



Fourth Week of Advent

9:30 a.m. | December 21, 2025

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

Today's Worship Participants

Pastor Carl Anderson, *transitional pastor*
Becky Benson and the Stacy-Adams Family, *worship leaders*
Logos Choir | Austen Wilson, *director*
Flute Trio | Pat Penn, *director*
Julia Van Den Top, *organist and accompanist*
Ethan Elsbernd, *soloist*



After Worship Today

- **Cocoa & Carols** | The Atrium



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 Soultz and Bobby Outterson-Murphy.



Questions for Reflection

- Where have you recently felt most deeply connected or loved—and how might that moment be a glimpse of "God with us"?
- What small gesture of love has shaped your faith more than you realized at the time?
- Joseph moved from fear to quiet trust; where might God be inviting you to take a similar step this week?
- If the candle of love reveals connections God is already weaving, where do you sense a relationship being nudged toward healing or courage?
- Mary and Elizabeth helped each other see God more clearly; who plays that role in your life—and how might you be that presence for someone else?



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



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St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

Welcome + Announcements

Prelude | *In the Bleak Midwinter*, by Gustav T. Holst, arr. by Cindy Blevins

Lighting of the Advent Candle

✠ **Gathering Hymn** | “Savior of the Nations Come,” pg. 7

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

One of the greatest gifts and challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone.
We need one another.
We need one another to grow.
We need one another to love.
And we need one another to see God more clearly.
So together, let us lift our voices in unison.
Let us lean into the ties that bind and pray to our merciful God.

God of Today and Tomorrow,

**when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth’s house.
Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her.
How often do we have that same opportunity?
How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off?
How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy?
Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs.
We want to see you when we see our neighbor.**

Time for Silent Confession

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.

Friends, this is what we know—God delights in us.
God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says,
“Come on home. There is room for you here!”
And in that moment, we are blessed.
In that moment, we are forgiven.
In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home.
So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace.
Let us respond together, using the words from Mary’s song:
My soul lifts up the Lord!
My spirit celebrates God, my Liberator!
For though I’m God’s humble servant, God has noticed me.
Now and forever, I will be considered blessed by all generations.

✠ **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!

Gospel Reading | Matthew 1:18-25 (*The Voice*)

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

Time for Young Disciples †

† As the piano plays, children are invited forward for Time for Young Disciples. Afterward, they may return to their parents, or—if Kindergarten and younger—head to the Lower Level Children’s Area for children’s programming.

Old Testament Reading | Isaiah 7:10-16 (*The Voice*)

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

The Message | Pastor Carl Anderson

✕ **Hymn of Reflection** | “All Earth Is Hopeful,” pg. 10

Offering Our Time, Treasure, and Talents

Connecting Hearts, Renewing Lives | Christmas Joy Offering

Offertory | *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*, by Paul Manz, arr. by T. A. Ohnesorge



Give Online

✕ **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.

Prayers of the People

Joys & Concerns

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** | “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout,” pg. 8-9 (*hymnal*, #69)

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

We believe that creation is inextricably linked.

We belong to one another in an undeniable way.

We are bone of bone and flesh of flesh, life breathed into dust.

We believe that God invites us to live into that truth—

to love without abandon,

to see the good in one another,

to trust that all belong to God.

We know that this life of connection is easier said than done,

which is why we gather in this space, week after week,

generation after generation, to be reminded:

We see God in each other.

This we believe. Amen.

Postlude | *Voluntary on “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* arr. by Christian F. Witt

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).

Savior of the Nations, Come 102

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

TEXT: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;
 English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.;
 English trans. stanzas 2-4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006
 MUSIC: Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594
 English Trans. St. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
 7.7.7.7

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

LUKE 1:46-55

1 My _____ soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my
 2 Though _____ I am small, my _____ God, my all, you _____ work great _____
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who

heart is great, and my spir - it _____ sings of the won - drous _____
 things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the
 left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice _____
 holds us fast: God's _____ mer - cy _____ must de - liv - er _____

things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your
 past to the end of the age to be. Your ver - y
 tears ev - ery ty - rant _____ from his throne. The hun - gry
 us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing

sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you
 name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would
 poor shall _____ weep no more for the food they can
 word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which

Words: Rory Cooney (b. 1952), based on the *Magnificat*, © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music (STAR OF COUNTY DOWN 8.6.8.6 D refrain 9.8.10.8): Irish traditional; arr. Rory Cooney © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

C D Em

did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - ery
 holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our

