

# Service of Lessons and Carols

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023 10:00 a.m.



✦ PEACE ✦

## **Welcome to this Morning's Lessons & Carols Service!**

*Advent is a season of spiritual preparation that holds together quiet reflection and joyful expectation. Today's Lessons and Carols Service consists of scripture readings interspersed with choral presentations and hymns, all of which recall our human longing for liberation from sin and death as well as our hope and expectation for the coming of Christ the Lord. The liturgy of this service embodies the sense of Advent movement—through the choir's processions and in the increasingly powerful prophecies and promises of Holy Scripture. May these words and this music propel you quietly toward the true joy of Christmas.*

**History of the Lessons & Carols Service:** *In the Anglican tradition, the Lessons & Carols service began in 1878 and was formalized as a Christmas service in 1880 by the Bishop of Truro, later Archbishop of Canterbury, Edward Benson. An Advent version of the service developed slightly later at King's College in England and is now celebrated around the world.*



*If you would like to learn more about St. Andrew's, please fill out a visitor's card so we can warmly welcome you. Nursery care is available down the stairs at the back of the church, and school-age children are invited to Children's Ministry Time after the Advent Bidding Prayer. We also have activity bags at the back of the church to keep little hearts and hands engaged.*

## Prelude

### Advent Song

*Come, Child of Light*

Lloyd Larson

*Come, O Child of Peace, we pray. Enter our hearts and show us Your way.*

*Promise of God, Heaven's pure Light, Hope for our world shining bright! Come, O Child of Peace, we pray.*

Youth Ensemble: Amanda Chowning, Gigi Frye, Hattie Frye, Harper Kaley, Laney Kaley

Susan James Frye, piano

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

Julia, Jeremy, and Ethan Chapman

Leaders Come, O Child of Peace, we pray.

All *Enter our hearts and show us Your way.*

### Introit: Matin Responsory

*I look from afar*

adapted by G.P. Palestrina

*I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.*

*Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?*

*High and low, rich and poor, one with another, Go ye out to meet him and say:*

*Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, Tell us, art thou he that should come?*

*Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*

Choir Ensemble: Jeff Chowning, Catherine Clifton, Ashley Ellin, Hannah Schlotterer, Sean Toso

### Opening Hymn (Please stand as you are able for all Congregational hymns.)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel (vv. 1-4)*

Hymnal 56

### Advent Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in our city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying,

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

## **The Children's Procession**

*Children in grades K–5 are invited to a children's ministry time. They will process out of the church together and go to the bright yellow classroom hall for Godly Play (K–2<sup>nd</sup>) and Kids of the Kingdom (3<sup>rd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>). They will return to the sanctuary for the Eucharistic Prayer.*

***This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! (Sing 3 times.) Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!***  
***Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine! (Sing 3 times.) Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!***

## **Lesson I Isaiah 11:1–9**

Nate Taylor

*The spirit will rest upon the Holy One*

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

## **Choral Anthem**

*How Beautiful Upon the Mountains*

Andrew Carter

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who bring  
good tidings, tidings of peace and salvation.*

*Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem.  
For the Lord has comforted his people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.*

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who bring  
good tidings, tidings of peace and salvation.*

*Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums,  
not his manner nor his airs, not by anything he wears.*

*Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or by his gown,  
but his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony, which his coming makes in thee.*

## **Congregational Hymn**

*Rejoice! rejoice, believers (v. 1 all, v. 2 choir, v. 3 all)*

Hymnal 68

## **Lesson II Isaiah 40:1–11**

Kathryn Crowe

*The prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for

our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

### **Congregational Hymn**

*Comfort, comfort ye my people*

Hymnal 67

### **Lesson III** Isaiah 7:10–15

Dawn Spinks

*God promises that a child shall be conceived*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

### **Choral Anthem**

*Ave Maris Stella*

Jonathan Adams, arranger

Ave maris stella,  
Dei mater alma,  
Atque semper Virgo,  
Felix caeli porta.

*Hail star of the sea,  
Nurturing Mother of God,  
And ever Virgin,  
Happy gate of Heaven.*

Sumens illud Ave  
Gabrielis ore,  
Funda nos in pace,  
Mutan Hevae nomen.

*Receiving that "hail"  
From the mouth of Gabriel,  
Establish us in peace,  
Transforming the name of "Eve."*

Virgo singularis,  
Inter omnes mitis,  
Nos culpis solutos,  
Mites fac et castos.

*O unique Virgin,  
Meek above all others,  
Set free from our sins,  
Make us meek and chaste.*

Sit laus Deo Patri,  
Summo Christo decus,  
Spiritus sancto,  
Tribus honor unus.

