



Christmas Eve

5 p.m. | December 25, 2025

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

Today's Worship Participants

Thomas Hartley, *director of children's & family ministries*

Franklin & Josie Ibrahim-Olin, Maya Wolf, and the Miak Family, *worship leaders*

Eleanor Penn, *worship leader/soloist*

Children's Choir | Austen Wilson, *director*; Pat Penn, *accompanist*



Flowers on the Chancel

- Today's flowers are donated by Jean Shaffer in memory of Edgar and Trudy Riley and Robert John Shaffer.



Questions for Reflection

- When the angel says, "Do not be afraid," what are some things that make you feel scared—and what helps you feel brave again?
- The Bible says there was "no room" at the inn. What helps you make room in your heart or your home for someone else?
- Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and wise ones all have parts in this story. Which person do you feel most like tonight—and why?
- The wise ones brought gifts to Jesus. What is something kind, loving, or helpful that you could bring to God this Christmas?
- We hear that "my story is tied to yours." Who helps make your story better—and how can you help make someone else's story brighter?



Finish the Race
Owe Nothing But Love

Hymns + Songs | Pages are listed for the printed bulletin

Numbers (#) are listed for music in the *Lift Up Your Hearts* (red) hymnal

Bold Print | Speak or sing together in unison.

✠ | Please rise in body or in spirit.



STEWARDSHIP 2026

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

140 Gathering Place Lane, Iowa City, Iowa, 52246

319-338-7523 |

www.saintandrew.ccbchurch.com | bit.ly/SAPCYouTube



Christmas Eve Service

5 p.m. | December 24, 2025

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

Welcome + Announcements

Prelude | *Away in a Manager*

Call to Gather | *based on Luke 1:28-33*

The angel said to Mary, “The Lord is with you.” Tonight, God is with us too!

God is with us! We’re glad to be here!

The angel also said, “Do not be afraid.”

On this special night, we don’t have to be scared—we can trust God’s love.

We trust You, God! Thank You for loving us for who we are!

The angel told Mary she would have a baby, and his name would be Jesus.

Jesus is our gift! We celebrate His birth!

The angel said Jesus would be a great King and his kingdom would last forever.

Jesus is our forever King!

So let’s get ready—our hearts, our voices, our whole selves—to worship God tonight.

Come, let’s celebrate Jesus!

Come, let’s worship with joy!

Hymn | “O Come All Ye Faithful,” vs. 1, 3, 4, pg. 5 (hymnal, #76)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn | “Go, Tell It on the Mountain,” pg. 6 (hymnal, #93)

First Reading | Luke 2:4-7 (*The Voice*)

Mini-Message | *No Room for the Christmas Tree*

Time for Young Disciples | *The True Story of the Candy Cane*

Hymn | “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing,” vs. 1 & 3 , pg. 7

Second Reading | Matthew 2:1-4, 9-11 (*The Voice*)

The word of the prophets for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Mini-Message | *What Presents Do We Bring?*

Offering Our Time, Treasure, and Talents

Offertory | *Come to the Stable with Jesus*, by Daniel S. Twohig and Geoffrey O'Hara



Give Online

✕ **Response to Our Offerings** | “What Child is This,” v. 3

Prayers of the People | The Lord's Prayer | *adapted from Luke 11:2-4 & Matthew 6:13 (The Voice)*

Father in heaven, may your name be revered.

May your kingdom come. May your will be accomplished on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us the food we need for tomorrow.

Forgive us for our wrongs, as we forgive those who wrong us.

Lead us away from temptation, and save us from the evil one.

But let Your kingdom be ... and let it be powerful and glorious forever. Amen.

✕ **Hymn & Candlelighting** | “Silent Night,” pg. 8 (*hymnal*, #85) | *turn on your candle as the lights dim*

✕ **Benediction** | *adapted from a liturgy by Sarah Speed*

We believe that for generations people have gathered together on this holy night,

because there is something about this story that speaks to the deepest parts of us.

