



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Andrew's is dedicated to supporting your spiritual life. Spirituality is how we are in relationship to God, to other people, to the world around us, and to ourselves.

The Nativity of Our Lord **December 24, 2023 3pm**

We are eager to engage all ages in this special worship service for children and their families. Feel free to move around the church with your children, as needed. Coloring sheets and colored pencils are available at the back of the church. We are livestreaming this service.

Hymn 87 "Hark! the herald angels sing"

Mendelssohn

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Collect for Christmas Eve

Celebrant Together we pray:

People Heavenly Father, the night sky shines with the Light of your Son, Jesus Christ. He was born as one of us and laid in a manger, and now His love shines through the whole world. As we bring our animals to the crèche, we ask that you bring the love of Jesus into our hearts, and make it shine in us, this day and always. Amen.

Hymn 101 "Away in a manger"

Cradle Song

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14

read by Francesca Grossetti

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!"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Procession to the Crèche

During the hymn, all who have chosen an animal are invited to come and place their animals in the crèche, and then come to the altar for the children's homily.

Hymn 83 (vs. 1–3) "O come, all ye faithful"

Adeste fideles

Homily

Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole

The Prayers of the People

read by the Mitchell family

Reader Holy God, we thank you for our parents and caregivers. Help them when they are in need of strength and support, and help us to show our love to them. Lord, in your mercy,

People *Hear our prayer.*

Reader Holy God, we thank you for our grandparents and other family members. Help us to show our gratitude for their wisdom and generosity. Lord, in your mercy,

People *Hear our prayer.*

Reader Holy God, we ask you to bless all children throughout the world. We thank you for our brothers and sisters, and for our friends. Help us to remember and care for those children who do not have families to be with this Christmas. Lord, in your mercy,

People *Hear our prayer.*

Reader Holy God, we remember in our prayers all those who are sick or suffering. Help all those who tend to them, and give them comfort in their time of need. Lord, in your mercy,

People *Hear our prayer.*

Reader Holy God, tonight is Christmas Eve. Help us celebrate the birth of Jesus, your Son, as we pray for peace and joy throughout the world. May your light shine in the darkness this day and always. Lord, in your mercy,

People *Hear our prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory Hymn 79 (vs. 1-3) "O little town of Bethlehem"

St. Louis

Announcements

Ellen Wahls

Hymn 111 (vs. 1-2) "Silent night"

Stille Nacht

Adults may help children light and carefully hold their candles during the singing of the hymn, using the aisle sconces to light the first candle.

Final Blessing

Hymn 100 (vs. 1-2) "Joy to the world!"

Antioch

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

**All are invited to the parish hall for a special celebration
following the service, hosted by the church school committee.**

Officiants Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole, Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole,
and Rev. Margaret Schwarzer,

Organist Helen Ward Mannix

Ushers Travis Anza, Adams Carroll, Mark Housel, and Peter Lull



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