

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor

Harold Culbert, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude "Lo, How a Rose E're Bloomin'/To a Wild Rose" Dr. Gilbreath

We Gather in God's Presence

Pastor's Welcome

Special Music "O Holy Night!" Sheila Koza & Linda Webster

Call to Worship:

One: A child has been born for us.

All: A great light shines in the middle of our darkness.

One: A child has been born for us.

All: establishing God's justice and breaking every yoke.

One: A child has been born for us.

All: whose reign will have no end.

One: A child has been born for us, and we worship him together

**All: Wonder Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Hallelujah!**

*Hymn "Angels, from the Realm of Glory" #143

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, you call us to celebrate, yet we struggle to find hope in the suffering and despair of our world. What reason is there to rejoice? We turn from each other and from you, questioning the power of love in the face of the world's cruelty and hate. Comfort your people, sovereign God. Return us to the faith born this night. Save us from hopelessness. May the promise and possibility of every newborn child remind us of the salvation we have in Jesus Christ. Amen. (Silent Confession)

Hymn of Response "What Child Is This" v.1 #145

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

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

We Listen for God's Word

Prayer for Illumination Harold Culbert

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 Harold Culbert

*Hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" #123

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-20 Rev. Brogdon

Reflection Rev. Brogdon

We Respond to God's Word

Call for the Offering
Offertory "All Is Well" Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

*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: Almighty God, you shape your very life to create and restore and enjoy us forever.

One: ...singing the hymn of your unending praise:

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: God of new birth, as you laid your Son in Mary's arms, you place these gifts of bread and wine in our hands.

One: Great is 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.

We Are Sent into the World

Lighting of the Candles

*Hymn	“Away In a Manger”	#115
	“Silent Night”	#122
*Benediction		Rev. Brogdon
Postlude	“Away in a Manger”	Dr. Gilbreath

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.

Calendar of Events:

Wed., Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!
Tuesday, December 24th – Wednesday, January 1st Church Office is Closed
Thurs, Jan. 2 1:00 PM Caring Hands
Mon., Jan. 6 Remove Christmas decorations

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Scripture Reading, Harold Culbert: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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.