

The mission of St. Andrews is to proclaim and live the good news of Jesus Christ, for the rescue and transformation of God's People, so that the city of Columbus might glorify and enjoy God, in all of life.

Worshiping God Together

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

—— Gathering in God's Presence ——

Prelude

(Please take a moment and quietly prepare your heart for worship.)

To all who are weary and need rest, to all who mourn and long for comfort, to all who fail and desire strength, to all who sin and need a Savior: this church opens wide her doors with a welcome from Jesus, the friend of sinners.

Reading of Preparation

It was not suddenly and unannounced that Jesus came into the world. He came into a world that had been prepared for Him. The whole Old Testament is the story of a special preparation...Only when all was ready, only in the fullness of His time, did Jesus come. - Phillips Brooks

An Advent Prayer of Preparation:

God, who is very near, you never insist we show our spiritual fortitude, tenacity or strength - by going on epic journeys to find you; we're never asked to accomplish heroic feats to prove our worthiness to come to you. You've given us no ladder to climb up to your heavenly heights, because you came near to us. Help us grasp the life you offer in the One who came down from heaven for us and for our salvation. Amen.

Call to Worship: Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries:
"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.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

—— Offering God Our Praises ——

Songs of Ascent

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

(Refrain)

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

(Refrain)

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becomest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heavenwards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Greeting

Grace and Peace to you from God, Our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ!
According to His great mercy, He has *made us alive*, to a *living hope*,
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of Invocation

God of hope, You call us out of the exile of sin with the good news of *restoration* and *hope*; You come to us and bring us home. Comfort us with the expectation of Your saving power, made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Confession of Faith- taken from The Westminster Larger Catechism

Q 43: How is Christ a Prophet?

As Prophet, Christ reveals the complete will of God to his church about everything for the church's edification and salvation. He does this throughout the ages in different ways by means of his Spirit and word.

Corporate Prayers of Confession:

Heavenly Father, our lives and hearts are filled with sin. We forget our neighbor's needs and do not love You above all else. We need a Savior. Help us to be *watchful* and *ready for Jesus* in our own hearts. O come, O come, Savior of the world.

Father, hear us now as we offer our silent, individual prayers of confession.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardoning Grace: The Bethlehem Candle -

Scott & Sharyn Moore

Why do we light the Advent candles?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."

What is the meaning of the second lighted candle?

The second candle is the Bethlehem candle whose light bears witness to the Savior, the only Mediator between God and Man, who was born in Bethlehem.

Peter says,

"Know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."

What does the gospel say about this Mediator born in Bethlehem?

From the Gospel of John,

"So Jesus said to them . . . I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Song of Assurance

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth;

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:

(Refrain)

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star:

(Refrain)

Offering and Special Music

(At this time, the school aged K4 and Kindergarten children are invited to meet their leaders at the back of the sanctuary for Children's Church. If it is your child's first time, please accompany him/her to class)

—— Hearing and Responding to God's Word ——

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13

Sermon — Wes Simmons, Senior Pastor

Notes:

—— Being Sent Out into God's World ——

Song of Dismissal

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One:

(Refrain)

Benediction: Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that
by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Go in His Peace!

Poinsettias 2025

“In Memorial or Honor Of”

Chris & Jennifer Schoonover	Mr. Donald Eckardt Mr. Spence Sealy
Mathes & Caitlin Ballard	James Ewing Ballard, Jr.
A.J. & Jolyn Morris	Vernon & Jacquelyn Dillard
Matthew & Aileen Phelps	Emmerson & Edith Phelps
John & Margie Mitchell	C. Lea Hoopes Bruce L. Hoopes Erma J. Hoopes Mary Belle M. Mitchell H. Petrie Mitchell Matthew B. Mitchell
Ryan & Ashley Foster	Dennis Whitford
Andy & Ruth Dickens	William Dickens Patricia Levine
Chris & Betty Schuster	David Neel Betty Neel Marvin Schuster
Clark & Pilar Cobb	Howell Cobb Rachel & Jim Skalitzky Don Avery
Harry & Lydia Westcott	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Westcott Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Sawyer

Poinsettias 2025

“In Memorial or Honor Of”

Scott & Sharyn Moore	Mack Moore Children: Callahan, Daniel, Ashleigh, Michael, Chase, Autumn
Mike Willett	Jim & Lotte Willett
Tim & Judy Dodds	Robert J Dodds Marilyn Landon

— Announcements —

Bible and Life

Bible and Life is over for the Fall Semester and will resume **January 11, 2026**.

