



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 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

—— Gathering in God's Presence ——

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

Prelude

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You, God of glory, Lord of light;
Angels lifting praise before You sing thro'out this holy night.
In a manger lies a Baby - Child of Mary, Son of God.
Voices joined in joyful chorus praise You for your gift of love.

All Your works declare Your glory; all creation joins to sing.
Praise resounds as earth rejoices in the birth of Christ the King.
Shepherds kneel before the infant. Trumpets sound and anthems raise
As with joy our hearts are lifted, joined in wonder, love, and praise.

Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, leading us with mercy's hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life!

Call to Worship: Isaiah 52:7-9

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,

**who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."**

The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

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

—— Offering God Our Praises ——

Songs of Ascent

Good Christian Men, Rejoice!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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 Christian, 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.

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Greeting

Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Testimony of Faith—Ian Crichton

Prayer of Invocation

Heavenly Father, we are a people of hope waiting for the return of our Lord. God, You will renew the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, who has already conquered sin. He will wipe away every tear; death shall be no more. Give us hearts of earnest expectation and hope, of the work You will do in our hearts and lives. We make all our prayers in the name of Jesus, our risen and conquering King! Amen.

Song of Praise

The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Chorus: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
(Chorus)

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heav'n and earth of naught, and with his blood our life hath bought.
(Chorus)

Confession of Faith- taken from The Westminster Larger Catechism

Q 44: How is Christ a Priest?

As Priest, Christ offered himself once for all as a spotless sacrifice to God to reconcile the sins of his people, and he continually intercedes for them.

Corporate Prayers of Confession:

Heavenly Father, prepare our hearts to receive the One whom You are sending. Forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing You at work in our midst, because we've been so focused on ourselves. Forgive us of all our sins, in the name of Jesus Christ, the One who is coming.

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

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardoning Grace: The Shepherds' Candle

The Braun Family

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 third lighted candle?

The third lighted candle is the shepherds' candle signifying the light of joy that unexpectedly brightened the hearts of a humble band of shepherds at the announcement of the birth of Christ, who is our Everlasting King.

The prophet Isaiah proclaims,
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

What does scripture say about our Everlasting King?

God keeps his promises! Isaiah's prophecy promises remarkable joy that will ultimately be fulfilled in Jesus, the salvation of our souls.

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the Lord,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

And Peter writes,

“Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

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.

Offering and Special Music

For to Us a Child is Born - Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given;
on those walking through the dark, a heavenly light has broken.
Oh, what joy he brings to us, a feast of hope and wonder;
from our burden we are freed, as we receive the Savior.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given;
and the government will be upon his blameless shoulders.
And his name shall be called All-Wonderful and Counselor,
Mighty God and Prince of Peace, our Everlasting Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given;
of his reign and of his peace, there'll never be an ending.
He will be on David's throne, and there uphold his kingdom;
and with truth and righteousness forever rule the nations

(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 5:14-16

Sermon — Wes Simmons, Senior Pastor

Notes:

—— Being Sent Out into God's World ——

Song of Dismissal

Joy to the World!

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.

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
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**.

— Advent Announcements —

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.

Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed **Dec 25** and **January 1, 2026**. In order to allow our staff time with their families there will be limited availability on **Dec 26** and **January 2, 2026**. If you need assistance from the office staff on those days please email office@standrewscolumbus.org.

End of Year Giving

St. Andrews is grateful for the continued support we receive through gifts of time, talent, tithes and offerings. As many people make their end-of-year financial giving plans, we would like to remind you of the options available to you:

- Cash donations can be given in the offering plate. If you need a receipt, please bring your cash donation directly to the church office.
- Check donations can be given in the offering plate, dropped by the office, or mailed.
- We accept Stock Donations. For details, please contact the office.
- We accept member-scheduled bank payments.
- We accept digital payments made through our website and App.

All donations must be processed or postmarked by **Dec 31** in order to count towards 2025 Giving. In-Person gifts must be delivered to the church office by Noon on December 31. Thank you again for your support!

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 14—Youth Group Christmas Party

Dec 21—No Youth Group

Children's Church Volunteers

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

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

Dec 28— Cam Addison, Anna Rodeheaver, Julianne Foster, Wade Wallace

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 University Fellowship (RUF)

St. Andrews Ministries— Worship Ministry Team

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

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 (Kenya)

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.

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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