

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

Perkasie, Pennsylvania

Rev. Barbara Pence

Phone (215) 257-2880

Website: www.standrewsucc.org

10:15 am Worship Service

July 20, 2025

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgist: Lee Metzger

Christmas in July

PRELUDE

GREETING

Please stand in body and in spirit

CALL TO WORSHIP

In a world that aches for change, a child is born. Not to the palace, but to the poor. Not in comfort, but in courage.

The Christ Child comes to upend injustice, to lift the lowly, to bring people where none has reigned.

In the heat of summer, we celebrate the birth of hope.

Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth.

OPENING PRAYER

God of wonder, we come to this moment of worship not to escape the world, but to remember how You entered it, vulnerable and divine. In the birth of Jesus, you showed us that transformation begins small: a whisper in the dark, a baby in a manger. Birth in us again that holy disruption. Still our hearts. Awaken our compassion. And let Christ be born anew, especially now. Amen.

Hymn #189

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Please be seated

CALL TO CONFESSION

At Christmas, even in the bright light of summer, we confess that we walk in darkness. We follow the lights of worldly power and personal comfort that fades out leaving us fearful and resentful of one another. Let us come to God, the creator of true light so that our darkness will be no more.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, in our darkness, we don't always recognize you in a baby's cry, a refugee's journey, a stranger's kindness, a child's wisdom. We confess that we resist the world you are trying to birth: where the mighty are brought low, and the lowly are lifted up. Forgive us. Give us eyes to see the light of the Christ Child, tender and powerful, vulnerable and transforming. May your light and love be born in us again today. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Hear the good news: This is the child who came not to condemn the world, but to save it. In Christ, we are forgiven every time we turn toward the light of God's love.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

This is the light of the Christ Child, shining now as it did in Bethlehem. It flickers not with holiday nostalgia but with the steady flame of a world being made new.

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Holy Night

Oliva Celenza

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, we have walked in darkness for long enough. Shine brightly through your Word, by the power of your Spirit. Multiply our faith. Increase our joy. Establish your everlasting kingdom, that we may praise your name forevermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:46-55

Luke 2:1-7

The word of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON Gods Precious Children – Andrew Hostetter and Jackie Manbeck

Please stand in body or in spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's gift of love to the world.

Born into darkness to bring light and life.

Born not to preserve, but to transform.

He showed us the power of mercy, the strength of love,

and the truth that even a child can change everything.

We believe in Christ,
Love has come; Light has dawned,
and the world will never be the same. Amen.

Hymn #203 Away in a Manger
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
Let us present our offerings to God that they may be used to bring the light of Christ to the dark places of our world.

OFFERTORY
Please stand in body or in spirit

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (sung) As With Gladness
**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you our heavenly King.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
O Majesty on high, whom angels worship in thanksgiving for your Son, Emmanuel, bless these gifts we offer that they may bring light, peace, and hope to all who live in darkness; in Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Hymn #179 Joy to the World

BENEDICTION
God now with the wonder of shepherds, the courage of Mary, and the light that shines in the darkness leading us to Jesus. Let the Christ Child live in your heart, and through your hands, may God’s love continue to transform the world into the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

Please be seated
Postlude

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**Head Usher for July is Karen Peterson  
Ushers today are Robin & Lance Ide  
Altar Guild for the month of July are Ethel Dietrich and Doris Lindmeier**

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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

Angels, from the Realms of Glory 189

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,

you who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
seek the great De - sire of na - tions, you have seen the na - tal star:  
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Away in a Manger 203

*Unison (or Duet)*

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look  
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav - en, to live with thee there.

## 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



### Help our FISH kids get off to a great year of school!

Donations can be brought to church with the last day for collection being July 27<sup>th</sup>. Leave your donations in the shopping cart.

Needed supplies (suggested list): School bags with laptop sleeves, Plastic folders with clasp, Plastic folders without clasp, Primary composition books, Headphones, College-ruled composition book, College-ruled notebook paper, Pointed scissors (secondary), Wedge erasers, Pencil top erasers, Index cards, Post-It notes, Dry erase markers (non-toxic), Highlighters, Crayola Markers Broad and Thin, Crayola colored pencils, Glue sticks, Stylus, Flash drive, Earbuds, Dividers, Black Sharpie markers, Pencil sharpeners, Blue, black, red pens, Binders, Hand sanitizers (alcohol-free).

You can also use this Amazon link to purchase supplies needed

Amazon Wishlist Link: <https://a.co/6Xa52Yx>

**Thank you for your support of our local missions.**