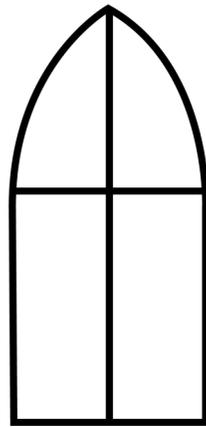


The mission of St. Andrews is to proclaim and live the good news of Jesus Christ, for the rescue and transformation of God's People, so that the city of Columbus might glorify and enjoy God, in all of life.



REFLECTIONS

The Festival of Readings and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918 at King's College, Cambridge, England. This service includes nine lessons and carols that tell the grand story of Jesus coming into the world. Our service is a variation on that historic pattern.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
“O Holy Night,” Placide Cappeau, 1847

None whose hope is in God will ever be put to shame . . . Psalm 25:3

Worshiping God Together

December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve Service

A Service of Readings and Carols

Prelude

Welcome and Introduction

+ Please stand for all hymns designated with a cross symbol.

Opening Hymn

+ Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of Invocation

God of grace, You have given us minds to know you,
Hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise.
Fill us with your Spirit, That we may celebrate your glory
And worship you in spirit and in truth
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting: The Christ Candle

Mitch and Amy Jaeger, Levi, Lucas, Lawson, and Tahani

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 lighted Christ candle?

The lighted candle is a reminder that Christ, the true Light, has come into the world as promised by the prophets to bring salvation to His people.

Jeremiah says,

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

What do the gospels say concerning Christ?

The Gospels tell us that the true Light that gives light to every man has already come into the world, though the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

Reading of Preparation: The Most Joyful News Ever Announced

Reader: Pastor Wes Simmons

Galatians 4:4-5

Hymn

+ O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the King of angels;

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light;
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created; *(Refrain)*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest; *(Refrain)*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;
(Refrain)

First Reading: The Dawn of Joy for the World

Reader: Lois Cain

God tells the now sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise but gives him the first promise of the gospel: that Eve's seed will crush the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:1-15

Hymn

+ **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to Him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
By His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Second Reading: The Covenant of Everlasting Joy

Reader: Stan Shively

The seed of Eve now goes through Abraham and his son, Isaac. After Abraham proves faithful, God confirms the promise that in his seed the nations of the earth will be blessed.

Genesis 22:1-3a, 7-18

Hymn

+ O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
(Refrain)

O come, thou Day-spring from on high and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
(Refrain)

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
(Refrain)

Third Reading: The Joyful “Yes” of God’s Word to Us

Reader: Kelly Phillips

Isaiah focuses on the hope of a Messiah as an heir of King David who would extend the blessing of his rule from Israel to include all nations.

Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7

Special Music

O Holy Night - Angela Hancock

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand;
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, Our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love, and His gospel is peace;
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name;
Christ is the Lord, Oh, praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory ever more proclaim!
His pow'r and glory ever more proclaim!

Fourth Reading: The Messiah to Endure the Cross for the Joy Set Before Him

Reader: John Mitchell

The child to be born will bring redemption through His own suffering, bringing salvation to the world in His atoning sacrifice.

Isaiah 53:1-6 & 10-11

Hymn

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 becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising, heav'n-ward by Thine eternal plan.
Thou was art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship Thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what Thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship Thee.

Fifth Reading: Joy that Messiah Will Come as a Child

Reader: Nancy Simmons

The angel Gabriel visits the virgin Mary with the news that she will bear the Son of God.

Luke 1:26-38

Hymn

+ What Child Is This

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Sixth Reading : Joy that Messiah Calls Us to Come as Children

Reader: Amy Jaeger

"The Light of the Whole World" from The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally-Lloyd Jones

(All children elementary age and younger are invited to join Mrs. Amy up front)

Hymn

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle, till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Seventh Reading: God Fulfills His Ancient Promise of Joy for All People

Reader: Pastor Grant Gilliam

Jesus is born in Bethlehem of Judea according to the prophecy and angels announce His birth to shepherds, who go to visit the child.

Luke 2:1-16

Hymn

+ **Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?
(Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
(Refrain)

Offering & Special Music

Special Offering this year goes to Seneca Choices for Life and Sound Choices

(an explanation of both is in the back of the bulletin)

Eighth Reading: In the Beginning was He Who is the Giver of Joy

Reader: Joey Nichols

The Apostle John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation and the offer of life by faith in Messiah Jesus.

John 1:1, 9, and 14

Hymn

+ Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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 new-born 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)

Lighting of the Christmas Candles

Ninth Reading: Joyful Assurance of Eternal Life in Messiah

Reader: Pastor Wes

The greatest act of love ever, the greatest gift ever and the greatest news ever announced to the world.

John 3:16-17

Hymn

+ **Silent Night**

During the singing of Silent Night, raise your candle when indicated by the Pastor.

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.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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!

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: 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!

Offering– Seneca Choices for Life and Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic

Seneca Choices for Life and Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic are local ministries that St. Andrews has supported for many years. Their missions are similar in providing support throughout pregnancy and parenting.

Above all, Seneca’s hope is “To make abortion unthinkable through prayer, intervention, and prevention.”

Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic offers abortion recovery support in addition to pregnancy testing and parenting classes.

We hope you’ll join us in supporting these ministries through our special Christmas offering. You can give by placing money or checks in the offering plates during worship, or digitally on the app.

Seneca Choices for Life is located at 3900 Rosemont Drive Columbus, GA 31904. For more information about their mission, please visit www.senecacfl.life.

Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic is located at 1316 Wynnton Court Columbus, GA 31906. For more information about their services and mission, visit www.soundchoicespc.org.

Carefully extinguish your candle as you depart the sanctuary and place the unlit candle in the baskets provided.



WELCOME VISITORS

Please fill this out and drop it in the offering box.

We are glad and honored 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: _____

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

We would cherish 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! If you have any questions or want to learn more about St. Andrews, email the office at office@standrewscolumbus.org or call 706-327-7750

