

Saint Andrew's United Church

We are called to be the united church. Mission is our home. We foster belonging; provide spiritual accompaniment; and ask the deep questions

Christmas Eve 2025



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

++ Please rise in body or spirit

MV = More Voices; VU = Voices United

PRELUDE

[Please ensure you receive a taper candle upon entering the sanctuary]

SCRIPTURE:

Reader: Evelyn Souster

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord; bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come
into his courts.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that fills it;
Let the field exult and everything in it.

**Then shall all the trees of the forest
sing for joy before the Lord,**

for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.**

- Psalm 96, selected verses.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We worship on the unceded territory of the Halq'eméylem-speaking peoples. Following the recommend practice, we acknowledge the territory extemporaneously.

CANDLELIGHTING:

[The four Advent candles are lit as the scripture is read.]

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: Lyle Treleven

GREETING:

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us lift up our hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-7

Reader: Judith Ray

[We light the Christ candle]

++HYMN: VU 40 – “Before the Marvel of This Night”

PRAYER:

Therefore with the woman who gave you birth,
with the man who took you on his shoulders,
with the shepherds who found you in a feed trough,
with the magi who knew of you from the silent stars,
and with the aged prophets who saw in you the redemption of the world:

We sing to you.

With the angels and archangels who envelop us,
With all the saints before us and beside us,
With brothers and sisters, east and west, north and south,

We sing to you.

And with our loved ones,
separate from us now,
who yet, in this mystery are close to us,
We sing the hymn of unending praise:

**Holy, holy holy Lord,
God of hosts, all praise be given!
All your glory fills the earth;
all your power fills the heavens.**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Blessed is the one who came,
bringing love and light divine.
Blessed is the king who comes
in the bread and in the wine.**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-14

Reader: Cathy Waller

++HYMN: VU 60 – “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

MEDITATION

PRAYER:

Blessed are you,
O God of strength and vulnerability.
You are the midwife of our lives,
who pulls us, kicking, into life
and breathes Spirit into us.

Blessed is your servant Mary
and blessed is the holy child of her womb,
born into poverty and exile,
to proclaim the good news to the poor,
and freedom to all who are oppressed.

Blessed is your son, Jesus,
who emptied himself of power
and became foolishness for our sake:
heaven's child laid in a manger;
God's anointed laid in a tomb.
Born again from the shuddering earth,
he is embodied forever
in his living creation
and in these, its fruits of bread and wine.

Blessed is our brother Jesus,
bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh;
who, on the night when he was delivered over to death,
took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

**"This is my body, which is for you.
Do this to remember me."**

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying:

**"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, whenever you drink it,
to remember me."**

So, as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Therefore, here in this place,
we celebrate the life that was born at Bethlehem,
the life that Jesus has shared
among his community through the centuries,
And shares with us now.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:15-20

Reader: Deborah Handley

OFFERING: *[The gifts are brought forward.]*

++DOXOLOGY: *[Sung]*

**Glory be to God the Father,
glory be to Christ the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit,
glory to the Three-in-One.
Here we offer to you gladly
all the gifts that you impart,
as we glory in your Presence,
giving from a grateful heart.**

PRAYER:

Made one with him,
and thus one with each other,
we lay before you these gifts of bread and wine,
in token of our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
for here we offer and present to you ourselves,
our bodies, minds and spirits,
to be a holy and continuous sacrifice to you.

Come now, O Spirit of Christ,
Brood over these bodily things,
this bread and this wine.

**May they be for us
your body and blood,
Vibrant with life,
Healing, renewing
and making us whole.**

And embrace us
with your life-giving power,
that as bread and wine are made one with us,
we may become one with you.

**Bone of your bone,
Flesh of your flesh,
living our prayer
and praying our life
until love and fidelity embrace,
peace and justice kiss,
and all are free as Christ is free.**

DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM: “My Lord Has Come”

BENEDICTION:

We go now into the magic of this night,
where Heaven touches Earth
and all things are possible.

**We go to live the good news:
the Holy resides in the Human
and Love unites the world.**

*[Taper candles are lit from the Christ Candle] – Do not print this
direction in the bulletin.]*

EXTROIT: VU 67 - “Silent Night”

POSTLUDE

END OF WORSHIP

BEGINNING OF SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

Elements of tonight's service are taken from "Resources for the Christmas Season," LaughingBird.Net. Web. Accessed December 21, 2014.



St. Andrew's is a member
of Affirming United

