

*“Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother
Look at the child knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him,
that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him.”*

Sermon on the Nativity, Martin Luther. 1535

Advent is from Latin and means ‘coming’. It is the season in the church when we celebrate the Savior came for us -- when the Creator stepped into his creation, became flesh and dwelt among us. In that moment the light of the world was tucked into that dark, shabby, empty corner of the Roman Empire. God always does what we would never expect. With God it is always substance rather than style, truth over marketing and light shining out of darkness. Eternal Sovereign power does not need to be flashy.

This morning our service leads us in worship of our Creator-King whose birth in Bethlehem marked the end of the kingdom of darkness. As you sing, pray, listen, and believe you step more and more into his light and the eternal life he brings. Trust him and do not fear. Walk as children of light.

Bill Douglas, Pastor

WELCOME VISITORS

We are glad to have you as our guest!

As we seek to bring glory to our Father together, we welcome you to join any or all of the events and ministry activities at St. Andrews.

- ⇒ We invite you to worship God with us, to find us as a place for *encouragement* and *fellowship*, and to *become a part of this church*.
- ⇒ We invite you to tell us who you are and let us get to know you, as you get to know and become more familiar with us.

God has moved you to come to worship him.

We are honored that you are here.

December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Bill Douglas

Songs of Ascent

Hymn #225

Once In Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Hymn #204

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle, till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Hymn #196

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Call to Worship -- from Hebrews 2

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. 6 It has been testified somewhere,

*“What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?
7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with
glory and honor, 8 putting everything in subjection under his feet.”*

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Hymn# 193

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Prayers of Invocation

O Lord, our Lord how exalted you are and how blessed is your name. You who are the brightest and best of all of the sons of the morning, dawn on our darkness now and lend us aid to worship you. Give us new eyes of faith to know your limitless worth and unsearchable riches. Give us minds that are awake to your word and transform us according to your unchanging truth. Enlarge our hearts so that you are our great affection and cause us to love what you love. Set your rule over our wills so that we choose your ways, walking in paths of new obedience. In this Advent season as in all seasons receive our worship and glorify your name in our assembly. We pray in the name of the name of him who is Maker, Monarch and Savior of all. Amen.

Hymn # 194

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
(Refrain)

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
(Refrain)

O come, thou Day-spring from on high and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
(Refrain)

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
(Refrain)

Prayers Of Confession (*From Prayers of Martin Luther*)

Behold, Lord, An empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it.
I am weak in faith; Strengthen thou me.
I am cold in love; Warm me and make me fervent
That my love may go out to my neighbour.
I do not have a strong and firm faith;
At times I doubt and am unable to trust thee altogether.
O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in thee.
In thee I have sealed the treasures of all I have.
I am poor; Thou art rich and didst come to be merciful to the poor.
I am a sinner; Thou art upright.
With me there is an abundance of sin;
In thee is the fullness of righteousness.
Therefore, I will remain with thee of who I can receive
But to whom I may not give. Amen.

Baptism *Remi Kate Cannon*

Confession of Faith – Heidelberg Catechism

29. Q. Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, Saviour?

A. Because He saves us from all our sins, and because salvation is not to be sought or found in anyone else.

31. Q. Why is He called Christ, that is, Anointed?

A. Because He has been ordained by God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Spirit, to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of His body has redeemed us, and who continually intercedes for us before the Father; and our eternal King, who governs us by His Word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us.

32. Q. Why are you called a Christian?

A. Because I am a member of Christ by faith and thus share in His anointing, so that I may as prophet confess His Name, as priest present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to Him, and as king fight with a free and good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and hereafter reign with Him eternally over all creatures.

First Advent Candle -Brad and Liz Brooks, Bradley and Lucy

Hymn# 203

Hark the Herald Angel Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. (*Refrain*)

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. (*Refrain*)

Offering

(At this time, the Pre K4 and Kindergarten children are invited to meet their leaders at the back of the sanctuary for Children's Church.)

Scripture Lesson John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

John 2:1-11

What should the present day followers of Jesus – what should you and I -- expect from God regarding miracles?

2 errors that limit our thinking about miracles and God's work in us.

- * The naturalist error: limits God by saying there are no such things as miracles.
- The “too narrow” super-naturalist error: limits God by saying his power only comes in the form of miracles.

Definition: A miracle is an event brought about by the power of God that is a temporary exception to the ordinary course of nature (as it presently is), for the purpose of showing that God has acted in history. (verifiable by eye witnesses) *Richard Purtill*

The purpose of miracles is: 1) to reveal truth about God's goodness, power and sovereign grace so that the result is worship and increase of faith.

and

2) to show the power of God through extra-ordinary, visible, undeniable acts so that we will understand his power in us for the ordinary, hidden ways that we might otherwise fail to apprehend.

Jesus refuses to help his mother, then changes his mind and turns water into wine.

This first “sign.” Water-to-wine seems such an unimportant thing until we understand that, like all the miracles, it points to something transcendent.

Jesus inserts himself as THE main character at someone else's wedding. (Jesus has not come to take part – he has come to take over.)

The signs Jesus uses and the authority he claims are inseparably tied together – there is no such thing as desiring God's gifts to us without welcoming his authority over us.

Sermon

Hymn #195

Joy To the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

Benediction

Nunc Dimittis

Hymn #195

Joy To the World

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Congratulations to Josh & Traci Howell on the birth of their son, **James Thomas** born on November 26th, weighing 7lbs 14oz.

