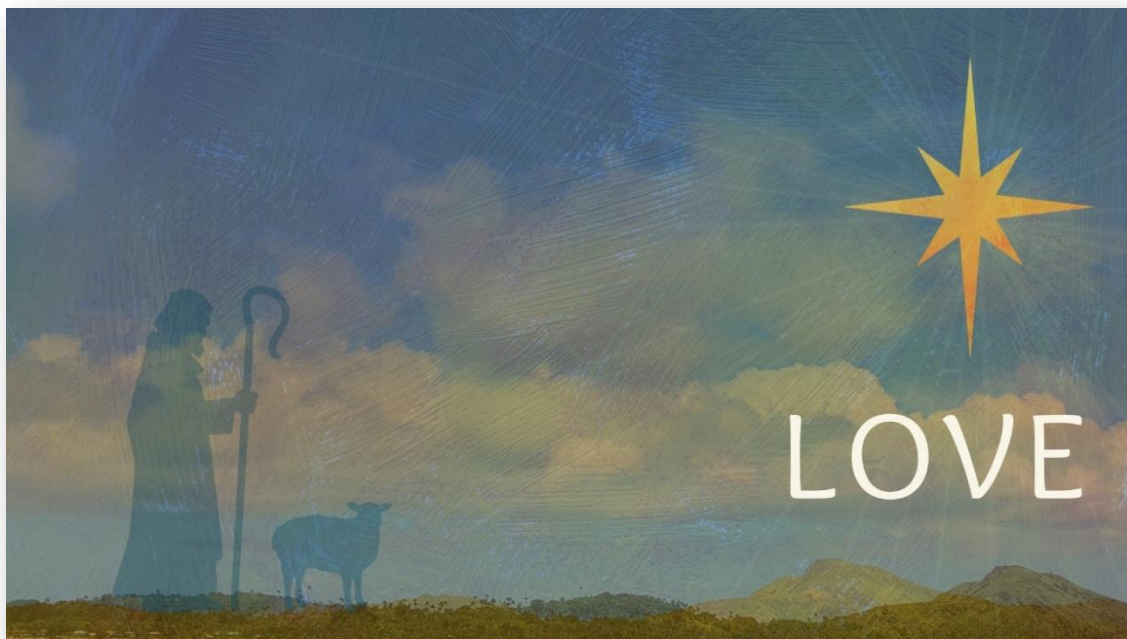


Order of Worship for Holy Eucharist Rite II

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21, 2025 8:30 a.m.



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Welcome to this morning's worship and the Season of Advent!

*Thank you for joining us today. Please use this bulletin and the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP) to follow along in worship. **Today is the Fourth Sunday in Advent**, which is the first season in the church year. Advent is a special time of preparation, hope, and expectation for the coming of Christ.*

The Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

Celebrant Our King and Savior draws near:

People ***O come, let us adore him.***

Celebrant Lord, grant us your light, that being rid of the darkness of our hearts, we may come to the true light which is Christ. ***Amen.***

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Word of God

The Hebrew Bible Reading

Isaiah 7:10–16

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. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

The Psalm

Psalm 80:1–7, 16–18

*Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; **

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *

stir up your strength and come to help us.

*Restore us, O God of hosts; **

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered

despite the prayers of your people?

*You have fed them with the bread of tears; **

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

*Restore us, O God of hosts; **

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *

the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

*And so will we never turn away from you; **

give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Epistle

Romans 1:1–7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

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

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

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: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

The Sermon (*seated*)

The Rev. Pamela Haynes

The Nicene Creed (*standing*)

BCP p. 358

The Prayers of the People (*standing or kneeling*)

Reader Let us pray. As we await the fulfillment of God’s promise, let us offer the prayers of our hearts.

For the church, that it may help to clear a path for God’s reconciling love. God of all hopefulness,

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Reader For the world, that hurt and destruction may yield to the beauty and justice of God’s peaceable reign. God of all hopefulness,

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Reader For all in positions of power, that they may have hearts of compassion and become advocates for the vulnerable and the oppressed. God of all hopefulness,

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Reader For the sick, the lonely, and all who suffer, that through our love and care, God’s tender love may be made known. God of all hopefulness,

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Reader For all who have died, that they may be gathered into the strong and gentle arms of God. God of all hopefulness,
People ***Hear our prayer.***
Celebrant O God, whose Word brings hope and whose promise is a new creation, make a way in the wilderness of our world. Open our eyes to see your coming, and strengthen us for the work of preparing the way for your reign of peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Confession and Absolution

BCP p. 360

The Peace

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

The Breaking of the Bread

We are offering Communion in both kinds. If you do not want to receive Communion but would like to come forward for a blessing, come to either side of the altar rail and place your arms across your chest in the form of an "X" or cross.

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP p. 365

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.***

The Dismissal

BCP p. 366

Deacon Let us go forth together sharing the love of Christ.

People ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.***

Reader: Marion Seaman. ***Chalicerist:*** Linda Cummer. ***Altar Guild Members:*** Pat Baker, Beth Berger, Nancy Bishop, Susan Brannan, Mary V. Compton, Carolyn Hackett, Anne Jones, Nancy Kimbrough, Barbara Lawless, Sandy O'Briant, Laurinda Stokes, Linda Van Ormer, Gail Walters.

