndt

Luke 2:1-7 The birth of Jesus
Hymn # 184 What Child Is This

Lee Metzger

Luke 2: 8-20 The angels and the shepherds
SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM To Hear the Angels Sing

Gerry Mensch
Jay Althouse

PRAYER

For unto us has been born a Savior, Christ the Lord. For unto us we have the promise of new life in Christ. For unto us we have the hope of salvation and the promise of new life. For unto us we are challenged to live and grow in new ways, to seek justice and to become peacemakers in the path of the Prince of Peace. For unto us a child has been born, a Son given to us, and authority rests on his shoulders. For unto us we follow the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ, and we look to the world and to our future with hope. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC Christmas Medley

Elizabeth Flexer

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MEDITATION

The 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.

HYMN #188 Angels We Have Heard on High

Please be seated

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Jesus Christ has shown us how to live: loving God and neighbor, sharing what we have, engaging in acts of mercy and justice. As we celebrate Jesus' birth, and wait in hope for his coming again, let us bring the offerings of our lives before him.

OFFERTORY Away In a Manger

Lau

Please rise in body or in spirit

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace.
Praise God for gifts of joy and love.
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us—Emmanuel. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We now offer you our gifts and pray that you use them to bring your good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Please be seated

Candlelight Service

THE WORD

John 1: 1- 14

Please stand in body or in spirit

As the light is passed from person to person, please turn the unlit candle wick into the flame to light your candle.

Hymn Silent Night

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace; Sleep in heavenly peace**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born; Christ, the Savior is born**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy
birth; Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth**

SONG OF SIMEON

BENEDICTION

Go out this night in joy and hope with the song of the angels on your lips to tell:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will to all.

The love of God, the light of Christ, and the joy of the Holy Spirit abide with you this holy night and forevermore.

Hymn # 179 Joy to the World

Please be seated

POSTLUDE Joy to the World Hustad

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**Head Ushers for December are Jess Reese and Erin Rush  
Ushers this evening are Doris Lindmeier, Erin Rush, Jess & Tom Walmsley**

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## O Come, All Ye Faithful 182

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove;  
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

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

WORDS: Attr. John F. Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)  
 MUSIC: John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

ADESTE FIDELES  
 Irregular

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 153

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887); arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

HYFRYDOL  
 8.7.8.7.D.

## O Little Town of Bethlehem 180

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, 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.

WORDS: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)  
 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

ST. LOUIS  
 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

## 185 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 Right - eous - 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 th' in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

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

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.  
 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

MENDELSSOHN  
 7.7.7.7.D.

## CHRISTMAS

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

## CHRISTMAS

## 181 Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Unison*

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the world be - gan to be,  
 2 O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when a vir - gin, blest with grace,  
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts his prais - es sing;  
 4 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he,  
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;  
 powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex - tol our God and King;  
 hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un - wea - ried prais - es be:

of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture  
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

WORDS: Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th c.; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866)  
 and Henry W. Baker (1821-1877)  
 MUSIC: Plainsong, 13th c.

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

# What Child Is This 184

Em D/F# G D Em Am/C B

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry'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 peas-ant, king, to own him;

Em D/F# G D Em Am B Esus Em

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.

*Refrain*  
Bm G D Em Am/C B

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;

Bm G D Em Am B Esus Em

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!  
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!

WORDS: William C. Dix (1837-1898)  
 MUSIC: English melody, 16th c.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

GREENSLEEVES  
 8.7.8.7.Ref.

# 188 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 back their joy - ous strains.  
 Say, what may the 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 - - - - -

WORDS and MUSIC: French carol, 18th c.

GLORIA  
 7.7.7.7.Ref.

CHRISTMAS

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

CHRISTMAS

179 Joy to the World!

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

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - 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  
 (1) and heaven and na - ture sing,

(1) 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,

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)  
 MUSIC: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

ANTIOCH  
 C.M.Repeats



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CHRISTMAS EVE  
DECEMBER 24, 2024*