



First Sunday after Christmas

9:30 a.m. | December 28, 2025

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

Today's Worship Participants

The Rev. Dr. Carl Anderson, *transitional pastor*
Christopher Stephens, *worship leader*
David Meyer, *soloist*
Julia Van Den Top, *organist and accompanist*



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 Outterson-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

First Sunday After Christmas

9:30 a.m. | December 28, 2025

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

Welcome + Announcements

Prelude

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

Like Mary,

we believe in cherishing good news.

Like the angels,

we believe in singing God's praise.

Like the shepherds,

we believe that God's presence in our life is something worth talking about.

Like generations before,

we believe that God is with us.

Like the generations to come,

we believe that God is with us.

God is here. God is love.

We believe, and we rejoice.

✠ **Gathering Hymn** | "Good Christian Friends Rejoice," pg. 6 (*hymnal*, #98)

✠ **Prayer of Confession and Promise of Ever-Present Grace** | *adapted from a prayer by Thomas Merton*

Let us bring our prayers and confessions to the God of Abounding Love,
and to the Christ who was born to save.

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

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.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always,
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Time for Silent Confession

Friends, we are forgiven. We are seen. We are loved.
The good news of this day—the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of this day—exists for you.
Thanks be to God! 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!

Gospel Reading | Matthew 2:13-23 (*The Voice*)

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

Time for Young Disciples †

Old Testament Reading | Isaiah 63:7-9 (*The Voice*)

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

The Message | Pastor Carl Anderson

✠ **Hymn of Reflection** | “What Child Is This?”, pg. 7 (*hymnal*, #95)

Offering Our Time, Treasure, and Talents

Offertory | *Of the Father’s Love Begotten*

✠ **Response to Our Offerings** | “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**



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** | “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” pg. 8 (*hymnal*, #93)

✠ **Benediction**

Postlude

† 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.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day.
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

Ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: German/Latin, medieval; tr. John M. Neale, 1853, alt., P.D.
 Music (IN DULCI JUBILO 6.6.7.7.7.8.5.5): German, 14th c., P.D.

What Child Is This

Em G D Em Am B

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, pea-sant, king, to own him.

Em G D Em B Esus Em

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

Bm G D Em Am B

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Bm G D Em B Esus Em

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
 hail, hail for Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y.

Words: William C. Dix (1837-1898), P.D.

Music (GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7): English ballad, 16th c., P.D.

93

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain Unison
 Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

Harmony
 1 While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly sta - ble the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

G7 C7 To Refrain

Words: African American spiritual, 19th c., P.D.

Music (GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 refrain 7.8.7.6): African American spiritual, 19th c.; arr. © 2012 Faith Alive Christian Resources

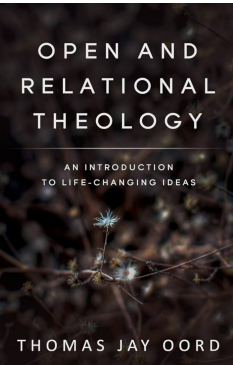


St. Andrew Learning Academy Spring 2026

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

Biblical Literacy

with Russ Owen

After Worship | January 4, 2026



relation of
point of view
Pastor [
leader of
Christian
religious

Prepping for Our New Pastor

with Carl Anderson

A Learning Academy Class
Jan. 25, 2026 | The Hub



Bible Translations

with Matt Moore

a Learning Academy Class

Feb. 1, 2026 | The Hub

One Land, Two Peoples

with Robert Traer

a Learning Academy class

Feb. 15, 2026 | The Hub



Spirituality

a Learning Academy class

Feb. 22, March 1, & March 8

with Colette Soultis
and Bobby Outterson-Murphy



Passion Plays

Music and the Mystery of Faith

a Learning Academy class

with David Timmer

March 15, 22, & 29 | The Hub



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**, 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).





THROUGH HIM, ALL THINGS

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by John 1:1-14 | Block print with oil-based ink over gouache painting

In John's cosmic, mysterious creation narrative, the description of the "Word" that particularly sparked my imagination was in verses 3 and 4: "All things came into being through him. . . in him was life, and the life was the light of all people." How does one image a concept so abstract and consequential to the Christian tradition? I find myself asking this question a lot. The words of the text themselves stretch to their limits while attempting to encapsulate the breadth of who Jesus is.

As I considered visual metaphors that might illuminate this text, I thought about a prism.⁴ I remember the first time I used this seemingly magical, transparent stone. I held it to the light, which I could not see, and to my surprise

the light was broken down into the vibrant colors of a rainbow. It was natural for me to think the stone was creating something that wasn't there, but this medium revealed the complex truth that light is in fact made up of all the colors in existence.

In my image, Jesus is a prism. The light that is life that comes from the Creator shines through Jesus, and it is through him that we can see the fullness and beauty of who God is. It is through him that all of Creation came into being. I decided to paint the colors of the rainbow in the order I learned as a child: ROYGBIV.⁵ It was when picking paints that I realized there are seven colors in a simplified rainbow, and there are also seven days of Creation. In this block carving, each of the days of Creation is referenced through simplified patterning in each of the colors of the rainbow. It is through Christ that all things came into being, and it is through him that we experience the abounding saturation of God, who chose to dwell among us.

—Lauren Wright Pittman

Upcoming Events

- **Church Office Closed** | Dec. 25 - Jan. 2
- **Bingo & Games** | Jan. 2, 2026
- **Learning Academy Resumes** | Jan. 4
- **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