

Second Week of Advent

Lessons & Carols

9:30 a.m. | December 7, 2025

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

Today's Worship Participants

The Rev. Carl Anderson, *transitional pastor*
Dedi Walker, *worship leader*
Logos Choir & Agape Ringers | Austen Wilson, *director*
Resound! | Laura Kastens, *director*
Julia Van Den Top, *organist and accompanist*



After Worship Today

- **PreK-5th Grade:** *Children's Gathering Area*
- **Middle School:** *Middle School Classroom (#17)*
- **Learning Academy:** *Stories of Advent*, a storytelling workshop with Christina Charis-Donelson | The Hub



Flowers on the Chancel

- Today's flowers are given by Phil and Pam Karp in memory of Pam's daughter-in-law, Cynthia Myers.



STEWARDSHIP 2026

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



140 Gathering Place Lane, Iowa City, Iowa, 52246

319-338-7523 |

www.saintandrew.ccbchurch.com | bit.ly/SAPCYouTube



Second Week of Advent

Lessons & Carols

9:30 a.m. | December 7, 2025

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

Questions for Reflection

- When Isaiah says God judges “more than what meets the eye,” where in your life would you actually want God to look beneath—not to expose you, but to name the truth you’ve avoided?
- The carols claim we will become “the peace to come.” If Christ is born in us, not just for us, what small act of courage might be the first sign of that new life taking shape in you?
- Mary’s annunciation wonders: What if God waits for your honest “yes”? If you were as brave as Mary, what ordinary part of your life might become the place where God takes flesh?
- Isaiah’s peace is disruptive—predators changing habits, enemies becoming kin. What fear would need to loosen its grip before you could imagine that peace beginning in your home or your patterns?
- Our hymns plead: “Comfort,” “Reconcile,” “Ransom,” “Shine.” If you prayed those words without pretending, which feels like a true hope—and which feels like confessing what you cannot fix alone?

Welcome + Announcements

Prelude | *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, setting by Joel Raney, arr. by Arnold Sherman

Lighting of the Advent Candle

✠ **Gathering Hymn** | “Come Now O Prince of Peace,” pg. 8 | v. 1: Choir; vs. 2-4: All

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

Fear can be a good thing.

It can help us be attentive while driving down the highway.

It can alert us to possible accidents.

It can motivate us to do our best.

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.

However, fear can also be harmful.

For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown
has led us to make sinful choices in our lives—
choices such as building walls or tearing others down.

Today, in confession, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance.

As we confess, we come before an entirely merciful and loving God who says to us, “Do not be afraid.”

Let us pray:

Patient God, you know just how often

we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love.

**You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic,
fanning unhealthy fires in our lives.**

**You know just how often we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid”
on dusty shelves and in the back of closets,
stubbornly holding onto our own point of view.**

Forgive us for giving fear the microphone.

**Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection,
which spark and feed so much of our fear,
to recenter us in love.**

With hope we pray the silent thoughts that are on our hearts.

Time for Silent Confession

Family of faith, even when we forget God’s words, God does not forget us.

Even when we lose our way, God does not lose us.

Even when we fall short or make mistakes, God forgives and holds onto us.

We are known.

We are forgiven.

We are loved.

Thanks be to God!

✂ **Musical Response** | “Comfort, Comfort Now My People,” pg. 9

✕ 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 | Isaiah 11:1-5 (*The Voice*)

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

Musical Response | *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, arr. by Cathy Moglebust

Reflections on Isaiah | Pastor Carl Anderson

✕ Hymn of Reflection | "A Shoot from Jesse's Stump," pg. 10

Second Reading | Isaiah 11:6-10 (*The Voice*)

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

Musical Response | "There Shall A Star," by Felix Mendelssohn

Reflections on Isaiah | Pastor Carl Anderson

Hymn of Reflection | "Lo How a Rose," pg. 11

Offering Our Time, Treasure, and Talents

Offertory | *We Will Be the Peace to Come*, by Karen Marroli



Give Online

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

✠ **Response to Our Offerings** | “In the Lord, I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

In the Lord, I’ll be ever thankful;
in the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

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.**

Music During Communion | *It Shall Blossom Abundantly*, by Marques L. A. Garrett

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.

