



**St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
of Aptos**

Rev. Anne McAnelly, Pastor
Dr. Don Adkins, Music Director

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5:30 pm

✠ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ✠

December 24, 2024

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

CHIMES AND LIGHTING THE CANDLES

*CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful* No. 133 (vs. 1,3)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

WORDS OF WELCOME (*Children invited to remain in worship*)

Register your presence

INTROIT

Glory and Honor and Praise

St. Andrew Choir

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES (*Unison*)

Michele & Kristjan Pomroy

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

On this holiest of nights,

we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.

On this most silent night,

we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

On this night of carols and candlelight,

we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels.

On this sacred night,

Let us worship God!

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

Sharon Allshouse

God creates the world; the light is good.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*CAROL

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

No. 143 (vs. 1 & 4)

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7b

Myles Billheimer

A child has been born to us.

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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*CAROL

Love Has Come

No. 110

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

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
What is the name her heart is saying? Love!
Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love!
Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM

Carol of the Bells

St. Andrew Bell Choir

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

p. 35 in Hymnal

...On this holiest of nights

God's love is born!

ANTHEM

Heaven and Nature Sing

St. Andrew Choir

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38 OT

Carolyn Crocker

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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. 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.

*CAROL

Away in a Manger

No. 115

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

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close
by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-23

Gwen Yeo

God tells Joseph Mary is with child and to name him Emmanuel.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.'

*CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 119 (vs. 1,2)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1-7

Sandy Petznick

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.

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.

ANTHEM

Night Over Bethlehem

St. Andrew Choir

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

David Allshouse

Angels appear to shepherds and announce the birth of the Messiah.

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 Saviour, 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 favours!'

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.

*CAROL

The First Nowell

No. 147 (vs. 1, 2)

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 both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Offertory

St. Andrew Bell Choir

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Eileen Mihm

Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to baby Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*CAROL

We Three Kings of Orient Are

No. 151 (no refrain b/n verses 2 and 3)

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. (*refrain*)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (*retrain*)

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. (*refrain*)

THE EIGHTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Erik Ottem

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.

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.

*CAROL

Joy to the World!

No. 134 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*We will process outside the church into the patio where we will form a circle,
light our candles, sing Silent Night, and receive the Benediction.*

Silent Night!

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.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.



Rev. Anne McAnelly, Pastor
Dr. Don Adkins, Music Director

The first historical Service of Lessons and Carols was held in 1880 at the cathedral of Truro in Cornwall, England. In 1918, King's College, in Cambridge, England, established the Festival of Lessons and Carols as a traditional closure to the Advent season, with their first performance on Christmas Eve. Since the early 1900's, the service has become a traditional holiday celebration of God's loving purpose, from Creation to the Incarnation, presented in Scripture and carols.

Pastor Anne and the staff of St. Andrew Church
wish you all a joyous and blessed Christmas!