

# St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor

Elder Linda Grissom, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude "God Leads Us Along" Dr. Gilbreath

## We Gather in God's Presence

Welcome

Call to Worship:

One: This message we have heard from the beginning.

**All: We should love one another.**

One: Let us love one another as God loves us.

**All: God's love is a gift to all.**

One: The love of God is from everlasting to everlasting.

**All: Let us worship God!**

\*Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #366

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**Lord, in many ways we have betrayed you by following our own paths. We have denied you when fear stopped us from stepping out and taking risks in your name. Lord, let your forgiveness find us. Hold us in your strong arms and give us the courage to walk with you day by day. And now, Lord, hear our personal and silent confessions. Amen (Silent Confession)**

Hymn of Response "Spirit of the Living God" #288

Assurance of Pardon:

One: Today, as we confess our sins, God hears us and offers us this assurance of pardon:

**All: Jesus Christ lived, was crucified, and was raised from the dead to show us the power of God's love. In spite of our sins, God hears us and forgives us. Thanks be to God!**

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Gloria Patri #581

Prayer for Illumination

## We Listen for God's Word

Meditation (Please remain seated during the hymns.)

The Gift of Love Hymn #693 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a "Though I May Speak" 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

God's Love for All People Hymn #703 John 3:12-17, 35 "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me" 1 John 3:1

Love One Another Hymn #372 Romans 13:8-10 1 John 4:7-12, 18-19 "O for a World" Romans 14:13, 19 Romans 15:5-6

## We Respond to God's Word

The Lord's Prayer

Special Music "I Heard about a Man" Dr. Gilbreath

Call for the Offering Offertory "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Dr. Gilbreath

\*Doxology #606

\*Prayer of Dedication

## We Are Sent into the World

\*Hymn "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" #203

\*Benediction

Postlude "What a Mighty God We Serve" Dr. Gilbreath

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

***Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.***

**Calendar of Events:**

Mon., Jan. 1	Happy New Year! Church Office Closed
Wed., Jan 3	9:30 AM Hill and Dale Garden Club invites you to their meeting
Mon., Jan 8	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM remove Christmas decorations HAD Lunch
Wed., Jan 10	4:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM CONNECT Bible Study with Rev. Tripp
Thurs., Jan 11	1:00 PM Caring Hands

**To Our Guests:**

Welcome! It is a blessing to have you in worship with us today. We warmly invite your participation in the worship, fellowship, and ministry of our congregation. The pastor is available to answer any questions you might have after worship, by email or phone. There is a place for you here.

Children's activity bags are available from an usher for the sermon time. Please leave the bag in the pew as you leave.

A nursery is provided for children 3 years of age and under.



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Live Streams and recordings of each week's worship service are available on our YouTube channel. For more information, visit us at [www.standrewdeatur.org](http://www.standrewdeatur.org)

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-8a; 1 Corinthians 16:13-14**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

### **John 3:12-17, 35; 1 John 3:1**

If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.

### **Romans 13:8-10; Romans 14:13,19; 1 John 4:7-12,18-19; Romans 15:5-6**

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another.

Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.