



# HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR A

DECEMBER 14, 2025: 10:00 A.M.

### ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Seekers, believers, and doubters of all ages, welcome home to St. Andrew's!* Everything you need for the Liturgy of the Word is found in your bulletin. Music may be found in this bulletin or in the blue 1982 Hymnal (in the pew rack). Restrooms are downstairs in the undercroft; our greeters can direct you to a more accessible restroom in the parish house as well.

Children of all ages are welcome to join us in our Soft Space, located by the St. Andrew's flag up front, during worship. Please move around our space as you and your children are most comfortable. Visitors, we would love to get to know you, and we invite you to fill out one of our welcome cards and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of our greeters. *We are so glad you are here!*

#### Prelude

#### Opening Hymn

Watchman, tell us of the night

The 1940 Hymnal #440

Sung by all. Please stand as you are able.

Tune: Lowell Mason, Lyrics: John Bowring

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, What its signs of prom-ise are.  
2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; High-er yet that star as-cends.

Trav-'ler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, See that glo-ry-beam-ing star.  
Trav-'ler, bless-ed-ness and light, Peace and truth its course por-tends.

Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray Aught of joy or hope fore-tell?  
Watch-man, will its beams a-lone Gild the spot that gave them birth?

Trav-'ler, yes; it brings the day, Prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.  
Trav-'ler, a-ges are its own; See, it bursts o'er all the earth.

3 Watchman, tell us of the night,  
For the morning seems to dawn.  
Trav'ler, darkness takes its flight,  
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.

Watchman, let thy wand'rings cease;  
Hie thee to thy quiet home.  
Trav'ler, lo! the Prince of Peace,  
Lo! the Son of God is come!

# THE WORD OF GOD

## Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), p. 355

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

**Celebrant** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People** And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

## The Collect for Purity

BCP, p. 355

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

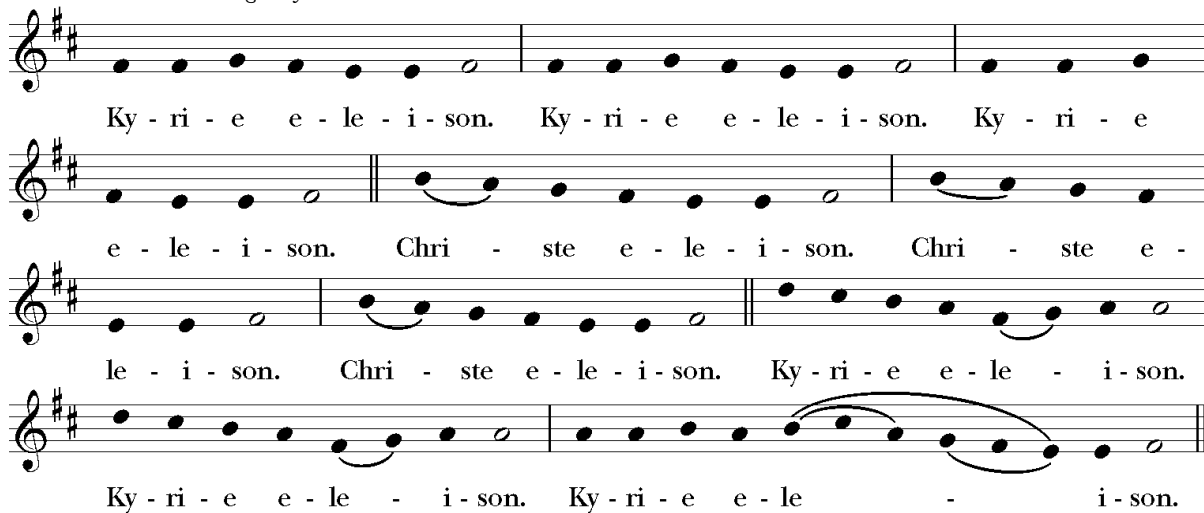
**Celebrant** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:

**People** Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Kyrie Eleison

Hymn #S-86

*Sung by all. Please remain standing as you are able.*



## The Collect of the Day

BCP, p. 212

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

**Celebrant** Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

NRSV

*Please be seated.*

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not

travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            Thanks be to God.