*Praise be to God the Father,  
To the Most High Christ be glory,  
To the Holy Spirit,  
Be honor to the Three equally.*

## Congregational Hymn

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

Hymnal 66

## Lesson IV Luke 1:26–38

Hannah Schlotterer

*The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

## Congregational Hymn

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

Hymnal 265

## Choral Anthem

*In the bleak mid-winter*

Bruce W. Becker, Gustav Holst  
text: Christina Rossetti, arr. by Kyle Pederson

*Into the pall of winter's day when dark descends and daylight fades;  
into the cold of wintry night when breath will hang as heavy ice;  
into the bleak December land where earth is fixed and frozen stands;  
into a world of dark and gloom a child will come in manger soon.*

*In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan.*

*Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.*

*Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow.*

*In the bleak mid-winter, long, long ago.*

*Into the bleak of my own soul You gently lay a seed to grow,  
and soon the seed becomes a tree offers shade through Christ in me.  
What right should I share in this gift of perfect love, Who was, who is—  
No right at all, but simply grace; Your seed turned tree now holy space.*

*Come quickly, come, Oh Spirit breath, and all creation may you bless.  
Our mangers wait just wood and dust, Oh Spirit breathe, enliven us.  
Even the heavens cannot contain the hope and joy which has a name.  
Into our manger hearts we gaze where God in flesh has now been laid.*

*In the bleak mid-winter, Christ, Emmanuel.*

**Lesson V** Matthew 1:18–23

Jorge Chaires

*Matthew tells of the coming birth of the Savior*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

**Congregational Hymn***O day of peace that dimly shines*

Hymnal 597

**Choral Anthem***Savior of the nations, come!*

Text at Hymnal 54

Jeff Chowning, Catherine Clifton, Ashley Ellin, Hannah Schlotterer, Sean Toso

**Lesson VI** Mark 1:1–15

Ryan Waide

*Jesus is baptized by John and proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

**Congregational Hymn***Prepare the way, O Zion*

Hymnal 65

**Announcements**

## Offertory Anthem

*In dulci jubilo* (In sweet joy), Medieval carol

Steven Van Wye

*In sweet joy, let us our homage show;  
Our heart's joy reclineth in the manger  
And like a bright star shineth, in his mother's lap.  
You are Alpha and Omega.*

*O tiny Jesus! My heart is sore for thee!  
Hear me, I beseech thee, O excellent Child!  
My prayer let it reach thee, O King of glory!  
Draw me to you!*

*O love of the Father, O gentleness of the Baby!  
Deeply were we stained, through our faults;  
But thou for us hast gained heavenly gladness.  
O that we were there!*

*Where are joys, if that they be not there?  
There are angels singing new songs,  
There the bells are ringing in the courts of the King:  
O that we were there!*

## Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Advent Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

*Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding*

Hymnal 59

## The Dismissal

## Postlude

*People, Look East*

arr. Kristina Langlois

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**Acolytes:** Lindy Taylor, Nate Taylor. **Ushers:** Mitzi Bond, Bob Emmaus, Laurinda Stokes, Craig Taylor. **Greeters & Newcomer Hosts:** Bill Hill, Anne Jones, Charles Kelshaw. **Altar Guild Members:** Pat Baker, Beth Berger, Nancy Bishop, Mary V. Compton, Scott Durham, Virginia Haskett, Nancy Kimbrough, Barbara Lawless, Sandy O'Briant, Laurinda Stokes. **Livestream Team:** Jorge Chaires, Don Mackey, David Messelink. **Children's Ministry Team:** AmyRuth McGraw, Anna Taylor.

*The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God by Steven Loch and Frederick Johnson  
in memory of Fred's mother and father, Ruth and Wayne, and Steven's father, Frank.*

*Music used with permission under OneLicense.net #A-717747.*



## We Pray For

### **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Church of Pakistan (United)

*Tradition has it that the Apostle Thomas introduced Christianity to the Indian sub-continent, which consisted of what is now (since partition in 1947) both India and Pakistan. Evangelization among Muslims—the dominant population of Pakistan—has never been very successful globally, and most Christians in Pakistan came not from among Muslims but from the Dalit (the historic lower caste among Hindus) in the Punjab region. Today Christians are just a tiny percentage of the population. A united church, instead of multiple denominations, made good sense under the circumstances, and in 1970 the Church of Pakistan became the fourth of the united churches in full communion with the Anglican Communion (the others being South India, North India, and Bangladesh). The Church of Pakistan merged Anglicans, Methodists, Lutherans, and Scottish Presbyterians. Pakistan became an Islamic Republic in 1956, and recent decades have revealed increasing attacks upon Christians and destruction of churches.*

