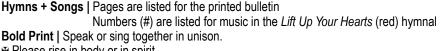


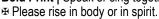
Christmas Eve

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, Tennesse. 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.







Christmas Eve

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.



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)

母 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.

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.

Doxology for a Weary World CRANHAM ("In the Bleak Midwinter")



⊞ 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









Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.

80

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

Away in a Manger



Words: North American, 19th c., P.D. Music (AWAY IN A MANGER 11.11.11.11): James R. Murray (1841-1905), P.D.







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



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



Thomas Hartley
Director of Children's & Family Ministries
Cell: 515-408-6586
Email: thartley@saintandrew-ic.org

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