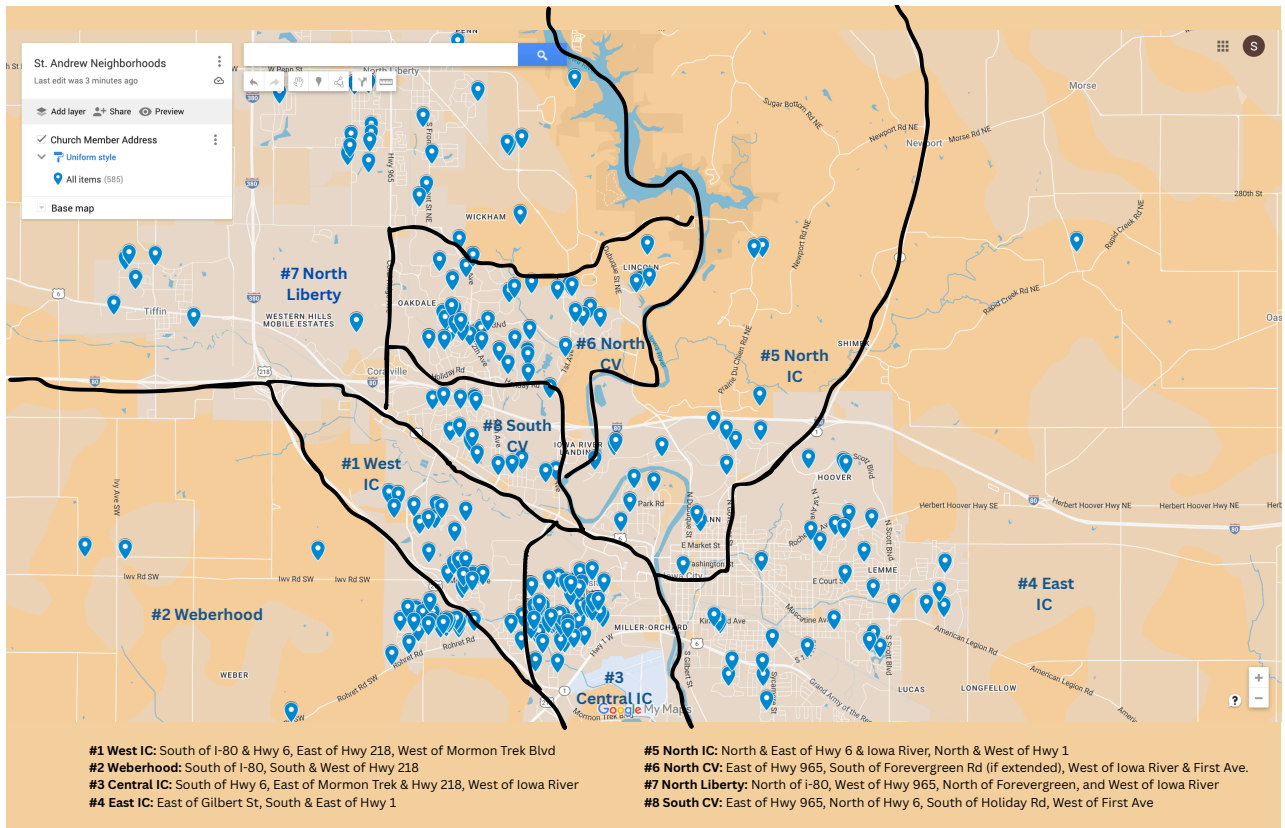


mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*
 "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"
 será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,
 con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
- 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
 nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
 Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
 y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.
- 4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
 pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
 Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
 y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.



Reviving Our Neighborhood Connections

Over the past few months, St. Andrew has been reviving our Neighborhood Ministry system—a simple, relational way to help us care for one another more intentionally. We've divided our congregation into eight geographic neighborhoods and assigned deacons to each area. In the weeks ahead, these deacons will be reaching out to say hello, check in about any ministry needs or points of celebration, and begin imagining future neighborhood gatherings.

You'll find the neighborhood map above. Here are the deacons serving each area:

- **#1: West Iowa City** — Jim Halverson and Jamie Tanas
- **#2: Weberhood** — Jenni Stacy-Adams and Laurel Crusinberry
- **#3: Central Iowa City** — Rick Graf and Emmitt Schmidt-Rundell
- **#4: East Iowa City** — Cody Neddermeyer and Vern Dengler
- **#5: North Iowa City** — David Weitzel and Scott Hoffman
- **#6: North Coralville** — Mettie Thomopulos and Allison Van Iddekinge
- **#7: North Liberty** — Kathy & David Duys and Jordan Barrett
- **#8: South Coralville** — Lynne Ginsberg and Cindy Seyfer

We're grateful for these deacons and look forward to the fresh connections and shared care this ministry will nurture.

We see God in each other



THE GOLDEN CRADLE

by Carmelle Beaugelin

Inspired by Luke 1:39-45; 56-58 | Acrylic, gilding paint, canvas collage on handmade reclaimed paper

Mary and Elizabeth have found in each other a sisterhood amid their precarious and unusual circumstances. An older Elizabeth (perhaps losing hope of ever nursing a child at the loss of her monthly cycle) welcomes a young Mary (pledged to be wed at the first sign of her cycle, yet seemingly pregnant before she has even wed). Despite their difference in age, the two cousins find comfort in each other in the midst of the unconventional timing of their expanding families. All along, as the two women whisper together of the growing promises hidden in their wombs and unconventional lives, Mary and Elizabeth themselves are cradled by the guiding arms of the God who moves them beyond cousins into sisterhood.

Reminiscent of Haitian folk art figures, Mary and Elizabeth are portrayed wearing traditional Afro-Caribbean style headdresses as their silhouettes face one another in a stoic greeting. For new Haitian mothers, a tradition of preparing sacred tea leaves, as well as postpartum herbal baths, offers solidarity between the more seasoned women and a new mother. Often—as displayed by the relationship between the two women in this story—grandmothers, cousins, and other close female community members act as surrogates in this sacred practice for those who have been displaced from their own families.

The Golden Cradle expands on the imagery of Mary's golden "yes" to her call, meeting Elizabeth's "yes" to a holy birth of her own. In their meeting, the promises they carry leap for joy at this first encounter, offering us a picture of the kind of communal solidarity we often find along the journey of the unfolding story of God in our own lives. Even in moments of isolation, we often encounter surrogates who step in with divine provision when we need it the most.

—Carmelle Beaugelin

Upcoming Events

- **Cocoa and Carols** | Today
- **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