✠ **Sending Hymn** | “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” pg. 12 | *adapted from a liturgy by Melissa Haupt*

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Lord, remember us.
We need your redemption.

Where hands have
brought about destruction, desolation, and desecration,
Where words have
condemned, betrayed, and deceived,
Where silence has
concealed, isolated, and ignored—
O come, Emmanuel

**6 O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

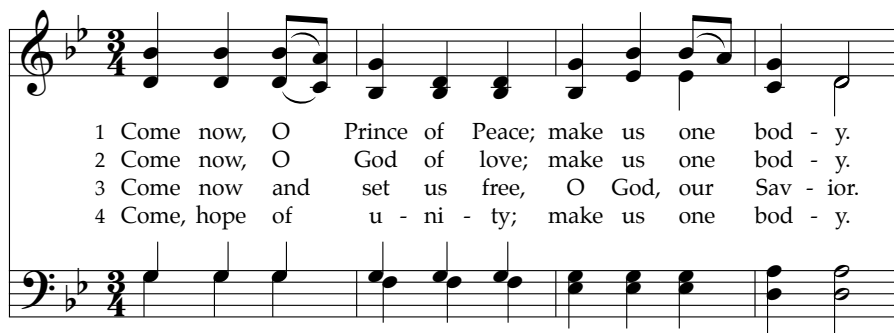
Shine light in the dark places,
Speak peace in the lands haunted by violence,
And ransom your people.

**As we remember
your steadfast love and faithfulness,
we wait expectantly;
we rejoice in your coming.
Amen.**

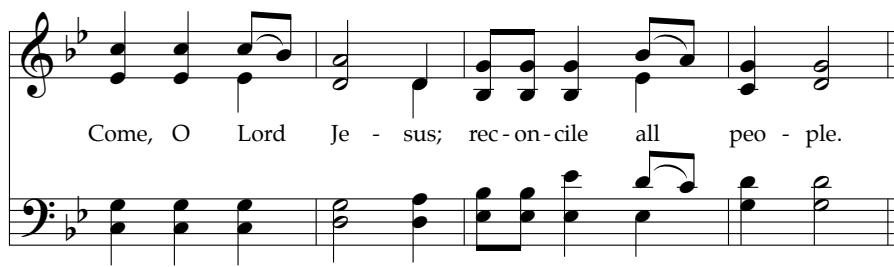
**7 O come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

103 Come Now, O Prince of Peace

오소서



1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y.



Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec-on-cile all peo - ple.

TEXT: Geonyong Lee, 1988; English trans. Marion Pope, c. 1990
 MUSIC: Geonyong Lee, 1988
 Text and Music © 1988 Geonyong Lee

O-SO-SO
 6.5.5.6



Jesus, the Light of the World,
 brings hope.

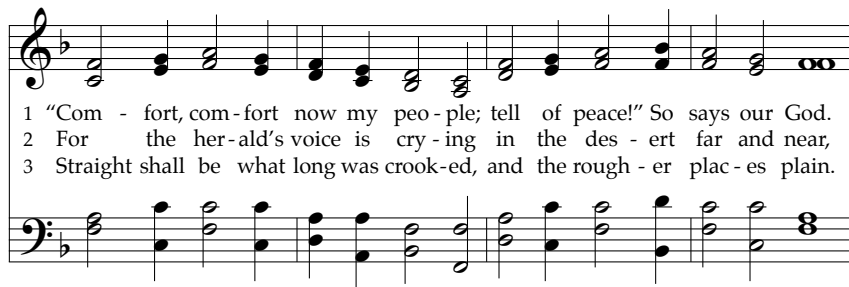
Together, we can bring hope to others
 by receiving the Christmas Joy Offering.