We believe in bundling up this hope, this good news, and passing it on—

to our children, to our neighbors, to the world around us.

I believe my voice can make a difference, just like I believe this story can make a difference,

so I will not stay quiet.

I will tell this story—of a love that makes room for all.

I will sing this story—of a love that knows our name.

I believe that words have power.

I will not stay quiet. Amen.

✕ **Sending Hymn** | “Joy to the World,” pg. 9 (*hymnal*, #92)

[H] 283

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4;
 tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: attr. John Francis Wade

ADESTE FIDELES
 Irregular

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain Unison F B^b/F F C7 F
 Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

B^b/F F Gm/B^b F/C C7 F *Fine*
 go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

Harmony F C F
 1 While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly sta - ble the hum - ble Christ was born,

G7 C7 *To Refrain*
 be - hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: African American spiritual, 19th c., P.D.

Music (GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 refrain 7.8.7.6): African American spiritual, 19th c.; arr. © 2012 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild, he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.
 Music (MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7. D refrain 7.7): Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; adapt. William H. Cummings, 1856, P.D.

Silent Night! Holy Night



1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God,
 4 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star,

all is bright 'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child!
 at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light, ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face
 lend thy light; with the an - gels let us sing

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heaven - ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Sav - ior is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
 Al - le - lu - ia to our King: "Christ the Sav - ior is

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 birth! Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth!
 born! Christ the Sav - ior is born."

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, 1863, P.D.
 Music (STILLE NACHT): Franz Gruber, 1818, P.D.

Joy to the World

PSALM 98

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 sin and sor - row 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, and
 ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re -
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

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,

For another setting of Ps. 98 see 547

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1719, P.D.

Music (ANTIOCH 8.6.8.6.6.8): Lowell Mason, 1848, P.D.

2025: A Year of Transition and Beyond for St. Andrew

Christmas Eve has a way of slowing us down. We come with full lives, mixed emotions, and maybe a little weariness—and we gather around a story that reminds us that God often shows up quietly, over time, and in the middle of ordinary life.

That was true at **St. Andrew** in 2025. It was a year of transition, but also a year of steady, hopeful movement. With **the Rev. Dr. Carl Anderson** completing his first full year as our transitional pastor, we spent much of the year listening—listening to God, to one another, and to what might be next. That listening turned into real steps toward calling our next installed pastor, work that continues with care and prayer into the coming year.

It was also a year shaped by generosity. After many years of carrying building debt, St. Andrew moved strikingly close to the finish line, thanks to faithful pledges and a remarkable legacy gift. What once felt heavy began to feel lighter, opening space to imagine new ways of serving beyond ourselves.

At the same time, life beyond these walls kept calling. Each month, hundreds of families came through our **Food Market**. Children were fed during the summer. Neighbors gathered here for meals, music, learning, mental-health support, and simple human connection. This building was busy—in the best possible way.

Worship continued to hold us together through children's pageants, Advent carols, farewells, and new beginnings. By year's end, our church motto returned to **Connecting Hearts | Renewing Lives**—a good description of what we've been experiencing.

If you're here tonight for the first time, or been here a long while, we're glad. You belong in this story too.



Questions about Worship @ St. Andrew?

- **Welcome!** We are happy to have you join us today. If you would like more information about St. Andrew, please email office@saintandrew-ic.org or fill out this short form: <https://tinyurl.com/sapc-guest>.
- If you are visiting with us for the first time, please stop by our **Information Kiosk** in the Atrium. We have a small gift for you, and we'd love to answer any questions you may have!
- Our worship services begin **in-person and online shortly before 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings**, followed by Sunday School and Adult Christian Education offerings from September to May.
- **Nursery care** (up to age 2) is provided in the Lower Level throughout the service.
- Unless otherwise designated, gifts given in the **offering** support the church budget, including staff salaries, utilities, mission outreach, and all aspects of ministry at St. Andrew.
- To log into the **St. Andrew Connect** system, either download the **St. Andrew App** through the **App Store/Google Play** or visit <https://saintandrew.cbcchurch.com>.
- Permission to livestream the music in this service is from CCLI (#617801) and One License (A-711114).