### The Response

*The Magnificat*

BCP, pp. 91-92

*Sung by all. Please stand as you are able.*



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my / Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly / servant.  
From this day all generations will call me / blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his / Name.  
He has mercy on those who / fear him \*  
in every gener- / ation.  
He has shown the strength of his / arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their con- / ceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their / thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the / lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good / things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away / empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant / Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of / mercy,  
The promise he made to our / fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for / ever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the / Son \*  
and to the Holy / Spirit: \*  
As it was in the beginning, is / now, \*  
and will be for ever. A / men.

### The Second Lesson

*James 5:7-10*

NRSV

*Please be seated.*

A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            Thanks be to God.

### Sequence Hymn

*I'll praise my Maker while I've breath*

Hymn #429, verses 1-3

*Sung by all. Please stand as you are able.*

## The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

NRSV

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

**Celebrant** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew*.

**People** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**Celebrant** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sequence Hymn** (*continued*)

*I'll praise my Maker while I've breath*

Hymn #429, verse 4

*Sung by all. Please remain standing as you are able.*

## The Sermon

The Rev. Canon Dr. Lynn Collins

*Please be seated.*

## The Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

*Said by all. Please stand as you are able.*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Prayers of the People

*Praying the Scriptures*

*Please remain standing or kneel as you are able.*

**Intercessor** I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Prepare your hearts for his arrival, praying, fill the valleys, make low the hills;

**People** **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

**Intercessor** Merciful God, increase our love to overflowing. Make your Church pure and blameless that we may greet with joy the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

**People** **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

**Intercessor** Merciful God, we long for the light of hope to break into our world, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide us into the way of peace. Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

**People** **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

*Intercessor* Merciful God, give us grace to heed the warnings of those calling us to be better stewards of your creation. We thank you for all you have made, especially those things that sustain and better our lives. Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

*People* **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

*Intercessor* Merciful God, you lead us with joy; you delight in our joy. You clothe us in beauty. We give you thanks for your tender care. We pray for all who live, work, and go to school on Oregon Hill; for all who are celebrating birthdays this week, including: Rick Chess. Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

*People* **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

*Intercessor* Merciful God, you remember your children. You do not leave us in sorrow or affliction. Crown your children with glory; clothe them with righteousness. Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

*People* **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

*Intercessor* Merciful God, you have raised up for us salvation through your Son. Keep us, with all your saints, in the eternal life of Christ. Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

*People* **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

*Intercessor* God of wisdom who knows our path, we humbly ask you to guide our discernment committee: Christine, Patrick, Shar, Steve, and Vivien by the Holy Spirit towards the priest whom you have raised up to lead us. Quiet their hearts, keep them from sin, and strengthen Your gifts within them so they may better listen and respond to Your perfect counsel. We pray also for our future priest, that You may prepare them to aid us in continuing the mission of the church, began in the apostles, continued in Grace Arents, us, and all St. Andreans, and perfected in the return of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Until that day, be close to St. Andrew's and strengthen our spirits, so we may continue in doing Your good work.

*You are invited to add your own prayers at this time. The celebrant adds the concluding collect.*

### The Confession

BCP, p. 360

*Please remain standing or kneeling as you are able.*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### The Peace

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### Welcome & Announcements

*Please be seated.*

### The Offertory

Offertory Anthem

Ave Maria

Jacob Arcadelt

# Presentation Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Hymn #56, verses 1-2, 5-6

Sung by all. Please stand as you are able.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.



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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, p. 367

Please remain standing as you are able.

