

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

Phone (215) 257-2880

Website: [www.standrewsucc.org](http://www.standrewsucc.org)

9:00 am Faith Formation

10:15 am Worship Service

November 30, 2025

Liturgist: Kathy Fretz

First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE  
GREETING

ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING

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

**We see hope when we look to the next generation.**

**We feel hopeful when we gather together.**

**We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.**

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

Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

*(Light one blue candle.)*

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE #165 vs. 1 When God Is a Child

*If able, please rise in body or in spirit*

CALL TO WORSHIP

On Sundays and Mondays,

**on good days and bad days,**

early in the morning and very late at night,

**here in this room, and out in the world,**

**God, we long for you to break in.**

Meet us in this space.

**Surprise us with your presence.**

Fill this room with your good news.

**With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!**

Hymn #161

People Look East

*Please be seated*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, if you long to feel closer to God, then the Prayer of Confession is a step in the right direction. For in the Prayer of Confession, we lay our hearts before God. We pour out the truth of our lives. We do not hide anything from our Creator, and in that simple act, God somehow always feels closer. So, join me in this prayer. Join me as we invite God to draw closer, to break in here.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Ever-present God,  
we long to feel you close.**

**We long to feel your presence in our lives.**

**We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.**

**However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst.**

**Forgive our rushing and distractions.**

**Forgive our wandering hearts and center us in this space.**

**Remind us that even in the time of Herod,**

**even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Family of faith,

even when we doubt God's presence,

even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world,

God is always moving closer to us.

Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

**Nothing can keep God's love away.**

**We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR

Advent Promise

Martin/Paige

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

With-us God,

in the time of Moses, you spoke through water in the desert and a pillar of smoke. In the time of the judges, you spoke through the prophets. In the time of Herod, you spoke through angel choruses and unlikely miracles. In every time you have been speaking.

So today, in our time, we ask that you would speak again. Break through the chatter and the distraction of our weary minds and speak to us once more. With hope we pray, Amen.

Scripture: Lamentations 3:55-57  
Luke 1:5-13

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 #153 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

***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

Come with gratitude and joy to the table of the Lord.

Bring the works of your hands and the gifts of your lives as an offering of praise.

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

**We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name and serve the good of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*(If you are participating online, you're invited to have the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine or something similar to join us around Christ's Table.)*

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

With-us God, our thanks and praise often fade in this fearful world we live in.

If we're honest, we come to this Table today with the taste of fear on our tongues.....

Now with the hope of a better tomorrow, we join with the entire company of heaven and with your people who live in this hope, we praise you and join in the never-ending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE MEAL

*(If you are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know and the pastor will bring communion to you.)*

***Please stand in body or in spirit.***

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Loving God, in a world racked with fear, you gather us together.  
You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits.  
You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time.  
So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray, Amen.

Hymn #154            O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**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 November Lee Metzger & Tara Howell**

**Ushers today are Erin Rush and Karen Peterson**

**Communion Servers are Cindy & Ron Grace**

**Altar Guild for the month of November are Karen Gossard, Lois-Ann Barndt and Barb Kieffer**

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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

**St. Andrew’s White Gift Service**

The suggestions for Phoebe are listed below for the White Gift Service on Sunday, December 7<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.**



## 2025 Christmas Wish List

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

ADVENT

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 -

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

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

GATES  
 Irregular

ADVENT

*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

ADVENT

161

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east, the time is near of the crown - ing of the  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to

year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the  
 there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in  
 brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as  
 earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the

Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day:

hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look east:  
 course the flow - er may flour - ish.  
 sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)  
 MUSIC: French melody; arr. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

BESANÇON  
 8.7.9.8.8.7.

ADVENT

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 153

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-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.

ADVENT

# 154 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Unison*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine  
3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,  
4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

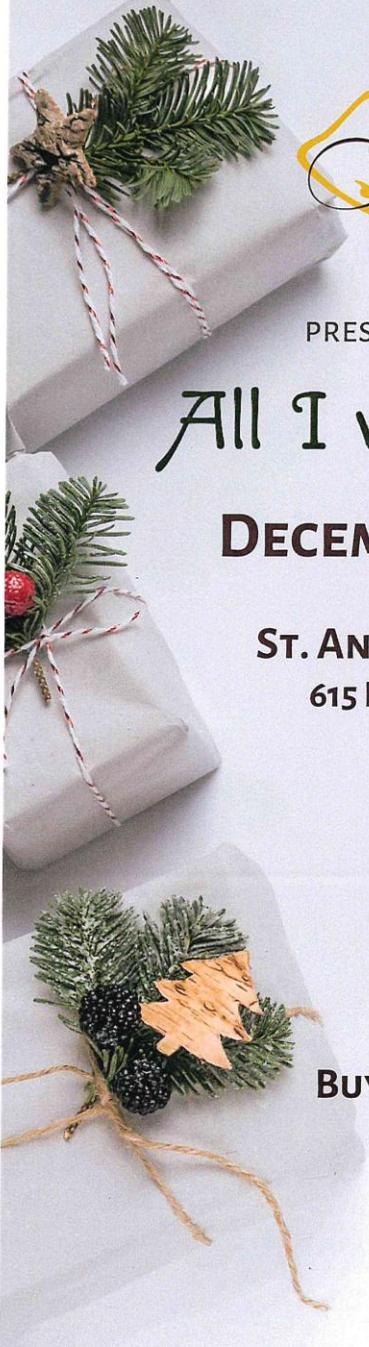
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -  
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and  
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and  
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

*Refrain (Harmony)*

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin, 9th c.; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866); vss. 3 and 4 tr. Henry S. Coffin (1877-1954) VENI EMMAUEL  
MUSIC: French melody, 15th c.; harm. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890) L.M.Ref.



*Philadelphia Bronze*

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**

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