ADVENT

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor/memorial of, the cost is **\$5.00 per poinsettia.**

Direct checks to SAPC with "Poinsettia" and **who it is in memory or honor of in the memo line.**

YOUTH

Dec 2 — Gingerbread House Contest (5:30p)

Dec 16— Christmas Party (5:30p)

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Annual Christmas Dinner will be held **at St. Andrews on Thursday, December 6th, at 6pm.**

This *adult only* event is \$10 per adult. There will be childcare provided, for \$5 per child, for those who register their children prior to the event. Please sign up online or in the narthex by **TODAY.**

Contact the church office with any questions.

Payment should be made by December 2nd to reserve your spot.

CHOIR PRACTICE

If you are interested in **SINGING** in the choir, please **JOIN US!**

We will practice at 9:00am in the Moseley House on Dec 2 & Dec 9.

The choir will sing for the congregation on Dec 9.

KIDS

Children's Christmas Pageant will take place on

Sunday December 9 at 5:30 PM.

All St. Andrews family and friends are invited to this special re-telling of the Christmas story. Students ages 4 years old-6th grade may participate.

CHURCH NEED

The church is in need of **8 round tables** for holiday and banquet occasions.

Each table is \$120.00.

If you are interested in giving towards this purchase please notify the church office.

If you put a check in the offering, please note "round table" on memo line.

Monthly Calendar at St. Andrews

DECEMBER

- 2, Sun—** First Sunday of Advent (*No Sunday School*)
Youth Group—Gingerbread House Contest (5:30p)
Christmas Pageant Practice Lead Cast 3:30p, others 4:15p
- 3, Mon—** Moms in Prayer (9:00a)
- 6, Thurs—** **Christmas Dinner (6:00p)**
- 7, Fri—** Women's Early Morning Study (6:30a)
Christmas Pageant DRESS REHERSAL 4:30p
-

- 9, Sun—** Second Sunday of Advent (*No Sunday School*)
Advent Choir
Christmas Pageant (5:30p)
No Youth Group
- 10, Mon—** Moms in Prayer (9:00a)
- 14, Fri—** Women's Early Morning Study (6:30a)
-

- 16, Sun—** Third Sunday of Advent (*No Sunday School*)
Youth Group Christmas Party (5:30p)
- 17, Mon—** Moms in Prayer (9:00a)

If you have questions regarding any event, please contact the church office.

706-327-7750

Calendar of the Month

Ushers: Brad Brooks, Sydney Brasseur, Warner Kennon Jr., Bill Buck

Deacons: Morgan Kimball, Mike Willett

Greeters:

December 2 : Billy & Janet Whitley

December 9: Ted & Liz Thorne

December 16: Katie VanAaslt & Annie Simpson

Children's Church:

December 2 : Brett & Jackie Horne, Jack Phillips

December 9: Diane McGowan, Cordy Phillips, Bethany Adams

December 16: David & Cheryl Smith, Blake Schoonover

Nursery Volunteers:

December 2 : Paula Anderson

December 9: Lydia Wescott

December 16: Juli Pope

COVENANT FAMILY NEEDS

- **Expectant Mothers** — Molly Parker
- **Foster Care Families** — Matt & Katherine Maxey
- **Families Adopting** — Mathes & Caitlin Ballard
- **St. Andrews Missionaries** — Young Life - Slate & Lindsay Fluker
- **St Andrews Ministries** — Children's Ministry Team
- **Please pray for those in our church family who are recovering from surgeries, accidents, cancer treatments, and other illnesses:**

Sam Killeffer — Addie Jackson — Bill Harrison
- **Please pray for Ruth Dicken's mother, *Patricia Levine* who was in a bad car accident, with a long road of recovery ahead.**
- **Please pray for Louann Buck's father, Frank Clements, who is in rehab following a brain hemorrhage. Pray for Louann and her brothers as they care for him.**

**MISSIONARIES AND MINISTRIES
SUPPORTED BY ST. ANDREWS**

Bethany Christian Services (Columbus, GA)

Covenant Theological Seminary (St. Louis, Missouri)

House of Mercy (Columbus, GA)

International Friendship Ministries (Columbus, GA)

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship — Paul and Margaret Tokunaga

Mission to North America (MNA) — Chaplain Ministries

Chaplain Dr. Mike Stewart (Medical Center, Columbus, GA)

Mission to the World (MTW)

David and Erin Pervis (Ukraine)

Johan and Stephanie van der Westhuizen (Chile)

Gary and Tammy Elliott (Bulgaria)

Pete & Ruth Mitchell (France)

Pioneers

Tom and Iris Lowder

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)

Auburn University (Wes and Nancy Simmons)

University of GA (Ben Coppedge)

University of South Alabama (Jacob and Leigh Zoller)

Valley Rescue Mission (Columbus, GA)

Young Life

Greater Columbus, GA

Atlanta, (Slate and Lindsay Fluker)

Elders of St. Andrews

2019

Bill Brouwer

Matt Maxey

2020

Chris Schuster

Greg Johnston

John Mitchell

2021

Steve Adams

Clark Cobb

Tim Dodds

Ted Thorne

Deacons of St. Andrews

2019

DR McNew

Josh Schuster

Allen Whitley

2020

Morgan Kimball

Bill Shirley

Ben Wallace

2021

Luke Addison

Mitch Jaeger

Mike Willett

The Purpose of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church:

We exist to glorify and enjoy God as His called-out people:

Who are called together to worship God,

To be instructed in the Scriptures,

To be conformed to God's truth,

To reach out into our world with the news of the gospel.

