



St. Andrew Church's "Why" Statement... *To come together as a worshipping community, nourished by God's love so that we may reflect God's love to others.*
Adopted April 2023

Sunday, December 31, 2023
Lessons and Carols for Christmas One
Service of Holy Communion

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Cold December Flies Away* from ELW 299, a Catalonian Carol and variations on the carol from a Noel by L.C.Daquin (1694-1772)

GATHERING HYMN *Once in Royal David's City* **ELW 269**

st. 1,2

- 1 **Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.**

- 2 **He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.**

DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Isaiah 9:2-7 God promises a king.

Karen Biernat

A Reading from Isaiah.

2The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

3You 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.

4For 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.

5For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

6For 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.

7His 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.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW 272

st. 1

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
 from tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming
 as seers of old have sung,
 it came, a flow'r so bright,
 amid the cold of winter,
 when half-spent was the night.

Luke 1:26-35, 38 The Annunciation to Mary Terry Gustafson

A Reading from Luke

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

32 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.

33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 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.

38 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.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

***The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* ELW 265**

st. 1, 4

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Luke 2:1-7 The Birth of Jesus Emily Girard

A Reading from Luke.

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3All went to their own towns to be registered.

4Joseph 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.

5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

7 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.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Luke 2:8-16 The shepherds go to see the Savior Bob Herold

A Reading from Luke.

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

15When 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."

16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Luke 2:21-24 The Name of Jesus

Jill Little

A reading from Luke.

21 After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),

24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

That Boy-Child of Mary

ELW 293

st. 1 ,2

Refrain

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

- 1 What shall we call him, child of the manger?
What name is given in Bethlehem? *Refrain*
- 2 His name is Jesus, God ever with us,
God given for us in Bethlehem. *Refrain*

Luke 2:25-38 Jesus is Presented in the Temple

Jill Little

A Reading from Luke.

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and

day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

In His Temple Now Behold Him ELW 417

st. 1,3

- 1 In his temple now behold him,
see the long-expected Lord;
ancient prophets had foretold him,
God has sent the promised Word.
Now to praise him, his redeemed
shall break forth with one accord.
- 3 Jesus, by your presentation,
when they blessed you, weak and poor,
make us see your great salvation,
seal us with your promise sure;
and present us, in your glory,
to your Father, cleansed and pure.

John 1:1-14 The mystery of the Incarnation

Matt Girard

A Reading from John.

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being
- 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
- 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 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.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW 295

st. 1, 5

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

- 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,
 and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament
 that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.**

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

ANTHEM *Oh, How Beautiful the Sky* Danish Folk Song
 arr. P.Christiansen

Oh, how beautiful the sky, With the sparkling stars on high,
 How they glitter, brightly beaming, How they twinkle, gladsome, beaming,
 As they draw our hearts to heaven.

In the midst of Christmas night, While the stars were shining bright,
 Of a sudden, clear and radiant, One appeared and shone resplendent,
 With the luster of the sun.

Wise men by this star were led To the Christ-Child's lowly bed.

Guiding star, oh, may we heed thee, May we know we ever need thee.
Lead us to our heavenly King.

OFFERING HYMN *In the Bleak Midwinter* ELW 294

- 1 In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.
- 2 Heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty,
Jesus Christ.
- 3 What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—
give my heart.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,
 receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
 Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
 and gather us at your table of celebration.
 Strengthen us to share with all the world
 the abundance of your grace upon grace,
 poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
 Lift up your 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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
 through our Savior Jesus Christ.
 In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
 you have opened the eyes of faith
 to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
 that, beholding the God made visible,
 we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY HOLY

ELW pg. 130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God,
 Creator of all and Source of life,
 at the birth of time
 your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,
 you sent your Word, born of Mary,
 to shine in our darkness
 and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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,
 forever and ever.
 Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the altar railing receive
 You are invited to come forward to the front of the nave to receive the Meal.
 The bread will be distributed by the Presiding Minister. Gluten free wafers are
 available. Please ask. The wine, served in small glasses, can be received on
 either side of the front. Also in each tray you will find glasses containing white
 grape juice as an alternative to the wine. Return to your seats via the side aisles,
 placing your empty glasses in the baskets provided along the way. In returning
 to your seats, pause to pray and give thanks for the life- giving graces you have
 received in this holy meal offered us by the crucified-risen Jesus.*

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
 Come, take your place at the table.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

St. 1, 2

ELW 490

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
 and with fear and trembling stand;
 ponder nothing earthly-minded,
 for with blessing in his hand
 Christ our God to earth descending
 comes full homage to demand.

- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
 as of old on earth he stood,

Lord of lords in human vesture,
 in the body and the blood,
 he will give to all the faithful
 his own self for heav'nly food.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
 in his grace.

Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer,
 you have fed us at this table
 with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
 As you have gathered us in joy,
 send us forth as messengers of your peace.
 Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
 born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
 the obedience of Joseph,
 the joy of the angels,
 the eagerness of the shepherds,
 the determination of the magi,
 and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Cold December Flies Away* ELW 299

- 1 Cold December flies away
at the rose-red splendor.
April's crowning glory breaks
while the whole world wonders
at the holy unseen pow'r
of the tree which bears the flow'r.
On the blessed tree
blooms the reddest flow'r.
On the tree blooms the rose
here in love's own garden,
full and strong in glory.

- 2 In the hopeless time of sin
shadows deep had fallen.
All the world lay under death.
Eyes were closed in sleeping.
But, when all seemed lost in night,
came the sun whose golden light
brings unending joy,
brings the endless joy
of our hope, highest hope,
of our hope's bright dawning,
Son below'd of heaven.

- 3 Now the bud has come to bloom,
and the world awakens.
In the lily's purest flow'r
dwells a wondrous fragrance.
And it spreads to all the earth

from the moment of its birth;
 and its beauty lives.
 In the flow'r it lives,
 in the flow'r, and it spreads
 in its heav'nly brightness
 sweet perfume delightful.

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
 Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come “ W.Held

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, December 31, 2023

Pastor Les Swenson

Deacon, Minister of Music, Gwynne Hopko

Assisting Minister: Jill Little

Lector: Keith Clark

Ensemble: Leana Gleicher, Jean and Terry Gustafson, Robert Herold,
 Gwynne Hopko, Britt Lynch, Krista Rescsanski

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Noah Galvin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Keith Hintz, Amanda Hintz, Michael Beaudoin

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

6:45 Handbell Choir

7:30 Voice Choir

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, January 4, 2024

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

Sunday, January 7, 2024; Epiphany Sunday

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

355 Camp St.

Bristol, CT

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

Website: gdeichurch.org

Facebook (for viewing the service online):

<https://www.facebook.com/GloriaDeiBristol/>

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

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The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator