



Christmas Eve

11 p.m. | December 24, 2023

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

Bulletin Cover: *José y María* (2014), by Everett Patterson.

Original image: <http://www.everettpatterson.com/?p=1835>.

Artist's Statement: "This was our Christmas card for 2014, depicting Jesus's parents in a modern setting. I was inspired by a number of evocative "imagine what it would have been like"-type sermons I heard earlier this year, and also (as usual) by the work of Will Eisner, who so often depicted, with religious reverence, noble individuals enduring the many minor discomforts and petty indignities of urban America.

"The main goal of this illustration was to pack as many clever biblical references into the scene as possible. I won't list every one (there are at least a dozen), but a few that I'm proudest of are: the verse from the prophet Ezekiel in the graffiti on the phone kiosk, the way the 'Save More!' behind Mary's head looks kinda like 'Ave Maria!,' and the two ads for 'Glad' and 'Tide' on the newspaper (get it?).

"A word on perspective: for this image, I chose very, very wide vanishing points. The result is what I occasionally call 'middle-class white people perspective.' Rather than feeling immersed in the scene, the viewer is looking at it as if from across the street or from the warmth and safety of his or her passing car. I have a small hope that this Christmas image will come to mind when we see other 'down and out' people huddling outside of gas stations, reminding us that our Savior's parents (and indeed, Jesus himself) were at one time similarly troubled."

Everett Patterson is a comic book artist and illustrator living in Portland, Oregon.



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.



New Guest Connection

Christmas Eve

11 p.m. | December 24, 2023

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

Thought for Reflection

"No matter what, I always make it home for Christmas."

— Dolly Parton

Welcome + Announcements

Prelude | "Light of the World"

✠ Call to Gather

Tonight Joy enters this space

We have been waiting on God with us, Emmanuel

He is here, he is home.

As the world sleeps we gather in hope.

We gather to celebrate the birth of hope.

Allow us to be filled with hope.

We hope that peace will come:

a peace that transforms lives, a peace that transforms the world.

Emmanuel, fill us with hope and peace.

✠ Lighting the Christ Candle

Because injustice and despair threaten to overwhelm us, we pray for hope.

(Light the first candle.)

Because so many swords have not yet been remade into ploughshares, we pray for peace.

(Light the second candle.)

Because grief and loss weigh so heavily, we pray for joy.

(Light the third candle.)

Because hatred is still so strong,

and because people all over the world are suffering, we pray for love.

(Light the fourth candle.)

God has come to us as a child, to dwell with us, and to walk with us.

(Light the Christ Candle.)

May the light and the fire from these candles

**burn away whatever would prevent the God
of hope and peace and joy and love from being born among us.**
Friends, be not afraid, even now — even now —
the light of Christ is illuminating the world, on earth as it is in heaven!

✕ **Gathering Hymn | “Come as You Are”**

**Come out of sadness from wherever you’ve been.
Come broken hearted, let rescue begin.
Come find your mercy, oh sinner, come kneel.
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can’t heal.
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can’t heal.**

**So lay down your burdens,
lay down your shame.
All who are broken, lift up your face.
Oh wandering, come home.
You’re not too far.
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart.
Come as you are.**

**There’s hope for the hopeless and all those who’ve strayed.
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace.
There’s rest for the weary, rest that endures.
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can’t cure.**

***Come as you are.
Come as you are.
Fall in his arms.
Come as you are.***

**There’s joy for the morning, oh sinner be still.
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can’t heal.
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can’t heal.**

Words & Music by Ben Glover, David Crowder, and Matt Maher. CCL# 7017790 | Copyright: © 2014, One Songs, Ariose Music, Inot Music, sisters Music, Thankyou Music, Valley of Songs Music, worshiptogether.com Songs (admin. Capitol CMG Publishing).

✠ Prayer of Confession and Promise of Ever-Present Grace

Be present with us tonight, God of covenant promises.

Your promises never fail, even when we fail ours.

