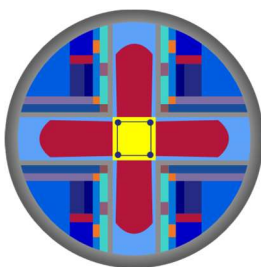


We are imperfect believers, passionate  
about sharing the love of Christ:  
by **Connecting**, **Growing**, and **Serving**.



**St. Andrews**  
Presbyterian Church

# A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

## First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

### We Gather to Worship God

Welcome! If you are visiting, please use the QR code on the visitor card found in the pew rack to share your info online or fill out the back of the card and drop it in the offering plate. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack, and we invite you to list your concerns and place them in the offering plate as well.

\*Congregation stands as noted

Chiming of the Hour

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-4, 9, 14

*...the Word of the Lord.*

Response (Unison): Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate

Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives.

Special Music

"Welcome to Our World"  
Words and Music by Chris Rice

Kenneth Jones

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

\*Christmas Hymn Medley

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heaven's all gracious king":  
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky look down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear now their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued day and night.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

## **We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek Reconciliation with God**

**Call to Confession:** As we reach the end of one year and prepare to greet a new one, let us confess the ways we have fallen short of God's commandments.

### **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Giver of Every Mercy, you call us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. However, we often clothe ourselves with different attire: apathy, hatred, arrogance, and brashness. Help us to bear one another and forgive each other even as we ask forgiveness from you. Help us to don the clothing of love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. This we pray in the name of your Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Siblings in Christ, hear now the good news of the Gospel: through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**People:** Alleluia! Amen.

### **\*Hymn #138 (v.1)**

**"Who Would Think that What Was Needed"**

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Grace to you, and peace from God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## **We Respond to God's Faithfulness in Our Life**

### **Scripture Reading**

**Luke 2:22-39**

### **Hymn #148**

**"Mary and Joseph Went to the Temple"**

### **Offering Our Lives to Jesus through Our Time, Gifts, and Resources**

(see the 'Giving' card in the pew rack for information about options for digital giving)

### **Offertory**

**Kellen Jones**

### **\*Doxology (#606)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

## **God's Word Is Read and Proclaimed**

### **Scripture Reading**

**Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11**

### **Special Music**

**"Fix Your Eyes Upon That Star"**

**Millie Shiflett**

Words and Music by Lowell Alexander and Jess Grant

### **\*Hymn #159**

**"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"**

**“What Have We Been Doing?”**

**Scripture Reading**

**Numbers 13:1-2, 17-20, 25-30**

**Majority Report**

**Scripture Reading**

**John 15: 5, 7-8**

**Minority Report**

## **Responding to God’s Word**

**“Join Us on the Journey”**

**Prayers for the People**

**Shelby Wood**

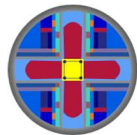
**\*Hymn of Response #69**

**“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”**

## **Sending Out Into the World**

**\*Charge and Blessing**

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We hope you were blessed so you can go and be a witness to Christ’s love in the world. May your spirits be renewed for the days ahead.



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Jeff Gilstrap, Pastor  
Kenneth Jones, Director of Music  
Millie Shiflett, Accompanist  
Karlee Tate, Director of Communications  
Joyce Johnson, CDC Director

Richard Balentine, Elder of Administration  
Margaret Borry, Elder of Congregational Care  
Dana Tate, Elder of Christian Formation  
Russell Truluck, Elder of Facilities Management

Lay Leaders: Margaret Borry, Kellen Jones, Richard Balentine, Kevin Cribbs, Lynn Fitch, Jennifer Massey