### **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** The Episcopal Church

**Those on our parish prayer list:** Mary Stalter, Norma Bullock, Moira Ermentrout, Maria Wilmoth, Jimmye Olivey, Patrick and Margaret Miller, Ed Morea, Julie Dameron, Traci and Erik, Barbara Cernansky, Ella Janssen, Gabriel, Charles Claunch, Libby Eberhard, Gwen Snead, Ali Avery, Barbara Van Cleve, David Heflin, Jeff Cummer, Charles Kelshaw, David McGraw, Maureen Morea, Carolyn Ritchie, Betty Atwell, Eva Harris, Harold Johnson, Bob Emmaus, Judy Gecinger, Liz Wert, Wes Hood, Carol Phillips, Leslie Deaton, Linda Fischer, Ed Phelps, Tom Walton, Mack Baker, Amber Morales, Lauren, Phillip Marion, Downs Brown, Jr., Martha and Jim Kaley, Ben Dormus, Nancy O'Donnell, Tina Sink Gangi, Florine, Vickie, Heather, Victoria, Dean Barrett, Bob, Leslie, Monica Layton, Johnetta Shablack, Jeff Smouse, Scott Smouse

**Those serving in our military:** Tom Stauffer, Paul Zeigler, Stephen Johnson, Benjamin Phillips, Kenneth Gearhart, Alex Reyes, Michael McNeil, Jordan Payne, Catharyn Nosek

**The departed:** Jean Ward Phelps

**Those expecting:** Anna Bengel and Joshua Greene, daughter and son-in-law of Tony Bengel; Samantha and Martin Kappauf, daughter-in-law and son of Shelley and Charles Kappauf; Megan and Ryan Waide; Evelyn and Nick Silveira, daughter and son-in-law of Barbara and Ed Lawless

**Birth:** Charles Acree “Charlie” Hitch, son of Catharine Kappauf and Clarke Hitch, grandson of Shelley and Charles Kappauf, on Saturday, December 2, 2023

**Birthdays:** Chris Berger, Hattie Frye, Janet Owens, Janice Cox Pollard, Lois Simon

*Prayer requests can be sent to Susan Frye, Parish Administrator, at [parish@standrewsgso.org](mailto:parish@standrewsgso.org) or 336-275-1651, ext. 1. Names remain on our parish prayer list for six weeks. Please let Susan know if you would like a name to continue to be listed. Please also contact Susan with birthdays and anniversaries for the bulletin.*

## Today

### **Formation Offering: Music, Art, & Poetry of Advent—December 10 & 17 after Worship, in the Cloister**

Hymns, anthems, and chants; ancient and contemporary; lyrical and instrumental—music helps us more deeply experience the waiting and watchfulness of Advent. Assistant Choir Director Sean Toso will lead an exploration of the meaning and beauty of the season of Advent, as expressed in music. Join us after worship for this time set aside for Advent listening, participation, and reflection.

### **EYC, Let's Be the Light—Tonight at 5:30 (not 5:00)!**

This evening, we'll join with other local Episcopal youth for a pizza dinner, hot chocolate bar, and (weather permitting) a walk among the famous light balls in Sunset Hills. Dress for the weather and bring your walking shoes and some **canned goods to donate to Greensboro Urban Ministries.**

## Announcements

### **Funeral for Jean Ward Phelps—Friday, December 15, at 11 a.m.**

All are invited to a Celebration of Life for Jean Phelps on December 15 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. A reception will be held following the service, in the Parish Hall.

### **Thank You for a Most Successful Deck the Halls 2023**

Against all odds, Deck the Halls made a lively, colorful, warm, and welcoming witness to Greensboro that we are a church engaged with our community and committed to mission. We welcomed many visitors and brought in over \$17,000. With gratitude, we celebrate all of the parishioners who gave so generously of themselves to carry on the tradition, to Share the Love. Thank you also to all who came to support and enjoy the event and its offerings.

