

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

December 21, 2025
Elder Linda Grissom, Liturgist
Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Prelude

“Let’s Worship and Adore Him”

We Gather in God’s Presence

Welcome

*Call to Worship:
One: Let us prepare our hearts as we await the coming of our Lord.
All: Let us watch for the one who heard our cries and shouldered the suffering of our world.
One: Let us anticipate the coming of Christ’s eternal world with wholeness, reconciliation, and plenty for all.
All: Let us wait in expectation for the day when God’s glory is revealed in all its fullness.
One: The time is coming.
All: Indeed, it is almost here.
One: Restore us, God of hosts.
All: Let your face shine upon us, Emmanuel.

*Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” v. 1-3, 6-7

#88

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:
Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, and taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen. (Silent Confession)

Hymn of Response

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” v.3

#132

Assurance of Pardon

One: The Apostle Paul wrote: “You are called to belong to Jesus Christ.” For the sake of the One God promised to send, named as God’s Son, who died, was raised, and through whom we receive grace, God forgives you all your sins.
All: We are God’s beloved, called to be saints. Thanks be to God!

Advent Candle of Love

Ronnie & Lorrie Smallwood

*Congregational Response

“While We Are Waiting, Come” v.1

#92

We Listen for God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Choir Anthem

“Advent Prayer”

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

“Don’t Drop the Baby”

*Hymn

“Who Would Think That What Was Needed”

#138

We Respond to God’s Word

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles’ Creed
I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Call for the Offering
(The offering plate is not passed, but is located on a stand outside the sanctuary doors.)

Offertory

“Love Has Come”

*Doxology

#606

*Prayer of Dedication

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| We Are Sent into the World |
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| *Hymn | “What Child Is This” | #145 |
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*Benediction

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| *Postlude | “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” |
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*Please rise in body or spirit.

Bold and italic type indicates our shared response.

Calendar of Events:

Mon., Dec. 22 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Chat “N” Chew
Wed., Dec. 24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
Wed., Dec. 24 – Thurs., Dec. 25 The church office will be closed.

Guests

Welcome! It is a blessing to have you 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.

Live Streams and recordings of each week’s worship service are available on our YouTube channel. For more information, visit us at www.standrewdecaturn.org

Scripture Reading, Linda Grissom: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Scripture Reading, Rev. Brogdon: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord

commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.