

Let us now meditate on the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the Deity of Christ but rather his flesh. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm.

Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother, still a virgin. Look at the child knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him. Let your conscience not fear but take comfort in him. . . . See how God invites you in many ways. There is nothing more appealing to man than a baby. Are you affrighted? Then come to him. You will see how great is the divine goodness which seeks above all else that you should not despair.

Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation than this -- that Christ became a man, a child, a babe. Who is there that this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt if you come to this gurgling babe and believe that he is come, not to judge you but to save.

Martin Luther. Sermon on the Nativity.

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 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Bill Douglas

Leading in Worship: Duncan Cantrell

Songs of Ascent

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 dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

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.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O're the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories know no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

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.

In the Bleak Midwinter (alt.)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen snow on snow -- snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor the earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty and Savior Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Call to Worship (from Luke 1)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old. To remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham. To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation, by water and the Word;
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord, to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;
Tho' there be those that hate her and false sons in her pale,
Against the foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Prayers of Invocation

O Most High, exalted and glorious Lord of all Nations, Almighty King of Heaven, be our shelter and may your shadow be our covering. Because of the grace of your Son we can say with boldness that you are our Refuge and Fortress and your faithfulness is our shield. Set your great name among us today as we worship you. Give us faith to believe that your promises are steadfast. By your Spirit raise us to newness of life as we sing, as we pray and as we confess that you have made us free from our sins. You have summoned us before you so that you might work in our lives. Show us the hope of our calling, the riches that are the inheritance of your children and the surpassing power that belongs to those who follow the Lamb. We wait before you and say together that we are yours to command. We make these prayers in the name of Messiah Jesus, who is born to bring salvation. Amen

Hymn #216

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping: shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

Hymn #229

Gentle Mary Laid Her Head

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the Undefined, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him:
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined, but no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!

Prayers Of Confession

Fourth Advent Candle— David and Sarah Zevac, Luke, Samuel and Lily

Confession of Faith

How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

How does Christ execute the office of a priest?

Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

How does Christ execute the office of a king?

Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Hymn #213

What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise, the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

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 6:16-21

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. 18 The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. 19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. 20 But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21 Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

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.

John 6:16-21

A contrast of hopes, beliefs and hymns.

The “almost Jesus” who the world offers.

For lo!, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

A Savior who crosses obstacles to come to our aid.

A Savior who comes to us in storms and says “It is I; do not be afraid.”

A Savior who is *there*: Jesus of Nazareth as offered in the Gospel.

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen 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 us second birth.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Hymn #195

Joy To The World

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

As you leave today, please place hymn books on top of your seat. Thank you!

Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for our annual **Christmas Eve Service**
on **Monday, December 24rd, at 5:30pm.**
There will be childcare provided for children up to 3.

Men's Ministry

Please join the men of St. Andrews for a time of fellowship, prayer, and planning for the new year at our **2019 Men's Ministry Kick-off breakfast.** We will have a **FULL BREAKFAST** in the narthex of the sanctuary on Sunday morning **January 13 at 8 a.m.** We will be finished by 9.

SAVE THE DATE

for the **MEN'S SPRING RETREAT!**
April 25-29, 2019 in **GATLINBURG, TENNESSEE**
Come for some or all of these days. You do not want to miss this !

End of the Year Giving

If you would like to make a donation to St. Andrews that will be reflected on your 2018 giving statement, please have it to the office by Sunday, **December 30th.**

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed
Monday, December 24th -Tuesday, December 25th.
AND
Monday, December 31st– Tuesday, January 1st.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Missions Conference

Save the Date!
This years Missions Conference
will be held
January 25-27th.
More information to follow.

St. Andrews Hymns CDs

Are available for purchase.
They are already wrapped for you!
Safely Home (2012) - \$5.00
Sweet Comforter (2014) - \$10.00
Purchase in church office!

Poinsettia 2018

“In Memorial or Honor Of”

David & Sarah Zevac	<i>David R. Zevac</i>
Harry & Lydia Westcott	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Harry Archer Westcott Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Sawyer, Sr.</i>
Ashley & Ryan Foster	<i>Dennis Whitford</i>
Susan & Jim Jackson	<i>Susannah Joy Jackson</i>
Marie & Larry King	<i>Mrs. Lillian Hamilton Mr. & Mrs. Dimon King</i>
Barb & Bill Brouwer	<i>Peter Louters Albert Brouwer</i>
Cheryl & David Smith	<i>Alice Murawski (Honor Of) Melford Murawski Charles & Nancy Smith</i>
Caitlin & Mathes Ballard	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Dillard</i>
Brooke & Bill Douglas	<i>William C. Douglas SR. Anne McMillan Douglas Paul Markey Riherd</i>



Monthly Calendar at St. Andrews

DECEMBER

- 23, Sun—** Fourth Sunday of Advent- *No Sunday School (10:30a)*
No Youth Group
- 24, Mon—** **Christmas Eve Service (5:30p)**
Office Closed
- 25, Tues—** **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**
Office Closed
-
- 30, Sun—** *No Sunday School (10:30a)*
No Youth Group
- 31, Mon—** New Years Eve!
Office Closed
- 1, Tues—** Happy New Year!
Office Closed
-
- 6, Sun—** **Sunday School (9:30a)**
Youth Group (5:30p)
- 7, Mon—** Moms in Prayer (9:00a)
- 8, Tues—** Women's Bible Study, with MSM, "John" (10:00a)
- 9, Wed—** School Resumes for Muscogee
- 10, Thurs—** Invited, Women's Event (7:00pm)
- 11, Fri—** Women's Friday Morning Study (6:30a)

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: Allen Whitley & DR McNew

Greeters:

December 23: Katie VanAaslt & Annie Simpson

December 30: Jim & Paula Anderson

January 6: Tyler & Linda Bennett

Children's Church:

December 23: Bess Kendrick-Holmes, Jennifer Stowe and Maggie Foster

December 30: Brett & Jackie Horne and Jack Phillips

January 6: Amy Jaeger, Olivia O'Shields, and Grace Johnson

Nursery Volunteers:

December 23: Heather O'Shields

December 30: Alison Ross

January 6: Alicia Mason

COVENANT FAMILY NEEDS

- **Expectant Mothers** — Molly Parker
- **Foster Care Families** — Matt & Katherine Maxey
- **Families Adopting** — Mathes & Caitlin Ballard
- **St. Andrews Missionaries** — Covenant Theological Seminary (Missouri)
- **St Andrews Ministries** — Missions 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 — Sara Brouwer

Patricia Levine — Frank Clements — Susan Clickner

**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.



