



Second Sunday after Christmas

9:30 a.m. | Jan. 4, 2026

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

Today's Worship Participants

The Rev. Colette Soult, *pastoral care associate*

Twila Finkelstein, *worship leader*

Jula Van Den Top, *organist & accompanist*

Mateo Anderson and Zack Penn, *pianists*



Sunday School & Learning Academy

- **PreK-8th Sunday School** classes will resume on Jan. 11, 2026.
- The Spring 2026 Semester of St. Andrew's **Learning Academy** has the following classes scheduled: **Jan. 4** | "Biblical Literacy," with Russ Owen; **Jan. 11 & 18** | "Open and Relational Theology," with Aaron Shileny and Jeff Charis-Carlson; **Jan. 25** | "Prepping for Our New Pastor," with Carl Anderson; **Feb. 1** | "Bible Translations," with Matt Moore; **Feb. 15** | "One Land, Two Peoples," with Robert Traer; and **Feb. 22, March 1, & March 8** | "Spirituality," with Colette Soult and Bobby Outtersen-Murphy.



Questions for Reflection

- What part of your life right now feels like Joseph's midnight journey—something you didn't plan, but you need courage to follow anyway?
- Where have you sensed God carrying you, as Isaiah describes, even if the path ahead still feels uncertain?
- Which voices—like the angels, shepherds, or prophets—have helped you recognize God's presence this season?
- How might the Christ who was "born to save" be inviting you to notice, protect, or accompany someone who is vulnerable today?
- As this year ends and another begins, what desire to please God (Thomas Merton's phrase) is stirring in you—and what small next step might honor that desire?



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



New Guest Connection

Second Sunday After Christmas

9:30 a.m. | January 4, 2025

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

Welcome + Announcements

Prelude | *Angels We Have Heard on High*, arr. by Kern, Keveren & Rejino

Call to Gather | *adapted from a liturgy by Sarah Speed*

Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers...

Calling all glass-half-full optimists and lighthouse keepers...

Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers...

Bring your questions,

your hope,

your faith,

and your fear into this space.

God is here.

✠ **Gathering Hymn** | “Be Thou My Vision,” pg. 7

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

One of my favorite things about the Magi is that they go looking for God.

Actively and consistently, day by day, they follow the star until it guides them to Jesus.

I wish I was more like that, but I admit, I tend to follow God with part of my heart.

I tend to get distracted and lost, taking exit ramps off the road,\

following whatever new shiny sign is present. It's part of being human.

In the prayer of confession, we acknowledge that more often than we'd like to admit,

we find ourselves following the wrong star.

Fortunately for us, God is the map maker, and God's map is measured in grace,

so we have nothing to fear. Let us pray together.

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.

Join me in a time of confession:

**God of starlight, we know that faith isn't a vending machine.
Good news can't be bought or manufactured.
It does not arrive with a push of a button.
Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst.
We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did.
We have to believe that love really can change the world.
We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights.
Forgive us for forgetting that.
Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts.
We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day.**

Time for Silent Confession

Friends, I have nothing but good news.
Since the very first day, God has taken the pieces of our hearts that we have offered up,
and God has said, "I can work with that."
Even in our failings, God has washed us with words of grace, belonging, and love.
**No matter what star we've followed,
no matter how far we've walked,
no matter how lost we got—
we belong to God.**
God loves you. God forgives you. God claims you.
End of story. Thanks be to God! Amen.

✧ Musical Response | "Celtic Alleluia"

Refrain

The musical score is written for a treble and bass staff in 6/8 time, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols (A, E, D, Bm) are placed above the treble staff to indicate the harmonic structure. The score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system covers the first line of the refrain, and the second system covers the second line. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"

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

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

✠ 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 | Jeremiah 31:7-14 (*The Voice*)

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

✠ Hymn of Reflection | "In the Beginning," pg. 8

Gospel Reading | John 1:1-18 (*The Voice*)

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

The Message | Pastor Colette Soultz

Offering Our Time, Treasure, and Talents

Offertory

✠ Response to Our Offerings | "For the Fruit of All Creation," vs. 2

**2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.**



Give Online

† After the Sharing of Christ's Peace and Compassion, children in Kindergarten and younger are invited to head to the Lower Level Children's Area for children's programming.

Celebration of Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to the God who created us all.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

✕ **Sending Hymn** | “Arise Your Light Has Come,” pg. 9

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

We believe that faith is active, found on long walks, and in long talks,

in future days, and down memory lane.

We believe that those who seek will find,

although it may not be what they expected.

