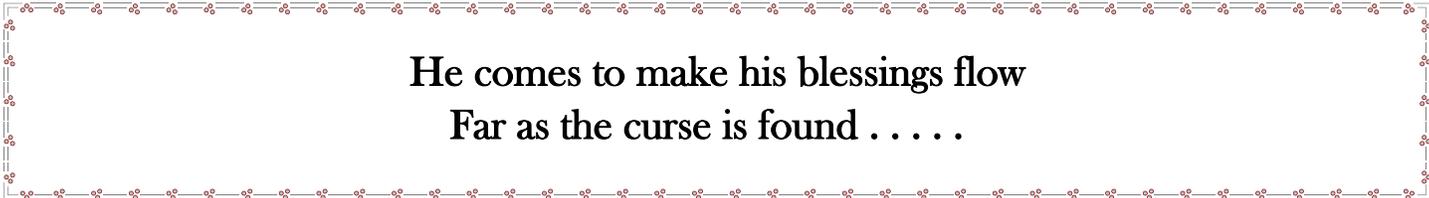


For most religions it does not matter if their stories are true or if their founders were real people. The essence of those religions is that those who are diligent enough or enlightened enough can save themselves by adherence to the teachings. The Gospel is a totally different thing. It is rooted in real space/time history, based on the efforts of someone else who wins salvation and then gives it as a gift. It is the life of Jesus, the atoning death of Jesus and his victorious resurrection that saves.

The Christmas accounts in Luke and Matthew take pains to locate the nativity, not “a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away” but in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Caesar Augustus when Quirinius was governor of Syria. He was crucified in Jerusalem in the first half of the first century by Pontius Pilate. Paul reminds his hearers that Christ’s resurrection was “not done in a corner” but a matter of public knowledge.

Advent worship is not an invitation to pull away from the real world for an escape but an invitation to return to the reality that Christ brings and that will one day transform the entire world.

Bill Douglas, Pastor



He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found

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 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Bill Douglas

Leading in Worship: Duncan Cantrell

Songs of Ascent

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

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!

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.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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."
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored: Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the favored one.
Veil'd in flesh, the Godhead see; Hail, th'incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail! the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail! the Son 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 them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Call to Worship from Hebrews 2

10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

Hymn # 198

Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near,
the Savior of the world is here.

A helper just he comes to thee,
his chariot is humility,
his kingly crown is holiness,
his scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
to whom this King in triumph comes!

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Prayers of Invocation (From Prayers of John Calvin)

Grant, Almighty God, that since you have once shone upon us by your gospel, - that we may always be guided by this light, and so guided, that all our idolatries may be restrained; and may the power of thy Spirit extinguish in us every sinful inclination. Do not let the coldness of our flesh ever take possession of us, but may we continually advance in faith in your word, love because you first loved us and growing hope of our full salvation. which has been obtained for us by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Since the rule of true and lawful worship is known to us by your complete word, cause us today to continue in it and thereby to abide in Jesus Christ and his grace. Grant, that, being fortified by invincible faith against all temptations, we may persevere until we are gathered by our eternal King in whom you have promised that we shall ever be safe until that great day. All prayers we make in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Second Advent Candle—Andrew and Amanda Harry, Dillon and Erie

Night of Silence, Silent Night

Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth,
Weary, it's flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us You speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
Rumours of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,
Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

**Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round you Virgin Mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

Prayers Of Confession

Almighty God, you know that we set up against you so many obstacles against your ways, through the depravity of our flesh and natural disposition. We seem as it were to be so inclined to close up the door against your goodness and paternal favour that we find our lives set against you. O grant, that our hearts may be so softened by thy Spirit, and that our hardness may be so corrected, that we may submit ourselves to you with genuine love. We hear your sweet invitation to turn and live, to obtain without cost and without money and to be refreshed, restored and renewed. Give to us that inner power that we may run, and so run as not to be weary in our course, until Christ shall at length bring us together to eternal home, which he has obtained for us by his own great redemption as Savior. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism *Sadie & Sawyer Steed*

Admission to Sealing Ordinances

The First Noel

Women: The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

Men: In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

(Refrain)

All: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Men: They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;

Women: And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

(Refrain)

**All: Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made Heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.**

(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.)

John 5:1-18

The authority of Jesus: power from God to heal.

The authority of Jesus: which he will not share with counterfeits.

The authority of Jesus: the eternal Son, who does all the redeeming work of God.

“We modern people think of miracles as the suspension of the natural order, but Jesus meant them to be the restoration of the natural order. The Bible tells us that God did not originally make the world to have disease, hunger, and death in it. Jesus has come to redeem where it is wrong and heal the world where it is broken. His miracles are not just proofs that he has power but also wonderful foretastes of what he is going to do with that power. **Jesus’ miracles are not just a challenge to our minds, but a promise to our hearts, that the world we all want is coming.**” -Tim Keller

Scripture Lesson John 5:1-18

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. 3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” 7 The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” 11 But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” 12 They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’” 13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” 15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. 16 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.” 18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Sermon

Benediction

Nunc Dimittis

Hymn 198

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to thee; here Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal

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

Welcome NEW Members!

Bethany Adams, Luke Zevac, Glenn & Susan Preston,
Emma Preston, Gabriel Preston, Nathan & Delaney Trimble

KIDS

Children's Christmas Pageant will take place **TONIGHT!**
Sunday December 9 at 5:30 PM.

All St. Andrews Family and Friends are invited to see the Christmas story come to life in the annual Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday December 9 at 5:30 PM. A small cookies and punch reception will follow the performance.

Cast Members please arrive at 5:00pm in the John Knox Room.

THANK YOU!

to **Diane McGowan, Carol Nichols, Maggie Childers, and Barb Brouwer** for decorating and setting up for the Christmas Dinner. If you lent decorations for the dinner, please pick up your items from Room 108 (Robert Murray McCheyne Room).

Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for our annual
Christmas Eve Service
on **Monday, December 23rd, at 5:30pm.**
There will be childcare provided for children up to 3.

YOUTH

Dec 9—No Youth
Dec 16— Christmas Party (5:30p)

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!

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed **Monday, December 23rd-Tuesday, December 24th.**
Merry Christmas!

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

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)

16, Sun— Third Sunday of Advent (*No Sunday School*)

Youth Group Christmas Party (5:30p)

17, Mon— Moms in Prayer (9:00a)

23, Sun— Fourth Sunday of Advent (*No Sunday School*)

No Youth Group

24, Mon— **Christmas Eve Service (5:30p)**

Office Closed

25, Tues— MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Office Closed

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 9: Ted & Liz Thorne

December 16: Billy & Janet Whitley

December 23: Katie VanAaslt & Annie Simpson

Children's Church:

December 9: Diane McGowan, Cordy Phillips, Bethany Adams

December 16: David & Cheryl Smith, Blake Schoonover

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

Nursery Volunteers:

December 9: Lydia Wescott

December 16: Maggie Childers

December 23: Heather O'Shields

COVENANT FAMILY NEEDS

- **Expectant Mothers** — Molly Parker
- **Foster Care Families** — Matt & Katherine Maxey
- **Families Adopting** — Mathes & Caitlin Ballard
- **St. Andrews Missionaries** — Bethany Christian Services (Columbus, GA)
- **St Andrews Ministries** — Men's Ministry Team
- **Please pray for Mike & Ellen Brooks as they mourn the loss of Mike's mother, Francis Brooks.**
- **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 — Dorothy Bryant — 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.

