



Welcome to
**SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TAMPA, FLORIDA**

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

10:30AM

*May those who sorrow find comfort;
the weary, rest;
the troubled, peace;
the lonely, friends;
the unhappy, joy;
and may all find the sense of God's presence in this Holy Place.*

Welcome to Saint Andrew’s Church in the city of Tampa. You are sharing in a tradition of worship that has been offered here since 1883, when a wood-frame building was erected on this site as Tampa’s first Episcopal Church. The cornerstone of the present church was laid in 1904.

All Visitors and Newcomers are invited to complete the information card, found on the back of the pews, and leave it with an usher or in the offering plate. Please introduce yourselves to the clergy as you leave the church.

Each Sunday we celebrate The Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. (Rite I, said); and at 10:30 a.m. (Rite II, with choir).

At Your Service: Stay warm at Saint Andrew’s: Borrow a shawl from the basket at the back of the church. Shawl donations also welcomed!

IMPORTANT PRIVACY NOTICE

As a mission of outreach to our parishioners and the greater Christian community, audio and video of this service will be recorded and broadcast live on social media. We make every effort to respect and preserve the privacy of members and visitors. If you have any specific questions or concerns about your privacy while worshipping with us, please speak with one of the ushers at the rear of the church.

Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent—for this is the house of God.

Before the service, speak to God.

During the service, let God speak to you.

After the service, speak to one another.

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude: *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Tower Bell

Please stand as the choir and ministers enter

Great Litany (*kneel when choir and ministers kneel*)

S-67

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,
Have mercy upon us.

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us for ever.
Spare us, good Lord.

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence,
and famine,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and
from dying suddenly and unprepared,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law;
by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and
Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy
Ghost,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the
day of judgment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule
and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge
and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set
it forth, and show it accordingly,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind
into thy kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy
Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That It may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Grant us thy peace.

O Christ, hear us.

O Christ, hear us.

Lord, have mercy.

S-96

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading (*sit*)

Isaiah 64:1-9

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *Sung by the choir to plainsong*

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will

also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 73 (*stand*)

St. Stephen

1 The King shall come when morning
dawns and light triumphant breaks; when
beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy
awakes.

2 Not, as of old, a little child, to bear, and
fight, and die, but crowned with glory like
the sun that lights the morning sky.

3 The King shall come when morning
dawns and earth's dark night is past; O
haste the rising of that morn, the day that
e'er shall last;

4 and let the endless bliss begin, by weary
saints foretold, when right shall triumph
over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.

5 The King shall come when morning
dawns and light and beauty brings: Hail,
Christ the Lord! Thy people pray, come
quickly, King of kings.

Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the

doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Nicene Creed (*stand*)

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Holy Communion

At the Offertory:

Anthem *arr. Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)*

People, look east. The time is near Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.
Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)

Hymn 380, stanza 3 (stand)

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.

Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

S-130

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel. The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei

S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God: Have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: Have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Music during Communion:

Hymn 53 (*sit*)

Gottes Sohn ist kommen

1 Once he came in blessing, all our ills
redressing; came in likeness lowly, Son of
God most holy; bore the cross to save us,
hope and freedom gave us.

2 Still he comes within us, still his voice
would win us from the sins that hurt us,
would to Truth convert us: not in torment
hold us, but in love enfold us.

3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not
ashamed to claim him, but wilt trust him
boldly nor dost love him coldly, he will
then receive thee, heal thee, and forgive
thee.

4 One who thus endureth bright reward
secureth. Come, then, O Lord Jesus, from
our sins release us; let us here confess
thee till in heaven we bless thee.

Carol

Boris Ord (1897–1961)

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond: Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long. And all was for an apple, An apple that he took,
As clerkès finden Written in their book.