We believe that God finds us first.

We believe that God drops breadcrumbs along our way

in the shape of people, invitations, and even starlight.

We believe that being a seeker—of God, of justice, of community—is a holy thing.

So we strive to live with an open spirit, with soft hearts, and with room to grow.

May it be so.

This we believe. Amen.

Postlude | *About Foreign Lands and People*, by Robert Schumann

Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's sun!

thou my best thought,— by day or by night;
 Thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be,
 thou and thou on - ly first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing and I one with thee.
 high King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Words: Irish hymn, 8th c.; tr. Mary E. Byrne (1880-19331); vers. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), P.D.
 Music (SLANE 10.10.10.10): Irish melody; arr. Jack Schrader (b. 1942) © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

In the Beginning

**1 In the beginning was the Word,
no other sound in heaven heard.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**There at the dawning of all things,
one wondrous Word creation sings:**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**2 One Word, that gave all others birth,
dwelled with the God of all the earth.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**One Word, one Wisdom so divine,
one holy wholeness God's design.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**3 Thus, all that is began to be,
born of this perfect unity.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**All that has life and breath was stirred,
sung into being by the Word.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**4 Among us came this Word to dwell,
the Word made flesh, Emmanuel!**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Though in our sin we failed to see,
still by this Word we are set free.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**5 Still shining through the deepest night,
no shadow can put out the light.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Let all that is within us praise
God's Word of grace and truth always!**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: Chris Shelton, b.1978 © 2015 GIA Publications, Inc.

744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1–2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974

MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894

Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG

SM

(this tune in a lower key, 815)

Biblical Literacy

with Russ Owen

After Worship | January 4, 2026



OPEN AND RELATIONAL THEOLOGY

with Aaron Shileny
and Jeff Charis-Carlson

A Learning Academy Class
Jan. 11 & 18, 2026 | The Hub

OPEN AND RELATIONAL THEOLOGY

AN INTRODUCTION
TO LIFE-CHANGING IDEAS



THOMAS JAY OORD

Pastoral, Ministry, & Administrative Staff and Elected Church Officers

Pastors

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

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Rev. Mark Wilson Martin, *pastor emeritus*

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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, Emmitt 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**)

Questions about Worship?

- **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>.
- 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 April and a variety of After Worship activities from May to August.
- **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**.
- Unless otherwise designated, gifts given to the **weekly offering** support the church budget, including staff salaries, utilities, mission outreach, and all aspects of ministry.
- To log into the **St. Andrew Connect** system, either download the **St. Andrew App** through the **App Store/Google Play** or visit <https://saintandrew.ccbchurch.com>.
- There are wheelchairs available for use as needed in the lower level entrance foyer and by the coat racks near the upper level entrance.
- There is an AED near the Coffee Kitchen should a medical emergency arise.
- Permission to livestream the music in this service is from CCLI (#617801) and One License (A-711114).

**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 Schmidt-Rundell* with questions.

We keep seeking



THE GOLDEN PILGRIMAGE

by Carmelle Beaugelin

Inspired by Matthew 2:1-12 | Acrylic, gilding paint, canvas collage on handmade reclaimed paper

Imagine the whispers in the town of Bethlehem. The relatives of Mary and Joseph, curious about the absence of the soon to be young mother, grateful to have a sense of distance from the silent scandal of an unwed wife and a man who remains with her in her apparent dishonor.

Members of the community whispering of Herod's increasing anxiety

over the birth of one of their own. Those learned in the ways of the stars gazing up to search the dark skies for a prominent golden orb, over which the elders have been speculating.

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the pilgrimage of three distinguished individuals to the newborn revelation of God revealed in the Christ child. Whether there were only three wise men, or kings, or Magi does not matter. However many of them made the harrowing pilgrimage to the newborn Jesus, they were most likely foreigners and outsiders.

Often the community we begin a journey with is not the same community that supports us throughout our journey's length. *The Golden Pilgrimage* depicts the kind of surrogacy that occurs when a friend, a sibling, a neighbor, a father, or a pastor steps in as a much-needed friend. Even in the story of our Savior's birth, it is not a matter of whether blood is thicker than water. Instead, what matters are the bonds that tie a community together when love and acceptance flow like the healing frankincense and myrrh of the gift-bearers.

—Carmelle Beaugelin

Upcoming Events

- **Learning Academy Resumes** | Today
- **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
- **Presbytery Leadership Meeting** | Feb. 24
- **Food Market** | Feb. 25
- **Free Lunch** | March 4
- **FrAt the Table** | March 5