

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. -Micah 6:8



Worship Bulletin

Wednesday, December 24th, 2025

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

Dave and Rhys Kim

Call to Worship

Liturgist, Etta Vanderpol

Leader: We waited.

People: And imagined a savior.

Leader: We imagined power.

People: One like the world but stronger and on our side.

Leader: We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

People: We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

Leader: We imagined the work done for us
through the destruction of our enemies.

**People: We receive a baby who will teach us our calling
to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.**

Leader: “Do not be afraid,” the angels said.

**People: On this night we come to remember:
God’s good news is louder than the fears of this world.
Let us worship the good news of Immanuel, God-With-Us!**

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Carol #133 – *O Come, All Ye Faithful

Preparing the Manger and Welcoming the Holy Family

All children who desire are invited to the front to help prepare the manger.

Leader: Creator God, you prepared a plan of redemptive love from the very foundation of the world.

People: Jesus, prepare our hearts for you this Christmas.

Leader: John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus to proclaim the Good News in a broken world.

People: Jesus, prepare our hearts for you this Christmas.

Leader: Child of the manger, Precious Lord Jesus, our children have prepared this manger for you.

People: Jesus, prepare our hearts for you this Christmas. Amen.

Call to Confession

Liturgist, Paul Martin

Prayer of Confession

God, we come to you honestly: this world is not what it should be. Fear and anger often speak louder than empathy and love, and the message of “there is no room” still echoes among us, even as you call us to welcome the stranger.

Forgive us when fear closes our doors, when our silence deepens exclusion, and when we forget that your Son was born into a world that made no space for him—yet you turned that “no room” into good news for all.

Break open our assumptions, soften what has grown hard within us, and make room in us for your joy, hope, and peace.

Renew us to welcome as you welcome and to love as you love. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Carol #119 – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist, Jeff Lorimer

Scripture Reading – Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He

went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Poem

All at Once
By Clint Smith

Greg and Megan McDonald

Anthem

Do You Hear What I Hear?

St. Andrew Choir

Scripture Reading – Luke 2:8-20

Liturgist, Pam Williams

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told to them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Meditation

The Rev. Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol

Carol #121 – *O Little Town of Bethlehem

***Affirmation of Faith**

Liturgist, Pam Williams

We have seen the valley.
We have seen a sky without stars.
We have seen the longest night,
and *still* we believe.

We believe in a with-us God.
We believe in the hope of tomorrow.
We believe that good news is louder than fear.

We believe this good news is for all people.
So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.

We will reach for each other.
We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy.
We will proclaim:
Unto us, love is born.

We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.
So *still*, we believe. Amen.

Offering

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our loving God, who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!

Scripture Reading – John 1:1-14

Liturgist, Erica Russell

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him,

and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Spreading the Light of Christ

Carol: #122 – *Silent Night

1) Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2) Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

3) Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

4) Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend Thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

***Benediction**

White is the liturgical color we use for Christmas Eve until after the Baptism of our Lord on January 11. White symbolizes glory, joy and light at the coming of our Savior to earth.

*Liturgy for this service is by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
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SUNDAY JANUARY 4TH, 2026

10:30AM

EPIPHANY

Service

PIÑATAS, TAMALES, AND GLOW STICKS, OH MY!

WE WILL CELEBRATE THE MAGI'S ARRIVAL AT THE MANGER WITH WORSHIP, COMMUNION, AND AN EPIPHANY MEAL IN PARISH HALL. THIS YEAR, WE WILL HAVE A SECOND PIÑATA FOR ADULTS. DON'T FORGET: WHOEVER FINDS THE BABY JESUS IN THEIR CAKE HAS TO THROW THE NEXT PARTY!





Artist Statement for “Good, New” by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

“Euphobia, the fear of good news, often stems from past losses, fear of change, or the pressure of new expectations. Joy and relief may come first, but they’re often followed by a quiet dread. What now? What could this mean?”

In Luke’s Nativity story, even angelic news stirs overwhelm. The shepherds tremble. Mary ponders. As she wraps her newborn in cloth, what thoughts rise in her heart?

The word “new” is nestled in “good news”—a reminder that even the best gifts lie beyond our control. In the birth of Jesus, we witness the mystery of it all: the terrifying, the unexpected, the good, and the new that hope often brings.”