We Pray For

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Burundi

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of Costa Rica

Those on our parish prayer list: Norma Bullock, Traci and Erik, Jeff Cummer, Betty Atwell, Mack Baker, Lauren, Martha and Jim Kaley, Nancy O'Donnell, Tina Sink Gangi, Heather, Victoria, Pauline Tatum, Jim Tatum, Pia, Katelyn Flowers, Jeannie Phillips, James, Madeline Colavito, Hilary Towle, Sarah Sellers, Sue Keith, Myra Stephens, Derek, E. MacKenzie, Carolyn Ritchie, Glenna Ohaver, Susan Seaton, Karl Towle, Heidi Dohmeier, Donnie Robertson, Barbara Van Cleve, Nancy Antrim, Bert and Bev, Mary Lou Strohl, Frank Tatem, Faye Thompson, Ethan Shoffner, Paul, Karen, Sabrina, John Bald, Keats, Alicia, Gloria, Jo, Julie Dameron, Lynn Hayworth, Gayle Aiken, Denise, Vicky, Barbara Cole, Patrick Miller, Terese Southern, Jordan, Laura Shinn, Anne Collins, Bill Hill, Carl and Angie Smith, James R. Smith, Lauren Vasquez and family, Clare, Maggie

Seminarian: Ryan Waide

Special concerns: The people of Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, and Sudan; Jamaica and all those impacted by recent storms

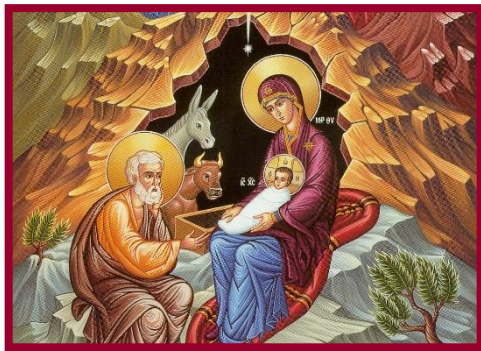
Those serving in our military: Tom Stauffer, Paul Zeigler, Stephen Johnson, Benjamin Phillips, Kenneth Gearhart, Alex Reyes, Michael McNeil, Jordan Payne, Catharyn Nosek

Those expecting: Martin and Samantha Kappauf, due January 2026; Sean and Olivia Toso, due March 2026

Birth: June Sinclair Prescott, daughter of Maggie Dodson & Nate Prescott and granddaughter of Jim & Wendy Dodson, on December 17, 2025

Birthdays: Amanda Chowning, William Hanna, Virginia Haskett, Bela Hendricks, Eli Inman

Prayer requests can be sent to Susan Frye, Parish Administrator, at parish@standrewsgso.org or 336-275-1651, ext. 1. Names remain on our parish prayer list for six weeks. If you would like a name to remain on the list, please let Susan know. Please also email Susan with birthdays or anniversaries for the bulletin.



Come One, Come All, for Christmas Eve Worship!

5:45 p.m. Arrive for Seating & Prelude — 6:00 p.m. Service Begins

Our service will also be livestreamed.

Our Christmas Eve service will be a Festive Eucharist with prelude and service music from our choir and guest brass musicians. We look forward to singing Silent Night by candlelight. Join us, and bring a friend!

Announcements

Join Us for 10 a.m. Worship Next Sunday, December 28

We will celebrate the First Sunday after Christmas in our worship on Sunday, December 28. Our service will be in-person and livestreamed, and The Rev. Dr. Leon Spencer will preach and celebrate.

Burgundy Bag Donations—Please Hold Your Gifts at Home Until January 4

The One Step Further food pantry will be closed during the Christmas and New Year's holiday. Please continue to gather food donations, but we ask that you hold them at home until Sunday, January 4, when you may resume bringing these gifts to the collection places at the Chapel and Church entrances.

Parish Office Closed December 24 through January 2

The office will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holidays, resuming normal hours Monday, January 5. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact the Rev. Pam Haynes at 336-309-6265 or deacon@standrewsgso.org. For urgent building-related concerns, contact Cindy Shane at facilities@standrewsgso.org, 336-403-1600 (daytime), or 336-992-9878 (evenings).

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 or call him at 336-275-1651, ext. 3. Ray is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To make new or pledged gift online, visit abundant.co/standrewsepiscopalch/give or scan the QR code at right. Checks may be mailed to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Bookkeeper, 2105 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403. To make a pledge for 2026, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/WalkInLove2026> or request a pledge packet from Ray.



Save the Dates: Our Annual Meeting is February 1 – Leader Reports are Due January 11
Our Annual All-Parish Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Leaders are asked to submit reports (and photos) to Susan Frye at parish@standrewsgso.org by January 11, 2026. Early reports are welcomed.

Join Us for Worship, Service, & Fellowship in 2026 Walking in Love in the Season of Light

Our Epiphany Celebration is January 11 – With Star Words & Chalking the Doors

Join us for 10 a.m. worship on January 11, when we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. This year we will again introduce **Star Words** in this service, distributing star-shaped cards, each with a word on one side. As we consider together what it means to Look for the Light, reflecting on these words can serve as a simple spiritual practice, inviting you to set your intention for the new year. We will share more information about Star Words and **Chalking the Doors** for Epiphany in the new year.

Let's Welcome the Season of Light with Children's Chapel on January 11

Our children are invited to celebrate the start of Epiphany with Children's Chapel during 10 a.m. worship on January 11. We'll have a story and special offering for our first gathering in 2026!

Worship and Make a Difference Day of Service—January 18

Make a Difference Day is an extension of the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. It is a time for giving back to your community. Join us in the Parish Hall after our worship on January 18 for an all-parish Make a Difference Day service project, as we fill and decorate "Comfort Bags" to be distributed later to members of Greensboro's houseless community.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church ✕ The Rev. Ginny Bain Inman, Rector
standrewsgso.org ✕ 2105 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403 ✕ 336.275.1651