



Christmas Eve

7 p.m. | December 25, 2025

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

Today's Worship Participants

The Rev. Dr. Carl Anderson, *transitional pastor*

The Rev. Dr. Laurel Crusinberry, *worship leader*

Logos Choir | Austen Wilson, *director*

Christmas Eve Handbell Ensemble | Laura Kastens, *director*

Brass Ensemble

Melissa Moll, *guest organist*



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

- "My story is not just mine; it's tied to yours." Whose story is connected to yours right now—and how might God be weaving you together?
- The angels sing loudly, but the baby arrives quietly. Where do you notice God showing up in quiet ways in your own life?
- Mary holds these moments in her heart, and the shepherds run to tell everyone. When something important happens to you, do you like to keep it close, or share it right away?
- Jesus is born in a place that wasn't planned or perfect. What is one place in your life that doesn't feel ready—but might still be where God is near?
- We light candles in a dark room and sing about peace. Where do you see even a small light of hope—and how could you help it shine a little brighter?



Finish the Race
Owe Nothing But Love



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

7 p.m. | December 24, 2025

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

Welcome + Announcements

Prelude | *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, arr. by Linda R. Lamb

Lighting of the Advent Candle

✠ **Gathering Hymn** | “O Come All Ye Faithful,” pg. 7 (hymnal, #76)

✠ **Prayer of Confession and Promise of Ever-Present Grace** | *adapted from a liturgy by Sarah Speed*

As a kid I used to think the prayer of confession was scary.

I thought it was a moment designed to make me feel guilty,
intended for eyes cast down and shoulders hung low.

But that’s not it at all.

The prayer of confession is an invitation.

It’s an opportunity to say, “This is who I’ve been, and this is who I long to be.”

So let us pray together.

Let us be truth tellers.

Let us hold our heads high and speak honestly before God and one another.

This is easy to do when we are surrounded by a God who delights in us.

Friends, let us pray:

Holy God,

We admit—we don’t fully understand the Christmas story.

We are not familiar with angel choruses.

We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,

and we don’t always hear your voice in our dreams.

We don’t fully understand this story, so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it.

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.

Instead of running out into the streets to shout
that there is a love bigger than we could imagine,
we whisper this good news.

Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,
we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.

Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much,
we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.

Forgive us for our silence.

Forgive us for our hesitation.

Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.

**Plant this story of love so deep in our bones
that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation.**

Time for Silent Confession

Friends, repeat after me:

No matter where we go, **No matter where we go,**

No matter what we say, **No matter what we say,**

No matter what we do, **No matter what we do,**

We belong to God. **We belong to God.**

We are held. **We are held.**

We are loved. **We are loved.**

We are forgiven. **We are forgiven.**

Amen! **Amen!**

✕ **Musical Response:** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," pg. 8 (*hymnal #80*)

✕ **Sharing of Christ's Peace & Compassion**

And now, as a visible sign
of what it means to live together
in the care and context
of Christ's community,
let us extend Christ's
peace and compassion
to those around us!

The peace of Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

Gospel Reading | Luke 2:1-20 (*The Voice*)

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

Anthem | *O Holy Night*, arr. by John Behnke



Give Online

Old Testament Reading | Isaiah 9:2-7 (*The Voice*)

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

The Message | Pastor Carl Anderson

✕ **Hymn of Reflection** | “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming,” pg. 9(*hymnal*, #79)

Offering Our Time, Treasure, and Talents

Offertory | *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*, arr. By Rollo Dilworth

✕ **Response to Our Offerings** | “What Child is This,” v. 3, pg. 10

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.

Prayers of the People

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.

✕ **Congregational Carol & Candle Lighting** | “Silent Night,” pg. 11 (*hymnal*, #85)

✕ **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. 12 (*hymnal*, #92)

Postlude | *Carillon for Christmas*, by Brenda Portman



St. Andrew
Learning Academy
Spring 2026



**Beat the Winter Blues with
Bingo, Board Games, & Fun!**

Friday January 2
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Atrium of St. Andrew

Childcare Available!

