

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
DECEMBER 24, 2023, 4:00 PM

CRECHE & CAROLS:
A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
WITH BLESSING OF THE CRECHE



1002 SOUTH MAIN STREET
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29601
864-235-5884
WWW.STANDREWSGREENVILLE.ORG

Welcome!

Everyone is welcome at Saint Andrew's

A special welcome to all visitors. We are delighted you have joined us for worship this evening! Our church members and our clergy would be happy to answer any questions that you may have about Saint Andrew's.

Saint Andrew's is a parish of the Episcopal Church within the Diocese of Upper South Carolina. Over time, our identity as a parish has come to be defined by our commitment to **worship** in the distinctive splendor of Anglo-Catholic tradition, to **witness** through word and deed to the life changing implications of Jesus Christ's reconciling love, and to **welcome** unreservedly all God's children into Christ's Body, the Church.

If you are not familiar with Episcopal Church worship, we have tried to make our worship bulletin easy to follow. All of the prayers, responses, and hymns for the congregation are printed in the bulletin.

As you depart worship, we hope you will enter your name and contact information in our visitor's book located on a stand in the narthex (the little room that you pass through on your way in and out of the main doors of the church). Thank you for blessing us with your presence!

CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

10:30 PM Sacred Music

11:00 PM Solemn High Mass, Rite I

Monday, December 25

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

12:00 Noon Low Mass, Rite I

Wednesday, December 27

Feast of Saint John the Apostle

5:30 PM, Healing Mass, Rite II followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday, December 31

The First Sunday After Christmas Day

8:30 AM Low Mass, Rite II

10:30 AM Sung High Mass, Rite I

Wednesday, January 3

Feast of the Holy Name (observed)

5:30 PM, Healing Mass, Rite II

Saturday, January 6

Feast of the Epiphany

4:00 PM Sung High Mass with Blessing of the Chalk, Rite I

Creche and Carols

A Service of Lessons and Carols with Blessing of the Creche

Welcome and Announcements

After the announcements, the Celebrant rings the bell and the people stand for the opening hymn & prayer.

Opening Hymn, No. 83 (vv. 1-3)

O Come, all ye faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;



1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

A Bidding Prayer

Celebrant Beloved in Christ: As we enter this Christmas Season, let it be our care and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind go to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose through the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of God's whole world, for peace and goodwill over all the earth, for the mission and unity of God's one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and especially for God's Church in this place. And because God has expressed particular love for them, let us remember in Jesus' name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not yet know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and faithful Mother, and that whole multitude, which no one can number, who rejoice with us in the heavenly realms, whose hope is in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, let us gather up all these prayers and praises, using the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant The Almighty God bless ☩ us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the reading.

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-8, 10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

During the singing of the following carol, the people stand, and the children with animal figures will bring them forward to the creche.



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,



1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.



1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!



1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.



Second Reading

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

During the singing of the following carol, the people stand, and the children with Mary and Joseph figures will bring them forward to the creche.

Hymn, No. 87

Hark! the herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!



Third Reading

Luke 2:1-7

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

During the singing of the following carol, the people stand, and the child with the Baby Jesus figure will bring it forward to the creche.

Hymn, No. 115

What child is this

GREENSLEEVES

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Fourth Reading

Luke 2:8-14

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!”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

During the singing of the following carol, the people stand, and the children with the shepherd figures will bring them forward to the creche.



1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star



1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,



1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,



1 on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Fifth Reading

Luke 2:15-20

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

During the singing of the following carol, the people stand.

Hymn, No. 99

Go tell it on the mountain

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
 trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
 man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through-out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

The people are seated for the reading that follows.

Sixth Reading

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7a

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. 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



During the singing of the following carol, the people stand, and all of the children are welcome to gather around the creche for its blessing.

Hymn, No. 107 (v. 1-2)

Good Christian Friends, rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Blessing of the Creche

After the carol, the people are seated as the Rector offers the children a brief reflection before inviting all to stand for the Blessing of the Creche.

Celebrant Behold, the dwelling of God is with creation.

People **He will dwell with us and we shall be his people.**

Celebrant God himself is with us. Alleluia.

