

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-26

MEDITATION

"Carrying Christmas"

\* LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

*It is the Christmas tradition at St. Andrew's for the Christmas light to be shared though out the congregation by our young adults, if you would like to help spread the light, please come forward at this time.*

\* CELEBRATION OF THE LIGHT

One: On the first day of creation, God said,

**All:** "Let There be light!"

One: The sun in the daytime, the moon and the stars at night

**All: But darkness still clouded our vision.**

One: Until one holy night under a starlit sky

**All: the song of a baby's cry rang through the air**

One: Accompanied by the chorus of the angels of heaven

**All: One star shone bright with direction and purpose**

One: leading the world into an everlasting light

**All: Leading us into everlasting light!**

One: May our hearts shine with the light of the Christ Child!

**All: Christ is born. Darkness is banished! Let there be Light!**

\* HYMN OF CHRISTMAS

"Silent Night"

*(Raise candle during the last phrase of each verse)*

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!

\* BENEDICTION

May the light that began at creation,  
**continued through the witness of the prophets,**  
and has come to fullness at the Birth of Jesus Christ,  
**be in your hearts and minds this evening.**

As you go from this place

**may our spirits be filled with joy and hope;**

for God's precious Light has been given for all.

**Go in Peace and know that God's peace always goes with you. Amen.**

\* POSTLUDE

*\*Those who are able are invited to stand.*



**\*\*Please remember,  
when lighting your candles...  
Please dip the unlit candle into the  
flame of a lit candle - this helps  
greatly to control dripping!**



*This year we have the special privilege of worshipping on  
Christmas Day. This opportunity comes only once every  
seven years - we hope you will witness to your faith and  
join us in the morning (10:30 a.m.) to continue to worship  
the new born King!*



St. Andrew's United Methodist Church  
Celebration of Worship

December 24, 2016



Merry Christmas! Welcome, friends and guests, as we worship the Baby of Bethlehem. May our time together encourage us into a greater understanding of God's deep love.

PRELUDE AND GREETING

INTROIT

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

With little fanfare, a child is born

**Laid on hay...found in a manger.**

A Child for whom

**The angels sing and one bright star shone through the night.**

A baby who

**Will grow to be a selfless man, willing to lay down his life.**

A child who

**Holds our very future in the depths of his soul.**

A baby who has been promised for generations,

**Who has come to be with us, Emmanuel.**

Tonight, come to the manger

**And allow the Christ Child to find a place in your heart!**

\* HYMN OF CHRISTMAS

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

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

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7



EMMANUEL  
God with us

#### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

So we have finally arrived.

Arrived at the place which this whole celebration is about. The manger.  
Though we may still be wondering what impact the manger may make in  
our lives. Ready or not we have arrived.

To get ourselves ready, first we lit the candle of hope. This bed of hay  
offers so much to those who seek the Hope of the World, found only in  
the baby that sleeps on the straw. *(The First Advent Candle is lit.)*

Then we lit the candle of Peace. We are so very aware of the lack of  
peace in our world, so we seek peace for our lives. The peace we need is  
only to be found in the gift of God who so humbly sleeps in a meager  
manger in the humble town of David. *(The Second Advent Candle is lit.)*

Also we lit, the candle of Love. What more can be said about the great  
depth of love God has for us? Expressed in the gift of an innocent child –  
born into a world of darkness. A seemingly small gift, yes, but powerful  
enough to encompass the hearts of all people. *(The Third Advent Candle  
is lit.)*

And we lit the candle of joy. Finally realizing it's not what is found in  
those brightly wrapped, ribbon clad packages that has the potential to  
change our lives. Our joy is found laid in the bed of a manger, so many  
nights ago. When God intervened and the light shattered the darkness  
and our souls finally knew wholeness. *(The Fourth Advent Candle is lit.)*

So tonight, we have finally arrived. Tonight we light the Christ candle.  
For through that baby laid in the manger, we have received the promise  
of life. *(The Christ Candle is lit.)*

#### Congregational Response "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Come, Thou long expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

ANTHEM "Christmas Canticles" arr. Mary McDonald  
Chancel Choir

#### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (prayed together)

**We have arrived, O God. Help us to settle down and discover  
a gratefulness in our hearts for all that you have  
accomplished on our behalf through the Child who was laid  
in a humble manger. The child born to be our King. May you  
continue to find room in our lives, in our hearts, so we may  
truly know your hope, your peace, your love and that you  
may know the fullness of our joy on this very holy night.  
Amen.**

ANTHEM "Glory to God in the Highest" from Grumpy Shepherd  
Children's Choir (7:00 p.m.)

"See Amid the Winter's Snow" arr. Dan Forrest  
Chancel Choir (11:00 p.m.)

#### TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

#### CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY "The First Noel" arr. David Willcocks  
String Quartet (7:00 p.m.)

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"  
Bell Choir (11:00 p.m.)

#### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION



#### \* HYMN OF CHRISTMAS

#### "There's A Song in the Air"

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!  
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,  
for the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.

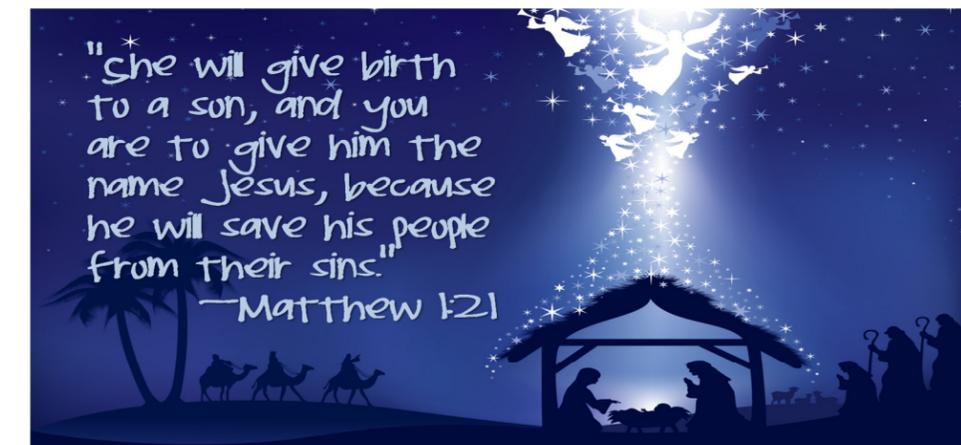
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song  
that comes down through the night  
from the heavenly throng.

Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,  
and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

#### PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE 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 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. Amen.



#### \* HYMN OF CHRISTMAS

#### "Away in a Manger"

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

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till 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 Rhythm of Christmas*  
*Christmas Eve Prelude*

*Featuring Guest String Quartet*  
*Alana Youssefian, Jirair Alex Youssefian,*  
*Andriana Markano, Emily Carroll*

*Ellen Youssefian, Pianist*

**And**

*St Andrew's United Methodist Church*  
*Chancel Choir & Bell Choir*

*6:30pm Prelude*

*Noel Sing*

*Noel*.....Victor C. Johnson

*O Holy Night*.....Adolphe Adam

words by Placide Cappeau

Lee Manns, soprano

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*..... arr. Wesley D. Peters

*Born in the Night, Mary's Child*.....arr. Hal Hopson

*Hodie Christus Natus Est*.....Cristi Cary Miller

*O Come All Ye Faithful*.....arr. David Willcocks  
String Quartet

*See Amid the Winter's Snow*.....arr. Dan Forrest

*Ding Dong Merrily on High*.....arr. Cristi Cary Miller

*10:30pm Prelude*

*O Come All Ye Faithful*.....arr. David Willcocks  
String Quartet

*Noel Sing Noel*.....Victor C. Johnson

*Born in the Night, Mary's Child*.....arr. Hal Hopson

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*..... arr. Wesley D. Peters

*Hodie Christus Natus Est*.....Cristi Cary Miller

*The First Noel*.....arr. David Willcocks  
String Quartet

*Ding Dong Merrily on High*..... arr. Cristi Cary Miller

**PROGRAM NOTES**

The Rhythm of Christmas is full of vibrant celebration and peaceful contemplation with an ever-moving rhythmic feeling pushing us a little closer to the manger after our long Advent journey, and adding a little twist to some of our Christmas favorites. It's time to finally celebrate with *Noel Sing Noel*. It is a joyous dance that reminds us to "sing out with voices loud and clear." *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* will bring you tidings of comfort and joy, while you dance in your seat to the rhythmic interplay. We are transported to the silent night Christ was born in *Born in the Night, Mary's Child* with a solo violin leading us straight to the manger to see the Light of the World. We dance again through *Hodie Christus Natus Est*, with Latin text proclaiming Christ is born today and thoughtfully recognizing that "all the world rejoices on this silent night." You will hear our pinnacle meditation for this Christmas Eve, *See Amid the Winter's Snow* composed from John Goss' hymn tune and arranged by contemporary choral arranger Dan Forrest. Featuring our strings and pianist, this piece paints a beautiful picture of this night with twinkling stars in the free rhythms of the piano, the mystery of the birth in the close choral harmonies, and the many strong, regal moments in the unison sections reminding us of the importance of the King's birth. Our final piece to help us ring in the service features members of our Bell Choir. Listen for the angels singing in *Ding Dong Merrily on High!*

***On Behalf of All of Our  
Wonderful Musicians***

*I thank you for coming to prepare  
yourself for  
the birth of Christ  
by sharing in our musical celebration  
with us this evening. We encourage you  
to close your eyes and let the majesty of  
this evening, accompanied by our music,  
paint a picture of Christ's birth for you.*

***-Katharine Baer, Music Director***