### **Abundant Life Community Dinners—Cook at a Time that Works for You** *(Next Delivery: December 12)*

Every second Tuesday St. Andrew's supplies meaty main dishes and veggie sides for Abundant Life's weekly Community Dinner, when they welcome neighbors in for Bible Study, prayer, and a hot meal. Housed in the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit on Yanceyville St., Abundant Life depends on these contributions from the larger Episcopal churches. We'd like to make this cooking opportunity more flexible and include more volunteers. So, we're inviting you to take an aluminum pan home with you, and whenever it's convenient, make a main dish or veggie side that serves 8. Then label and seal it in foil and return it to our church kitchen's freezer. Other team members will deliver the meals, and you will have made a difference in the lives of those who struggle to feed their families. If you would like to cook for our **December 12** contribution, sign up at [bit.ly/AbundantLifeStA](https://bit.ly/AbundantLifeStA). Barbara Cooke (336-521-0040 or [bjcooke58@gmail.com](mailto:bjcooke58@gmail.com)) would love to answer your questions about this ministry.

### **Sign Up for a Meal Train for The Ermentrout-Smith Family**

One of our beloved parish families, the Smith-Ermentrouts, have been navigating significant health challenges and changes for their daughter Moira. Let's help to ease some of the stress by providing simple, comforting meals for Moira's family throughout the busy holiday season and beyond. You can sign up to provide a meal or donate toward meals at [mealtrain.com/trains/51gnyk](https://mealtrain.com/trains/51gnyk). Contact-free drop-off will be in a cooler on the family's front porch. *To keep the Train moving smoothly, please direct any questions to Martha Chaires at [martha@standrewsgso.org](mailto:martha@standrewsgso.org).* See signup for details and this week's *eNews* for a related request.

### **Support the Altar Guild with Christmas Flower Gifts—Submit by December 11**

Each Advent, donation envelopes are placed in the pews providing parishioners an opportunity to make donations expressly for the Altar Guild. These honorary and memorial gifts help cover costs of special services and "day-to-day" altar requirements. Every gift is appreciated, and donors and tributes will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. **All donations and tributes must be received in the office by Monday, December 11.** Please include cash or check to St. Andrew's, with "Altar Guild" on the memo line, or submit your form online at [bit.ly/2023STAFlowers](https://bit.ly/2023STAFlowers).

### **Come to a Christmas Concert by the Triad Early Music Society—December 11 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

The Triad Early Music Society will perform their annual Christmas concert in St. Andrew's sanctuary, December 11 at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public—please tell your friends. Afterward, enjoy refreshments in the Parish Hall. Contact Janice Cox Pollard (336-317-4171) with questions.

### **Join The New Day Singers for a Holiday Concert—December 15 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Mark your calendars for the first ever holiday concert by The New Day Singers (NDS), a favorite local a cappella ensemble featuring two of our St. Andrew's choir section leaders. Join the six members of NDS on a musical journey through a beautiful and fun-filled winter's night full of classics and new favorites. NDS is ready to beg Mr. Santa to help deck the halls with the holly and the ivy and whatever else makes for a good wassail. The concert is free, and donations will be accepted. We hope to see you there with (jingle) bells on! Visit [newdaysingers.org](https://newdaysingers.org) to learn more.

### **Save the Date for Our Annual Meeting—January 28, 2024**

Our Annual All-Parish Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Leaders are asked to submit reports to Susan Frye at [parish@standrewsgso.org](mailto:parish@standrewsgso.org) by **January 8, 2024**.

**Come Celebrate Advent and Christmas with Us**  
***St. Andrew's Advent and Christmas Calendar***



**Dec. 17, Sun. Third Sunday of Advent**

*Worship and Children's Formation (10 a.m.)*

*Adult Formation: Music, Art, & Poetry of Advent (11:15 a.m.)*

*Birthday Party for Jesus (11:15 a.m.)*

*Christmas Stockings for the Houseless (2 p.m.)*

*EYC Christmas Party (5 p.m.)*

**Dec. 24, Sun. Christmas Eve**

*Morning and Evening Worship*

*10 a.m. Worship with Children's Pageant*

*6 p.m. Festive Eucharist*

*Both services include Holy Eucharist and candle lighting.*

**Throughout Advent—Advent Resources are Available for You**

We are happy to offer you a printed devotional booklet and online resources for Advent study and reflection.

- ***Living Well Through Advent 2023: Practicing Wonder With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind, from Living Compass.*** Pick up a printed booklet at church or access online at [livingcompass.org/advent](http://livingcompass.org/advent).
- ***AdventWord Daily Meditations Series, from Forward Movement.*** Visit [adventword.org](http://adventword.org) to subscribe or read daily devotions featuring prompt words from the Sunday Lectionary readings.
- ***Bless the Advent We Actually Have, by Kate Bowler.*** This offering reflects Kate's commitment to seeing the world the way it really is and practicing hope in the midst of our struggles. Visit [katebowler.com](http://katebowler.com).