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

**Celebrant** Lift up your hearts.

**People** We lift them to the Lord.

**Celebrant** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord

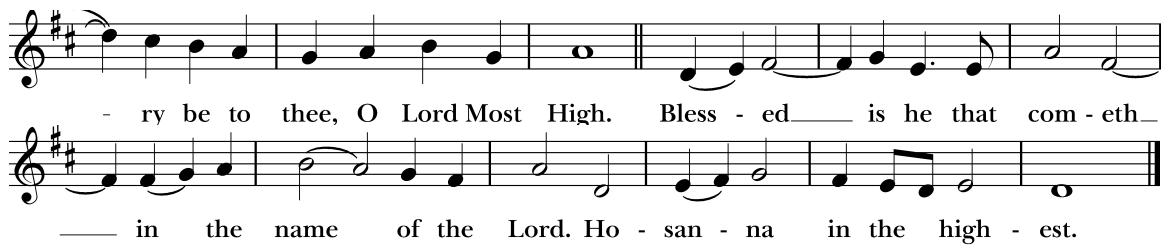
Hymn #S114



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of



Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -



Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

*Please remain standing or kneel as you are able.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

**All We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Andrew and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

### The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

*Said by all. Please remain standing or kneeling as you are able.*

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

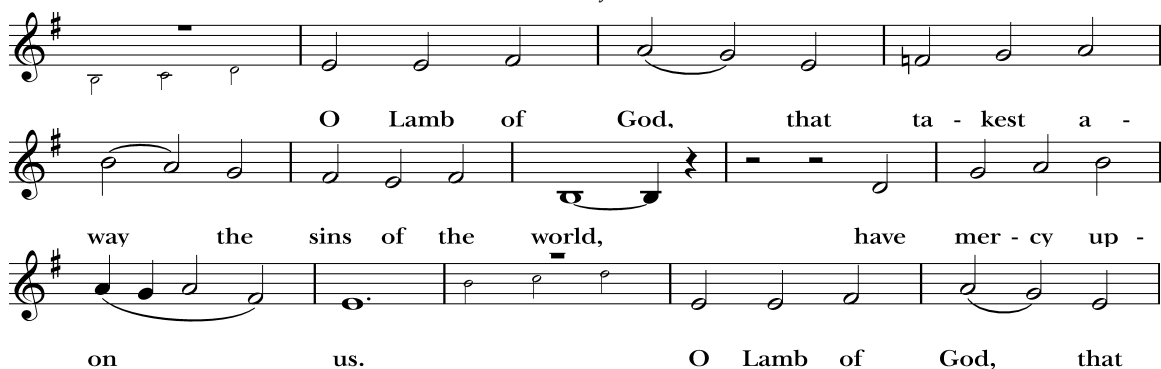
### The Breaking of the Bread

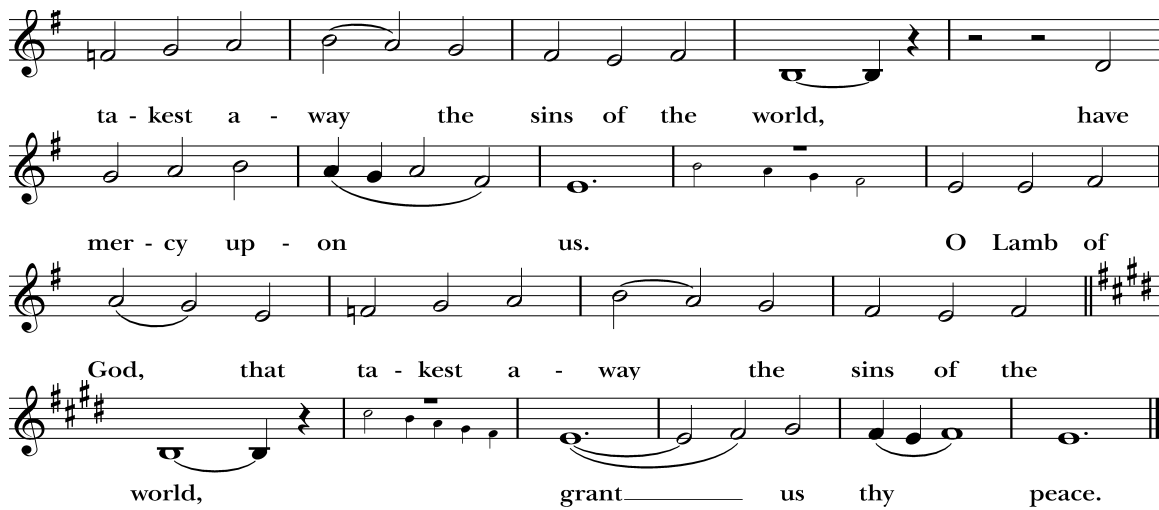
*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Please remain standing or kneeling as you are able.*