St. Andrew's Statement of Inclusion

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." - Romans 15:7

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church affirms the worth and dignity of all people. We are all created by God in God's image, and God found all of creation to be good. Just as Jesus welcomed everyone into fellowship, especially those marginalized by society, we welcome all people to our congregation regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic status, marital status, family structure, country of origin, or immigration status. All are welcome to participate fully in the life of St. Andrew: worship, service, baptism, communion, membership, ministry, and leadership. To this end, we affirm that the covenant of marriage should be extended to any two consenting adults who seek to enter a marriage based upon love, responsibility, mutual respect, and trust in God's grace. We acknowledge that the Presbyterian Book of Order allows for each pastor to follow their own conscience as to whether they will perform a particular marriage service.

We recognize that the Christian church has historically condemned and excluded LGBTQ+ persons from the community of faith, and we assert that such actions are incompatible with the gospel of Jesus. We also acknowledge, and deeply regret, that St. Andrew Presbyterian's actions have at times caused harm to our relationships with members of the LGBTQ+ community, including members of our own congregation. As we continue to grow as a congregation and discern our path forward in God's love and grace, we seek to rectify these past wrongs and pursue justice for those who have been and continue to be oppressed. We commit to continue to learn and work toward ensuring that St. Andrew is a safe place where all people are welcomed and loved.

Approved by the St. Andrew Session, June 2023



HOW GOD SHOWS UP

by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 2:1-20 | Silk painting with digital drawing and collage

This year, I come to this story with deep reverence for the complexity and beauty of childbirth. At the time of creating this art, I am about 6 weeks away from giving birth to my first child—who will be born in the same hospital where my mom died from cancer 20 years ago. My daughter will take her first breath in the same place where I heard my mother's last exhale. Much of my pregnancy has been a journey of healing—of inviting joy into the house where my grief lives, of preparing to become a mother as a motherless child. The more I learn of others' experiences around birth, I realize how closely joy and grief can coexist in each of our stories.³

And so, as I return to Jesus' birth story, my imagination leads me to wonder about how Mary experienced both grief and joy. Apart from Elizabeth, did she have support throughout her pregnancy? Was her own mother involved? Did she have generational trauma she needed to grieve? Did the stress of their travels to Bethlehem cause her labor to happen sooner than expected? As she labored, did a midwife come? Was she afraid?

In this image, as if looking past a curtain, we peer into this threshold moment when excruciating pain gives way to ecstatic joy as Mary draws her baby to her chest and he takes his first breath. As Mary holds her baby, additional hands reach in to support them both. Maybe these are the hands of strangers, of Joseph, or of a midwife who was summoned. Perhaps they are simply the hands of angels.

Each year, we tell this story because it is raw with joy, pain, and the complexities of being human. No matter how your story is unfolding, may you find that this sacred story holds space for you. For this is how God shows up—in a child who cries, in hands that hold, in human flesh, in life and in death.

—Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Upcoming Events

- **Church Office Closed** | Dec. 25 - Jan. 2
- **Bingo & Games** | Jan. 2, 2026
- **Learning Academy Resumes** | Jan. 4
- **Free Lunch** | Jan. 7
- **Sunday School Resumes** | Jan. 11
- **Next Steps** | Jan. 18
- **Food Market** | Jan. 28
- **Women's Retreat** | Jan. 31
- **Free Lunch** | Feb. 4
- **At the Table** | Feb. 5
- **St. Olaf Band Concert** | Feb. 6
- **Congregational Meeting** | Feb. 8
- **Chili Cookoff & Souper Bowl Lunch** | Feb. 8
- **Ash Wednesday** | Feb. 18