Women's Ministry

Early Morning Bible Study

Join us for an early morning Bible Study on Thursdays!

Women's Prayer Ministry

The Women's Prayer Ministry is on a break and will resume meeting Mondays at 9:30am starting **January 12, 2026**.

Women's Fall Bible Study

Women's Tuesday morning Bible Study will resume on **January 13, 2026**.

Women's Retreat 2026

Ladies, please mark your calendar for **March 20-22, 2026** for our retreat! This year we will be staying in the Chalets in Pine Mountain. Registration opens in December, so make plans now to attend!

Children's Ministry

Rooted

Rooted is over for the Fall Semester and will resume **January 11, 2026!**

Men's Ministry

Men's Bible Study

Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study is on a break until **January 2026**.

Child Safety Class

If you missed the first training, class there will be a Makeup Session Sunday, **Dec 14** at 9:30 in the Adult Bible & Life classroom. This training is for anyone working during children's events for our Nursery, Children and Youth programs.

— Advent Announcements —

Children's Ministry

Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant is coming up on **Dec 14 at 5:30!**

Mark your calendars for rehearsal on Wed **Dec 10** at 4:30! Costumes will be handed out depending on the role that your child has and will be done 30 min before and after the rehearsals. Look for an email with all the details!

If you would like to bring some finger foods for our reception after the pageant or be a pageant volunteer, please sign up on the app!

Advent Reading Plan

Don't forget to pick up your child's Advent Reading Plan from the Narthex. Once your child has completed it they will turn it in to Mrs. Marie and pick a prize from the treasure bucket!

Christmas Dinner

Make plans to join us for one of St. Andrews' most beloved traditions: Christmas Dinner! Christmas Dinner will be Sunday, **Dec 7** at 5:30pm.

Christmas Eve

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service on **Dec 24** at 4:30pm. Nursery is available for children ages 2 and under. There will be a special offering collected. Proceeds will be sent to our Mission Partner: Reformed Evangelical Fellowship — Gary & Tammy Elliott who are serving in Bulgaria.

Women's Event

Ladies, join us **Dec 12** from 7-9:00pm at Betty Schuster's house for a fun night of cookies and Christmas movies! Bring a tray of cookies to enjoy and swap. Address and more info is on the App!

End of Year Giving

If you are interested in making a donation to be included in the 2025 calendar year, please have your donation *in the office no later than 12:00pm on Wednesday December 31.*

To Visitors and Parents with babies and young children:

At St. Andrews, we are a covenant family & covenant community. We welcome children as worshippers in the Lord's sanctuary alongside their parents. We know children wiggle and make noise sometimes. To maintain a worshipful atmosphere without distracting others, we have the following options available by age:

- Nursery is available for children ages 0-K3. There is a sign-in computer in the hallway. Juli Pope is our Nursery Coordinator if you need any assistance – 706-442-5854
- A nursing mother's room is available around the corner from the Narthex for nursing and fussy babies. In addition, a TV is available in the Narthex with a live stream of the worship service, in case you need to step out with your child, for a few minutes.
- Children ages K4-K5 are dismissed for Children's Church after the Offertory. Marie Baum is our Director of Children's Ministry if you have any questions – children@standrewscolumbus.org
- A children's bulletin and crayons are available for all children in the Narthex.
- We encourage children to stand when appropriate and participate in worship as much as possible!

To the members of our congregation:

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Please welcome our children and encourage their parents!

Missionaries and Ministries Supported by St. Andrews

Clement Arts (Carmen Overton)

Eden's Hope (Haley Reed)

International Friendship Ministries (Ron Collins)

Marannook (Taylor Teel)

MercyMed of Columbus (Billy Holbrook)

Mission to North America (MNA) Chaplain Ministries (Michael Stewart)

Mission to the World (MTW)

Pete Mitchell (France)

David & Erin Pervis (Greece)

Frank Harrell (Japan)

Doni & Albina Mehmeti (Kosovo)

18.26 Network Anna McLendon (Japan)

Pioneers

Nazmi & Albana Berisha, Caleb & Leah Carr, Tom & Iris Lowder

Reformed Evangelical Fellowship — Gary & Tammy Elliott (Bulgaria)

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)

University of Georgia (Ben Coppedge)

Auburn University (Tanner Crum)

Auburn University RUF International (Mike Alsup)

Mercer University (Marlin Harris & Andrew Burckhalter)

Columbus State University (Tim Grider, Kenyatta Ward)

Kent State University (Cordelia Wilson)

Georgia Southern University (Nathanael Miller)