#### Fraction Anthem

#### O Lamb of God

Hymn #S158





### Invitation to Communion

*All are welcome at Christ's table.* You are invited to come forward to receive the bread and the wine. Communion is offered in both kinds, bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Those who do not wish to receive the Eucharist may come forward and simply cross their hands over their chest to receive a blessing or a healing prayer. Please let a greeter know if you would prefer to have communion brought to you in your seat.

### Communion Hymn

*The Lord will come and not be slow*

Hymn #462

### Sending of Eucharistic Visitors

#### Postcommunion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**All** Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Blessing

BCP, p. 366

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

### Closing Hymn

*On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry*

Hymn #76

*Sung by all. Please remain standing as you are able.*

### The Dismissal

BCP, p. 366

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

*Celebrant* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**People** Thanks be to God!

### Postlude



Seekers, believers, and doubters of all ages:

Welcome home to St. Andrew's!

Together we are building a community in Christ that gathers to worship joyfully, love abundantly, and serve wholeheartedly.

236 S. Laurel St. Richmond, VA 23220 • [standrewsoregonhill.org](http://standrewsoregonhill.org) • 804-648-7980



## THIS MORNING'S LEADERS

*Celebrant & Preacher:* The Rev. Canon Dr. Lynn Collins      *Pianist & Choirmaster:* Demas Boudreaux  
*Crucifer:* Belinda Brugh      *Altar Guild:* Judy Johnson      *Tellers:* Steve Salter & Chuck Baur  
*Lay Reader:* Ally Getlein      *Intercessor:* Sue Barrett      *Vestry Person of the Day:* Jim Evans  
*Soft Space Volunteer:* Julia Prior      *Lead Greeter:* Mike Culver  
*Sunday Steward of the Day:* Jack McHale      *Email your vestry:* [vestry@standrewsoregonhill.org](mailto:vestry@standrewsoregonhill.org)

*Kyrie ; Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; and O Lamb of God, from RiteSong, copyright 2025 Church Publishing Incorporated.  
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## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- Pat Bridgewater, Barbara Butler, The Comissiong and Williams family, Tom Davis, Vicky Davis, Ellen Field, Patrick Getlein, Sandra Heitzler, Bill Jackson, Allison Keill, Steve Kincer, John Kunz, Crystal Munnings, Lizzie Schrass, Carol Slonaker, Chris Vega.
- Pray for those who live and work and go to school on Oregon Hill and for the ministry of St. Andrews School.
- Pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For persons who are lonely or have no family. For persons who are estranged from their families. For persons who are grieving the loss of a loved one. For all who need to feel the love of God.
- Pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week: Rick Chess (12/20).

