

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor

Nellie Gates, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude "Away in a Manger" Dr. Gilbreath

We Gather in God's Presence

Pastor's Welcome

Special Music "O Holy Night!" Shelia Koza

Call to Worship:

One: Good news of great joy!

All: People who walked in darkness now live in great light.

One: Good news of great joy!

All: Oppression and war will not have the last word.

One: Good news of great joy!

All: A Savior is born, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

*Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #133

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves; how garments of war are still stained with blood; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety. We also see what is wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships, our community, or even in the church. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. In the Savior's name, we pray. Amen.
(Silent Confession)

Hymn of Response "Come, Come, Emmanuel" #91

Assurance of Pardon:

One: Good news! Great joy! In Jesus Christ, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

All: Glory to God in heaven, and on earth, peace.

Advent Candle of Christ Bob & Jackie Naumann

Gloria "Angels We Have Heard on High" (v.1 & Refrain) #113

We Listen for God's Word

Prayer for Illumination Nellie Gates

Scripture Reading Titus 2:11-14 Nellie Gates

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-20 Rev. Brogdon

Reflection Rev. Brogdon

*Hymn "Once in Royal David's City" #140

We Respond to God's Word

Call for the Offering
Offertory "Mary, Did You Know?" Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

We Are Sent into the World

*Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #119

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Creator God, we give you thanks and praise for the beauty of the earth in every season...

One: ...Therefore we break forth together in joy with the words of the great song:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

One: As you spoke long ago to our ancestors in many and various ways...

One: ...Celebrating these gifts from our Savior, we speak the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Rev. Brogdon continues.

Breaking of the bread and Sharing of the Cup

Prayer After Communion

God of grace and peace, as you have shared your life with us through the child in the manger and this simple meal together, let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world; through Jesus, bread of heaven. Amen.

Lighting of the Candles

*Hymn	"Away In a Manger"	#115
	"Silent Night"	#122

*Benediction		Rev. Brogdon
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Postlude	"I Wonder as I Wander"	Dr. Gilbreath
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*Please rise in body or spirit.

Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.

Calendar of Events:

Monday, Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!

Monday, Dec. 25 – Monday, January 1 Church Office is Closed

Tuesday, Jan. 2 10:00 AM Presbyterian Women, in the Fellowship Hall.

Lesson: "A Person with Leprosy", Luke 17:11-21

Lesson Leader: B.J. Breeding

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Scripture Reading, Nellie Gates: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is – who gave himself for us – that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Scripture Reading, Rev. Brogdon: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you

will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.