**Third Sunday of Advent—December 17**

**Formation Offering: Music, Art, & Poetry of Advent** (*See announcement above.*)

**Come to a Birthday Party for Baby Jesus—December 17, after Church**

On Sunday, December 17, our EYC will host a Birthday Party for Baby Jesus after church in the Parish Hall. Kids of all ages (but mostly the Kindergarten—5th grade crowd) are invited to celebrate Jesus's upcoming birthday with decorate-your-own cupcakes, crafts, and fun with friends and family! If you have food allergies and need special consideration email [martha@standrewsgso.org](mailto:martha@standrewsgso.org), and we'll set you up with everything you need to celebrate safely.

**You're Invited to a Christmas Stocking Delivery with the Daughters of the King—December 17, 2:00 p.m.**

Our Daughters of the King Chapter invites you to join in distributing handmade stockings—stuffed with toiletries, socks, and other provisions—to our houseless brothers and sisters to help them stay safe and warm this winter. Meet us at LeBauer Park on December 17 at 2 p.m., on the Elm Street side of the park. Parking is available in the Davie and Church Street decks. All are invited to join in on this act of love and light.

**EYC Christmas Gathering—December 17, 5–6:30 p.m.**

All middle and high schoolers are invited to gather in Herman Hall for a White Elephant gift exchange and potluck dinner, December 17, 5–6:30 p.m. Bring a treat to share—popcorn and lemonade will be provided—and bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10 or under.

## Christmas Eve Services—December 24 at 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

### **Join Us for Christmas Eve Worship at 10 a.m., 6 p.m., or Both!**

**10 a.m. Worship with Children's Pageant:** In our morning worship, we will sing favorite carols, enjoy a children's Christmas pageant, and light candles to sing *Silent Night* together.

**6 p.m. Festive Eucharist:** Our evening worship will be a traditional and glorious Christmas Eve service with prelude and service music by our choir and guest brass musicians. We look forward to singing *Silent Night* by candlelight.

*Both Christmas Eve services will include Holy Eucharist.*

### **Children & Youth, Everyone Has a Role in Our Christmas (Eve) Pageant**

**December 24 at 10 a.m. (But arrive a little early.)**

Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, we invite all children to join their families in the sanctuary for a special service including a "pop-up" nativity pageant. Everyone is welcome to participate, with no rehearsals necessary. Just arrive at church a few minutes early, pick a costume, and you'll be ready to help make the story of Christmas come to life.

**EYC, we need you!** From shepherding tiny shepherds down the aisle to leading the angel and animal brigades, our tweens and teens truly provide the magic behind (and in front of!) the pageant scenes. If you are able, please come about 15 minutes before the service starts to claim your role in the best play of the year.

*Please note that Nursery and Children's Ministry will not be offered on Christmas Eve. All children are invited to join us for worship in the sanctuary.*

## Supporting St. Andrew's in 2023 & 2024

### **Year End Is Coming**

We are grateful for your continued gifts that sustain the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's. If you have questions about your giving this year, setting up or changing a recurring draft, or making gifts of stock or other funds, please email Ray Marsh, at [bookkeeper@standrewsgso.org](mailto:bookkeeper@standrewsgso.org). To make a new gift of any amount or to continue your pledge you may:

- Scan the QR Code at right.
- Donate at [abundant.co/standrewsepiscopalch/give](https://abundant.co/standrewsepiscopalch/give).
- Use the "Abundant Giving" app and choose "St Andrew's Episcopal Church" in Greensboro.
- Mail a check to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Bookkeeper, 2105 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403.



### **Love Grows Here Stewardship Campaign—Now is the Time to Submit Your Pledge for 2024**

Thank you for your abundant generosity. We are preparing the budget for next year. If you have not yet pledged for 2024, please join us in our *Love Grows Here* giving campaign so that St. Andrew's can continue to grow in Christ's love and make that love visible in this church, in this community, and in this world. Our Pledge Commitment form is online at [bit.ly/2024LoveGrowsHere](https://bit.ly/2024LoveGrowsHere), or you may email [parish@standrewsgso.org](mailto:parish@standrewsgso.org) to request a pledge packet. Every pledge matters.

*"May the Lord make you grow and abound in love for one another and for all." 1 Thessalonians 3:12*

*Feeding the Hungry + Welcoming the Stranger + Being Transformed by God*

[standrewsgso.org](https://standrewsgso.org) ✕ 2105 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403 ✕ 336.275.1651