**We are ready, here in this place, to be salt and light,
but when we leave, we don't take your values home.**

We stay stuck in Advent, anticipating and hoping for change;
when we ourselves are called to be part of the change.

Remind us to be a people who live in both hope and action.

Remind us to bring change home with us.

Time for Silent Confession

In this time, we remember Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

In this place, we remember the Good News.

In this space, we remember to live in hope.

When we leave this place, we remember we go with God.

✠ 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!

Old Testament Reading | Isaiah 9:2-7

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading | Luke 2:1-20

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

The Prompting | *Coming Home* | Matt Moore

⌘ **Hymn** | “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” pg. 8 (*hymnal*, #88)

Worship in Tithes and Offerings

Offertory | “Mary, Did You Know?”

⌘ **Response to Our Offerings** | “Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow,” pg. 9

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Celebration of Communion

Prayer of Preparation

God be with you.

And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the God of Goodness and Grace.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Hymn During the Meal | “Away in a Manger,” pg. 10 (*hymnal*, #86)

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; gm
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

✠ Congregational Carol & Candle Lighting | “Silent Night” (*hymnal*, #85)

***A candle lighter will light a single candle from the Christ Candle,
symbolic of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world,
then pass the light until all candles are lit.
Hold the lit candles upright as others light their candles.***

✠ Benediction

Postlude |

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Kyle Otterbein, pastor

Matt Moore, director of student ministries

Worship Leaders | Marissa Moore, Vivian Polgreen, and Leah Ritz

ETC Band

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray.

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), P.D.

Music (ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6): Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908), P.D.

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Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures

high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise

God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it

one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1989

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623; harm. Hal H. Hopson, 1998

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Music Harm. © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

LM with alleluias
(alternate harmonization, 10)

Away in a Manger

F B^b F C7

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low-ing, the ba - by a-wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

F

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus: look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear child - ren in

B^b F C7 F Gm/B^b C7 F

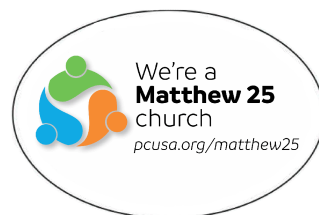
down where he lay; the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my side un - til morn-ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care; pre - pare us for heav-en to live with you there.

Words: North American, 19th c., P.D.

Music (AWAY IN A MANGER 11.11.11.11): James R. Murray (1841-1905), P.D.



St. Andrew Connect
saintandrew.ccbchurch.com



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.

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.
- Our Sunday worship services begin **in-person and online at 9:30 a.m.**, followed by Sunday School and Adult Christian Education offerings from September to April and a variety of After Worship activities from May to August. *The service usually begins with Welcome & Announcements a few minutes before 9:30 a.m.*
- All ages are welcome in our worship services. Worship materials for all ages are available in **The Maker's Toolbox** outside the north entrance to the Sanctuary.
- **Nursery care** (up to age 2) is provided in the Lower Level throughout the morning. Programming for children (through Kindergarten age) begins in the Lower Level after the **Time for Young Disciples** on most Sundays and after the **Sharing of Christ's Peace and Compassion** on Communion Sundays.
- Large print hymnals, bibles, and bulletins also are available outside the Sanctuary doors. A T-Coil hearing assist loop is also available for those with this feature on their hearing aids.
- **Prayer Requests** may be written on a blue **Prayer Request Card** and placed in the offering plates as they are passed.
- Unless otherwise designated, gifts given to the weekly **offering**—either in the offering plates or through our website—support the annual 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 saintandrew.ccbchurch.com.
- Permission to livestream the music in this service is from CCLI (#617801) and One License (A-711114).

Reminder of Upcoming Events

- New Year's Eve Game Night | Dec. 31
- St. Andrew Hosts the Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby | Jan. 20, 2024
- St. Andy's Talent Show | Jan. 27, 2024
- Women's Retreat | Feb. 2-3, 2024
- Luther College Nordic Choir | Melodious Harmony | Feb. 4
- Flipping Tables Retreat | Feb. 24, 2024