## ST. ANDREW'S CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 14: The Third Sunday of Advent

- **Holy Eucharist Rite II:** 10:00 a.m., church and on Facebook Live
- **Coffee Hour and Formation:** directly following the service, chapel
- **Vestry Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., St. Andrew's House

### Wednesday, December 17:

- **Laundry Ministry:** 1:30 p.m., corner of Cary and Meadow Streets

### Sunday, December 21: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

- **Holy Eucharist Rite II:** 10:00 a.m., church and on Facebook Live
- **Coffee Hour and Greening of the Church:** directly following the service, chapel

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We celebrated ingathering already, but it's not too late to pledge! Pledge cards are available in the narthex or you can [pledge online](#) using this QR Code to the right.
- **Advent 2025 Reminders:**
  - \* **Today, December 14:** We will read Chapter 6 on Community in *An Altar in the World* and enjoy small group discussions in the chapel at 11:45 a.m.
  - \* **Sunday, December 21:** Join our Altar Guild for the *Greening of the Church*! Help deck the halls of our beautiful sacred space after our 10:00 a.m. service  
Many thanks to the formation team: Mike Culver, Paula Harper, Felicity Blundon, Beth Raper, Dale Holcomb, and Laura Boucher.
- **Bishop Harris' Upcoming Visit: An Opportunity to be Baptized, Confirmed, Renew Baptismal Vows, and More!** We are excited to welcome the Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, on Sunday, January 18! She will preside over our 10:00 a.m. service. If you or your child(ren) would like to be baptized, received into the church, confirmed, or renew your baptismal vows during that service, please email



Britton today at [office@standrewsoregonhill.org](mailto:office@standrewsoregonhill.org). If you have questions or would like to learn more, please see Rev. Lynn today or email her at [clergy@standrewsoregonhill.org](mailto:clergy@standrewsoregonhill.org). The group preparing for baptism, confirmation, renewal, and reception will meet with Rev. Lynn via Zoom on 12/16, 12/30, 1/5, and 1/13.

- **Updated 2025 Directory Available:** If you would like a copy, have changes to your information, or have questions or concerns, *please see or email Britton Trimble for the new, updated link* at [office@standrewsoregonhill.org](mailto:office@standrewsoregonhill.org). Please do not share your copy of the directory and please do not distribute information contained in this directory outside of our parish family.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- **Blessings Fence:** You are invited to bring in new socks, gloves, hats, and scarves, and new or very gently worn and cleaned jackets of all sizes. All items get put on our fence for any in need to take. Knitters and crocheters: there is plenty of yarn for your use in the undercroft across from the choir area. We will put out a basket in the narthex for collecting your donations. Please let the office know if you are bringing in a jacket - we don't have much storage room and will likely need put it right out on the fence. Thanks for your support of one of our longest-running ministries!
- **Coffee Hour Sign-Up:** We invite you to sign up to bring snacks for a coffee hour! Snacks can be as simple as you'd like, home-made or store-bought, and you don't have to worry about providing or setting up drinks. The sign-up sheet is available on the organ or the snack table in the chapel.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AT ST. ANDREW'S

- **December 14 – the *Third Sunday of Advent*** – we'll meet in the chapel after church for formation for all ages, with discussion on *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor.
- **December 21 – the *Fourth Sunday of Advent*** – after church, you are invited to help with the Greening of the Church as we prepare St. Andrew's for Christmas!
- **December 24 – *Christmas Eve*** – we'll celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ with a festive service of Holy Eucharist at 5:30 p.m.
- **December 25 – *Christmas Day*** – gather with us as we enjoy a more intimate celebration of the birth of Jesus with a 10:00 a.m. service of prayer and carols in the chancel.
- **January 4 – the *Second Sunday of Christmas*** –
  - We will continue our celebration of the Christmas season with our **annual pageant** during the 10:00 a.m. church service.
  - We wrap up our celebration of the season with our beloved service of **Epiphany Lessons & Carols at 5:30 p.m.**
- **January 18 – *The Second Sunday after the Epiphany*** – join us as we welcome The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, on her first official visit to St. Andrew's!



Seekers, believers, and doubters of all ages:  
Welcome home to St. Andrew's!

Together we are building a community in Christ that gathers to  
worship joyfully, love abundantly, and serve wholeheartedly.

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