



# Christmas Eve

5 p.m. | December 24, 2023

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

**Bulletin Cover:** *Manger* (2021) by Liz Valente, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Tennessee. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59334>.

Jesus is the center of Christmas! Everything revolves around him, everything exists through him, he is the exact expression of God the Father. This drawing shows the centrality of Jesus in his composition: around the boy, the straw; straw around the floor; at the edges of the frame, the animals; at the edges of the paper, darkness. Light streaks radiate from the boy, the light was in him and this was the light of men. The shades of red were used a lot with the intention of creating a warm atmosphere, the birth of Jesus is the measure of God's love for us. It's Christmas! Jesus was born! Hallelujah! This drawing was originally published in a Christmas series by @editoraultimato,

Liz Valente is a liturgical artist, wife and mother of 4 children; she has a master's degree in architecture and urbanism and is a professor of drawing for training architects at higher education levels. She works on several artistic fronts, such as theatre, visual arts and music, having created the album “Pipa Amarela”, released in 2013. She has worked with teenagers and young people at the Presbyterian Church of Viçosa, where her husband serves as a pastor. In her spare time, she writes prayers with accompanying art images and shares them on Instagram. <https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente>.

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**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.



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5 p.m. | December 24, 2023  
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

## Thought for Reflection

*"This is extremely important.  
Will you please tell Santa  
that instead of presents this year,  
I just want my family back."*

— Kevin McCallister, *Home Alone*

## Welcome + Announcements

**Prelude** | *Joy to the World*, arr. by Sandra Eithun

✠ **Call to Gather** | *adapted from a liturgy by Teri McDowell Ott*

Do not be afraid. God is with us.  
**Savior of the nations, come.**

**Lighting Song** | "Christ, Be Our Light," vs. 5 (*hymnal*, #908)

**Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts.*  
*Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in your church gathered today.***

## 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!

✠ **Congregational Carol** | “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” pg. 8 (*hymnal*, #80)

✠ **Prayer of Confession & Promise of Ever-Present Grace** | *adapted from a liturgy by Teri McDowell Ott*

On this Christmas Eve, let us confess the sins that have kept  
us from glorifying and enjoying our God.

**Gracious God, we anticipate the birth of our newborn savior.**

**Yet we are depressed by the suffering and despair of our world.**

**Our hearts grow hard with hopelessness.**

**What reason is there to rejoice?**

**We question your power and doubt our faith.**

**Emmanuel, help us resist the overwhelming forces that drag us down.**

**Lift our spirits so we can experience your transcendent presence and incarnate grace.**

*Time for silent confession*

The Psalmist reminds us how “the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.”  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**Amen.**

✠ **Musical Response** | Refrain from “Angels We Have Heard on High” (*hymnal*, #82)

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*



## ✠ 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!**

### First Reading | Luke 1:26-34

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

### Cinematic Reflections | *The Phantom Menace*

### Second Reading | Luke 2:1-7

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

### Cinematic Reflections | *Home Alone*

### Christmas Carol | "Away in a Manger," pg. 9 (*hymnal*, #82)

### Third Reading | Luke 2:8-20

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

### Special Music | *Room in My Heart*, by Mark Burrows

### Cinematic Reflections | *Three Is the Magic Number*

## Worship in Tithes and Offerings

### Offertory



## ✠ Response to Our Offerings | “Doxology for a Weary World” (sung to “In the Bleak Midwinter”)

***Praise the one Creator, praise the Living Christ  
Praise the Holy Spirit, praise both day and night.  
Praise when you are weary, praise in times of joy.  
Praise, my soul, with all your strength  
and your heart and voice.***

### Doxology for a Weary World

CRANHAM (“In the Bleak Midwinter”)

Text: Anna Strickland (2023)

Music: Gustav Holst (1906)



Praise the one Cre - a - tor, praise the Liv-ing Christ

Praise the Ho-ly Spi - rit, praise both day and night

Praise when you are wea - ry, praise in times of joy

Praise, my soul, with all your strength and your heart and

voice

## 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;  
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,” pg. 10 (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

## ✠ Sending Hymn | “Joy to the World,” pg. 11 (hymnal, #92)

## Postlude

# Today's Worship Participants

Rev. W. Robert Martin III, *pastor*

Thomas Hartley, director of children's and family ministries

Austen Wilson, director of music ministries

Abby Chen, organist & accompanist

*Candle Lighters* | The Tanas Family

*Readers* | Eleanor, Isaac & Penn; Vivian Tanas; and Emily Vox

## Reminder of Upcoming Events

- Services on Christmas Eve Day | Dec. 24
  - 9:30 a.m. | 4th Week of Advent, with sermon by the Pastor Kyle Otterbein
  - 5 p.m. | A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, led by the Children's & Family Ministry Team
  - 7 p.m. | A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Choir & Organ, with prompting by Pastor Rob Martin
  - 11 p.m. | A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, led by the ETC Band, with prompting by Matt Moore
- 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



**St. Andrew Connect**  
[saintandrew.ccbchurch.com](http://saintandrew.ccbchurch.com)



## 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* B $\flat$  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.



## Away in a Manger

F B $\flat$  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 $\flat$  F C7 F Gm/B $\flat$  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.



CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

# What child is this?

THE PERFECT GIFT.

DECEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 24

# 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,

and

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.

# What's Next from St. Andrew Children's & Families Ministry Team?

2023 was an awesome year for the St. Andrew Children's and Family Ministries Team. If you are looking to join us in 2024, here are some events to put on your calendar.

**25Live** | A weekly program that meets every Thursday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. (optional snack at 4:15 p.m.), except the last Thursday of the month. All children Kindergarten thru 6th grade are welcome to join for snack, games, service projects, and Bible Study! Children's Bell Choir and Percussion groups meet immediately after the program ends.

**St. Andy's Talent Show** | Sign up to be an act in our first St. Andy's Talent Show from 4-6 p.m. Saturday January 27. We're looking for individuals or groups to perform family-friendly music, acting, dancing, joke-telling, magic, and other unique talents.

**VBS 2024** | Come June 17-21, from 8:30 a.m. to Noon, to join us for games, snack, science experiments, and learning about how we can take care of God's wonderful creation! (Early Morning Breakfast Available if needed.) Invite your friends to join us! The more the merrier! Registration is open to kids who will enter Kindergarten in 2025 through kids who be in 5th Graders in 2024. Early Bird price of \$10 available through May 31.

**Child-Led Worship Service** | On Sunday April 28, our 9:30 a.m. worship service will be led by St. Andrew's children, with special music performances, readers, promptings and more. Stay tuned for more details to come.

**Ongoing Service Projects** | Be on the lookout to serve via our Birthday in a Bag Project, as we provide birthday party kits to local food pantries to allow those in need to celebrate! Or come next Advent season, and join us in our "Gift of the Heart" program, as we provide school supply kits for children displaced by conflicts around the globe. Donations for either project are welcome at any time.

We're so happy that you were able to join us tonight, and we're looking forward to seeing what God will do through us throughout 2024.



**Thomas Hartley**

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*Thomas*