People **Come let us adore him. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant will offer the following blessing over the creche.

Eternal Father, you sent your only-begotten Son to take our human nature upon him, and to be born this night of a virgin: Bless, we pray, this Creche that it may be a sign of his humble birth; and grant that we who joyfully behold his appearing may be strengthened to greet him when he comes again in glory; even the same Jesus Christ Our Lord and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The people remain standing for the following carol as any children who came forward for the Blessing return to their pews.

Hymn No. 105

God rest you merry, gentlemen

GOD REST YOU MERRY



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

(Refrain on following page)

Refrain

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and
 joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

The people remain standing for the Collect and the Final Reading.

Collect for the Nativity

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Final Reading

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

During the singing of the following carol, the people kneel, and the lights are dimmed.

Hymn, No. 111

Silent night

STILLE NACHT

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

The people remain kneeling for the Blessing.

Christmas Season Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, ☩ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

After the Blessing, the people stand for the remainder of the service.

Hymn, No. 100

Joy to the world!

ANTIOCH

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Dismissal

Minister Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**



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The Christmas Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God by:

Jessica Adkins, in memory of Joe and Elizabeth Adkins, and Robert and Trudy Hawkins,

Joe and Shawn Simpkins-Arşanbright, in honor of Shawn's mother, Bobbie Simpkins-Parrish,

Douğ Barrett, in memory of Lucille B. Smith,

Nancy Barutio, Mike & Shawn Barutio, and Michele Barutio Stephens & Dickie Newman, in memory of Bill Barutio,

Paul and Sidney Brunson, in honor of Haven and West Brunson,

Scott Chastain, in memory of Bernice Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Houston Stancil, Lois Davis, and William Garrison,

Erin Culbertson and JJ Andriğhetti, in memory of Nancy Culbertson,

Anne Marie Currier, in thanksgiving for the love and support of family and friends,

Virğinia, Jack, Eliza, & Newman Eichelberçer, in thanksgiving for our beloved priest and dad,

The Eichelberçer family, in thanksgiving for our Saint Andrew's family,

Virğinia, Jack, & Eliza Eichelberçer, for their çrandparents, Mimi, Granddude, Guğğah, & Doc Doc,

Fr. Gary, in thanksgiving for the çift of the ministry of our curate, Fr. Tyler Proctor,

Steve and Cheryl Fairley, in honor of Doreen Fairley and Lynn Mason, and in memory of Eugene and Michael Fairley, Sue Mason, and Woody Edwards,

Lee Gray, in honor of Carl Headley, and Debra, Brooks, and Rosemary, in memory of Jim and Mary Lou Gray, and in thanksgiving for the music ministry of Saint Andrew's,

Mikki Harçrave, in memory of Jeanette Gregory, Marcia Everett, and Virğinia Haçood,

Liz and Jenna Henderson, in memory of Bobbie Dawkins,

Terry and Donna Kinç, in thanksgiving for God's çift of his only Son, Jesus Christ,

Jean and Tony Knox, in thanksgiving for their children and çrandchildren,

Tim Lewis and the Lewis Family, in memory of Rev'd Canon Elvet Lewis & Mrs. Jean Lewis,

Bill and Mary Lou Merkt, in memory of Lloyd and Doris Linkous,

James and Leona Muhleman, in memory of their parents and all the lives lost in the conflict between Ukraine & Russia, and Israel & Hamas,

Riley Owens, in honor of W. Donald Owens, and in memory of Stella G. Owens,

Kelly Proffitt, in memory of N.L. & Frankie H. Proffitt,

Edmund and Carolyn Prosio, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Prosio, Sr.,

Lucy Quinn, in memory of Curtis Quinn Casteel,

Dan and Leigh Randall, in memory of Leigh's father, Lee Jackson Furtick, III,

Davis and Jackie Roeske, in honor of their family, and in memory of their parents,

Jeff and Marla Thorburn, in memory of Dean Thorburn, Georçena Huhman, and Geralyn Bizjak,

Kate Townsend and Brian Connaughton, in honor of Michael and Linda Riley, and in memory of James and Kay Connaughton.