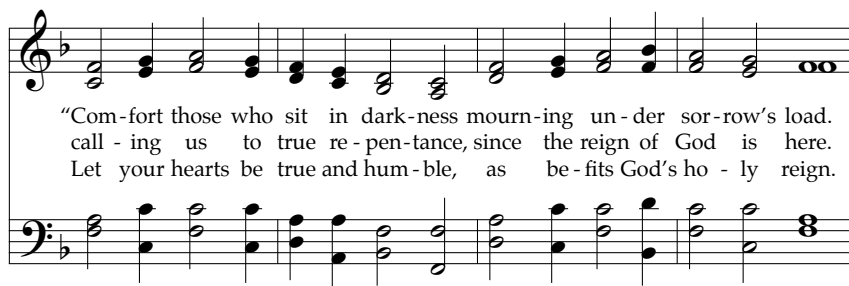
CHRISTMAS JOY
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS
 LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 21

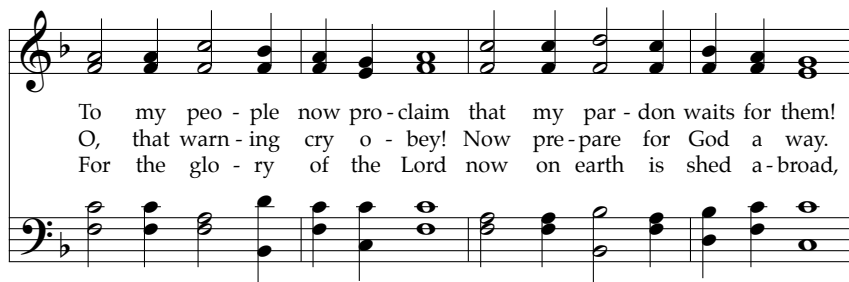
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



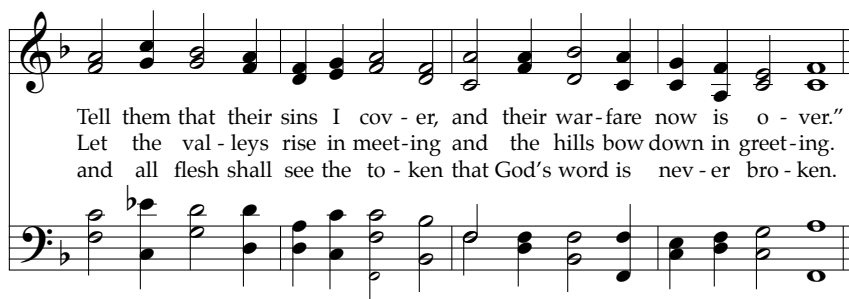
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing un-der sor-row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen-tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro-claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

TEXT: Johannes Olearius, 1671; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

GENEVAN 42
 8.7.8.7.7.7.8.8

A Shoot from Jesse's Stump Shall Spring

A Hymn Inspired by Isaiah 11:1-10

Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2019

Tune: SUSSEX CAROL

Meter: 8.8.8.8.8.8

Music: Trad. English Carol

Voice

1. A shoot from Je - sse's stump shall spring and give us hap - py
2. The spi - rit of the Lord shall rest with right - eous-ness u -
3. The wolf shall live be - side the sheep; a leo - pard with the
4. Come see this sign of God's de - sign, the plan born 'fore the

4
songs to sing. A pre - cious child of flesh and bone for
pon his breast. He comes with wis - dom, pow'r, and might; the
goat shall sleep; the calf be - friend the li - on wild; all
birth of time: to save us from our wretch - ed wrath and

7
God has heard cre - a - tion's groan. Rise! Lift your
fear of God his true de - light. He comes to
led by but a lit - tle child. Ar - mies shall
set us on the peace - ful path. Let us un -

10
voice a - mid the throng. God is our joy - ful just - ice song.
set the cap - tives free, and re - lease us from en - mit - y.
lay their wea - pons down, and bow be - fore God's right - eous crown.
learn the ways of war, and seek sha - lom for - e - ver - more.



ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
tinyurl.com/sapc-25live

Women's Retreat "Gifted to Serve"

with Sarah Goettsch

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



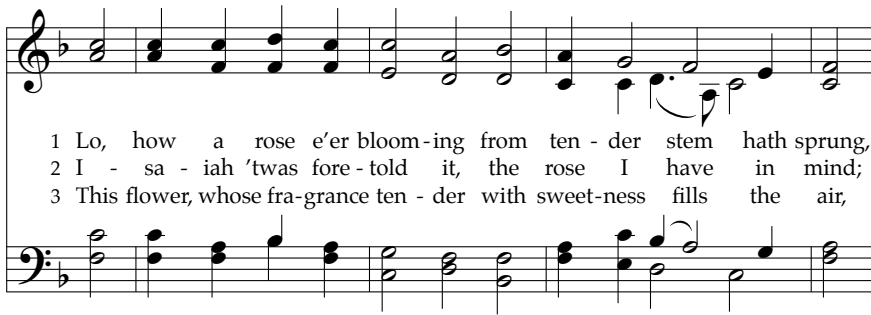
Save the Date!

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

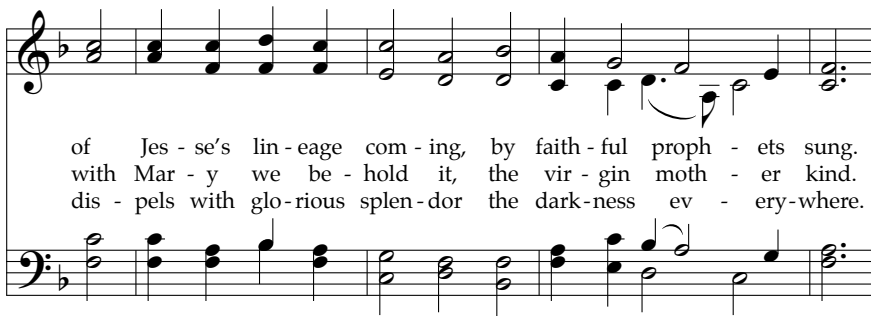
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Saturday January 31, 2026

Contact Nichole Hoffman or Amy Schmitt-Rundel with questions.

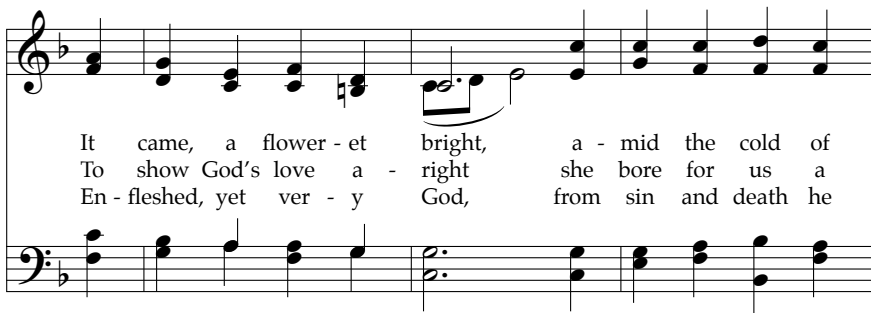
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129



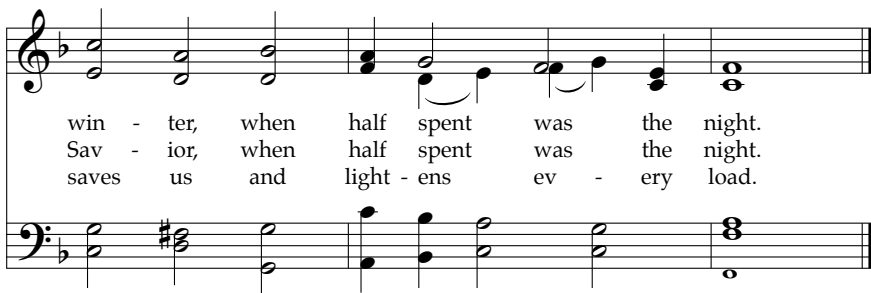
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,



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.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, who or - dered all things
 3 O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
 4 O come, thou branch of Jes - se's stem, un - to thine own and

Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 might - i - ly; to us the path of knowl - edge show
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times did give the law
 res - cue them! From depths of hell your peo - ple save,

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and teach us in its ways to go.
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, O Key of David, come
 and open wide our heavenly home.
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
Refrain