BINGO



ST. ANDREW
MEN'S RETREAT
SATURDAY MARCH 7, 2026

THE VOYAGE WITHIN

SAILING THE WORLD WHILE LISTENING FOR GOD'S CALL



Women's Retreat “Gifted to Serve”

with Sarah Goettsch

“Serve one another humbly in love.” (Galatians 5:13)



Save the Date!

6-9 p.m. | Friday January 30, 2026

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Saturday January 31, 2026

Contact *Nichole Hoffman* or *Amy Schmitt-Rundell* with questions.

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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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

F C Am B^b F/C C F

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!

Dm7 G7 C Fmaj7 G7 C

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.

F F/C C F F/C C

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,

B^b D Gm C7 F C F

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 B^b D Gm C7 F C7 F

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.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore-told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten-der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing, by faith-ful proph-ets sung.
 with Mar-y we be-hold it, the vir-gin moth-er kind.
 dis-pels with glo-rious splen-dor the dark-ness ev-ery-where.

It came, a flower-et bright, a-mid the cold of
 To show God's love a-right she bore for us a
 En-fleshed, yet ver-y God, from sin and death he

win-ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav-ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light-ens ev-ery load.

Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

TEXT: German carol; stanzas 1, 2 trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.; stanza 3 trans. Harriet Knuth Spaeth, 1985, alt. ES IST EIN' ROS'
 MUSIC: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng.* 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609 7.6.7.6.6.7.6

What Child Is This

Em G D Em Am B

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, pea-sant, king, to own him.

Em G D Em B Esus Em

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

Bm G D Em Am B

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Bm G D Em B Esus Em

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
 hail, hail for Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y.

Words: William C. Dix (1837-1898), P.D.

Music (GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7): English ballad, 16th c., 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

Pastoral, Ministry, & Administrative Staff and Elected Church Officers

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Carl Anderson, *transitional pastor* | pastorcarl@saintandrew-ic.org

Rev. Colette Soult, *pastoral care associate* | pastoralcare@saintandrew-ic.org

Rev. Mark Wilson Martin, *pastor emeritus*

Administrative Ministries

Walter Sparks, *finance administrator* | finance@saintandrew-ic.org

Jeff Charis-Carlson, *director of communications & media ministries* | jcharisc@saintandrew-ic.org

Amy Schmidt-Rundell, *mission & outreach coordinator* | amysr@saintandrew-ic.org

Children's, Family & Student Ministries

Matt Moore, *director of student ministries* | mmoore@saintandrew-ic.org

Thomas Hartley, *director of children's and family ministries* | thartley@saintandrew-ic.org

Nichole Hoffman, *children's ministries outreach coordinator* | nhoffman@saintandrew-ic.org

Sara Penn, *children's ministries activities coordinator* | spenn@saintandrew-ic.org

Music Ministries

Austen Wilson, *director of music ministries* | awilson@saintandrew-ic.org

Laura Kastens, *director of handbell ministries* | lkastens@saintandrew-ic.org

Julia Van Den Top, *organist & accompanist* | jvandentop@saintandrew-ic.org

Elders

2026: Chloe Goers, Aaron Gibson, Mary Hausler, Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, Josh Schilling, and Gregs Thomopulos

2027: Becky Benson, Scott Fisher, Austin Kannegieter, Emily Neddermeyer, and Munir Tanas

2028: Helen Bryce, Don Burch, Paula McCue, Judy Swafford, and Jon Swearingen

Deacons

2026: Jim Halverson, Scott Hoffman, Emmit Schmidt-Rundell, Jamie Tanas, Mettie Thomopulos and David Weitzel

2027: Jordan Barrett, Kathy & Dave Duys, Lynne Ginsberg, Cody Neddermeyer, and Jenni Stacy-Adams

2028: Laurel Crusinberry, Vern Dengler, Rick Graf, Cindy Seyfer, and Allison Van Iddekinge

Personnel Team (at large)

2026: Twila Finkelstein | **2027:** Kent Short | **2028:** Ernie Found and Mindy Egeland

Nominating Team (at large)

2026: Kyle Bernard, Hillary Chappo, Paul Heidger, and Toni Van Voorhis

Finance Team (elected by Session)

Treasurer: Emily Neddermeyer (**2026**); **Assistant Treasurer:** Michelle DeGroot (**2026**)



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