Seneca Pregnancy Clinic (Amber Snipes)

Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic (Melissa Howard)

Teen Challenge Columbus Women's Home (Samantha White)

Teen Challenge Global (Claude Mooneyhan)

Trail Life (Fred Parks)

Truth Spring Academy (Rob & Carrie Strickland)

Valley Rescue Mission (Mike Gaymon)

Young Life Greater Columbus, GA (Lauren Johnson)

Announcements

If you would like an announcement in the bulletin of a personal nature: Expectant mother, birth of a baby, the passing of a St. Andrews family member, illness or hardship, please notify the office at office@standrewscolumbus.com. We would like to recognize all of these important events, however want to respect the privacy of our congregants as well. When you email the office you will be giving permission to put this information in the bulletin.

Youth Ministry

Youth Group meets weekly at the Moseley House Sundays from 5:30-7:30pm and is open to all students 6th grade to 12th grade. Please contact Vijay Rawal at vijay@standrewscolumbus.org if you have any questions.

Dec 7—Youth Babysitting Fundraiser at the Moseley House

Dec 14—Youth Group Christmas Party

Children's Church Volunteers

Dec 7— Marie Baum, Claire Sproul, Josie Blake, Tony Blake

Dec 14— Sara Barkhouse, Kaity Stewart, Leah Rodeheaver,
Abigail Rodeheaver, Rebekah Rodeheaver

Dec 21— Amy Rhodes, Kayla Barkhouse, Kate Simmons, Henry Maxey

Small Groups

Interested in joining a small group? Do you have questions about small groups?
Contact Wayne Logan at (606) 521-9470 or wayne@standrewscolumbus.org.

Church Family Needs & Weekly Prayers

Expectant Mothers— Sydney Alexander, Kathleen Whitley

St. Andrews Missionaries— Reformed Evangelical Fellowship

St. Andrews Ministries— Small Group Ministry

Please pray for service members and families from our church family who are deployed or moving to new duty stations in the coming days and weeks.

Please pray for those in our church family who are currently facing illnesses or other hardships:

Susan Clickner — Addie Jackson

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request or would appreciate a meal, and are not in a small group, please email sapc.womensministry@gmail.com

St. Andrews Staff and Leadership

Senior Pastor—Wes Simmons

Assistant Pastor —Jeff Barkhouse

Director of Children's Ministry—Marie Baum

Youth Director—Vijay Rawal

Director of Christian Education—Wayne Logan

Music & Worship Coordinator—Bob Ross

Nursery Coordinator—Juli Pope

Church Administrator—Amelia Estes

Office Administrator—Jennifer Schoonover

Office Hours—Monday– Thursday 9:00am—3:00pm

And by appointment

The office can be reached at office@standrewscolumbus.org

Elders of St. Andrews

Steve Adams

Mathes Ballard

Bill Brouwer

Rich Dahlin

Phil Engstrom

Daniel Hord

Warner Kennon Sr.

Bobby McGowan

Nathan Rodeheaver

Drew Rhodes

The Elders can be reached at elders@standrewscolumbus.org

Deacons of St. Andrews

Blake Corcoran

Matt Edmonson

Tommy Etchechury

Brett Horne

Warner Kennon, Jr.

Joey Nichols

Matt Phelps

John Simpson

Zach Stewart

Ben Wallace

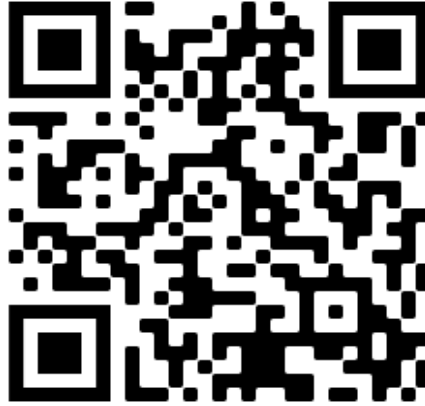
Leroy Ward

Allen Whitley

The Deacons can be reached at deacons@standrewscolumbus.org

WELCOME VISITORS

*Please scan the QR code below to fill out our connect card!
Or, you can fill out the paper form below and add it to the offering plate.*



We are glad that you are here with us today!

We would like to send you a welcome email or letter. Don't worry, we will not add you to our email list without your permission.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Date that you visited: _____

Feel free to list anyone that came with you, ages or grades included.

We would enjoy the opportunity to pray with you and for you.

If you would like, please share any requests or needs you may have.

Thanks for visiting with us today.

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