6 O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
 and bring us comfort from afar!
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

7 O come, desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind.
 Bid all our sad divisions cease,
 and be thyself our King of peace.
Refrain

Words: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite, PD.
 Music (VENI EMMANUEL 8.8.8.8 refrain 8.8): French processional, 15th c., PD.; arr. *Evangelical Lutheran*
 Worship © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

God meets us in our fear

LOVE COMES RUNNING

I remember
the first time I was afraid.
I was a child.
It was a nightmare.
*(You remember those pesky
monsters under the bed.)*

I remember
minutes felt like hours.
I begged
the sun to rise.
*(Fear always begs
the sun to rise.)*

Eventually,
after minutes that felt like hours,
I cried out.
My dad came running.
He sat at the edge of my bed.
He said there is no reason to be afraid.
He checked the closet and the floorboards.
He rearranged my pillows.
He said, *"I can stay."*

And that's when I learned
that when you are afraid,
love always comes running.
Love says, *"I can stay."*

That's what God does for us.
God sits at the edge of the bed.
God checks the closet and the floorboards.
God says, *"Be not afraid."*
God stays until sunrise.
Love always comes running.

by Sarah Speed



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, 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)

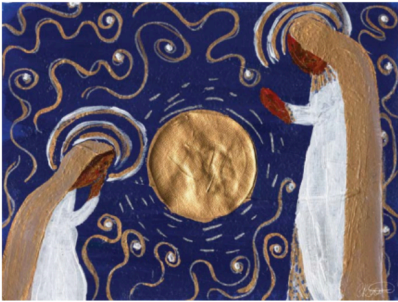
Treasurer: Emily Neddermeyer (**2026**); **Assistant Treasurer:** Michelle DeGroot (**2026**)

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**.
- **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 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).



God meets us in our fear



MARY'S GOLDEN ANNUNCIATION

by Carmelle Beaugelin

Inspired by Luke 1:26-38 | Acrylic, gilding paint, canvas collage on handmade reclaimed paper

Mary's Golden Annunciation explores the moment of encounter between Mary and the angelic messenger. This unusual encounter may have been startling to young Mary—a soon-to-be teen bride turned, possibly, unwed mother. Yet, with holy bravery in the face of communal isolation, she accepts the call to be a surrogate mother to a

son who is to be the savior of her people and the son of God.

There is not much commentary regarding Mary's consent to motherhood. She is often portrayed as a humble, yet passive, "accepter" of a fate predestined for her. But I wonder, what if the angel had appeared to Mary and she had declined? Would her name be erased from historic and religious memory in favor of another willing young virgin?

Mary's Golden Annunciation depicts not only a remarkable encounter, but also the moment that divinity in human form was conceived. It is my speculation that the divinity of God entered Mary's body no sooner than Mary's "yes" went out from her mouth. In a time when women had few options other than marriage, Mary's consent to a potentially unwed motherhood is a brave act of subversive agency. In Mary's "yes," uttered in her Magnificat, we see the transformation of a young teenage girl from fearful to determined, from simply accepting to deciding, from passivity to agency, from betrothed to surrogate mother of God—an honor rarer than gold. Perhaps the most remarkable annunciation in this passage is not the messenger's revelation to Mary, but Mary's "yes" to the call.

—Carmelle Beaugelin

Upcoming Events

- **Lessons and Carols** | Today
- **The Great Christmas Ring (offsite)** | Dec. 13
- **Children's Christmas Pageant** | Dec. 14
- **Orchestra Iowa Brass Concert** | Dec. 14
- **Food Market** | Dec. 17
- **Celebration of Life: Pat Dustin Wood** | Dec. 19
- **Cocoa and Carols** | Dec. 21
- **Christmas Eve** | 5, 7, & 11 p.m., Dec. 24
- **Bingo & Games** | Jan. 2, 2026
- **At the Table** | Jan. 8
- **Sunday School Resumes** | Jan. 11
- **Next Steps** | Jan. 18
- **Food Market** | Jan. 28
- **Women's Retreat** | Jan. 31
- **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