Nè had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Ne had never our lady
Abeen heavenè queen. Blessèd be the time That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen, *Deo gracias!*

Anonymous, 15th Century

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 57 (*stand*)

Helmsley

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain; thousand
thousand saints attending swell the triumph
of his train: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Every eye shall now behold him, robed in
dreadful majesty; those who set at nought
and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
tree, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion still his
dazzling body bears, cause of endless
exultation to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with
what rapture gaze we on those glorious
scars!

4 Yea, amen! let all adore thee, high on
thine eternal throne; Savior, take the power
and glory; claim the kingdom for thine
own: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou
shalt reign, and thou alone!

Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Fughetta on “People Look East”

Richard Shephard (1949–2021)

THOSE SERVING TODAY: Sunday, December 3, 2023

Celebrant: Fr. Reese

Preacher: Fr. Stadel

Organist: Ryan Hebert

Choral Assistant: Coleman Flentge

Vergers: Piers Curry

Crucifer: Maren Kennel

Torchbearers: Aiden Kennington, Heath McGhee

Lectors: Gary Cotter, Paula Stewart

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: George Bedell, Brad Hall

Videographers: Paul Scheuer, Doug Rubottom, Jan Smith, Kirk Peters

Ushers: Derrick Brown, Donreece Brown, Chris Watson, Michael Dickinson

Altar Guild: Adrienne Love, Anne Paige



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of their parents,
Raphael and Marie Jane Bentschner
by Sue MacIsaac & Paul Bentschner

BIRTHDAYS: Kirk McCann, Michael Hursey, Mike Keracher, Charlotte Henderson, Winston Blake, Charlene Maxwell, Derrick Brown, Milton Vahue

ANNIVERSARIES: Mike Keracher & Jan Newhoff

New Flower Chart

The 2024 Flower Sign-Up Chart is in the parish hall. Don't delay in choosing important commemorative dates. Please help with this wonderful ministry to adorn the altar during worship by sponsoring flowers. High Altar flowers are \$150 for florist choice, personal choices can be arranged at an additional cost. Chapel Altar flowers are optional. If you'd like to sponsor both altars, the cost is \$250. If you have questions, please contact Charlotte Churchill 813-352-0162 cmchurchi18@gmail.com

 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC 

Intention: Flowers Music

Donation made by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Proceeds beyond Christmas expenses will fund other special music and flower needs throughout the year.

Children & Youth News

Confirmation classes started November 5th. We'll break after Thanksgiving and **pick back up every Sunday** in the new year **at 9:30am starting January 7, 2024**, with the date of confirmation being **Sunday, February 25, 2024 during the 10:30 service.**

Our annual Christmas pageant, put on by children and youth, will take place **Sunday, December 17th at the 10:30 service.** Rehearsals will be held the following weeks:

Sunday, December 3rd at 9:30am

Sunday, December 10th at 9:30am

Final Dress Rehearsal Saturday, December 16th at 10am

Pageant Sunday, December 17th at 10:30am (FULL CAST meets in the Children's chapel at 9:15am) *We will meet in the Children's chapel for all rehearsals and move to the sanctuary for the final dress rehearsal. We need children and youth of all ages! Please contact Alicia Schmid today at aliciaschmid@rocketmail.com to find a part for your child or teen!

Adult Christian Education

Sunday mornings at 9:30

The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent

This four-week Advent study by Pastor Susan Robb explores the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. In this series, we will explore the visits and dive deep into the history of the angel Gabriel – and other angels – in the Old Testament. *The Angels of Christmas* uses these four angelic appearances to discuss God's presence in history and our lives today. The messages of the angels hold meaning for listeners both then and now. Susan Robb recently retired as the Senior Associate Minister at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas, where she was part of the church staff for twenty years.

Here is the line-up:

12/3 – Standing in the Presence of God: Gabriel and Zechariah

12/10 – Let It Be: Gabriel and Mary

12/17 – Acting on the Unbelievable: An Angel of the Lord and Joseph

12/24 – Hark the Herald Angels Sing: The Angels and the Shepherds

This class, facilitated by the Rector, meets in room 302 (the Library) on the third floor of the Parish Building.

Music Notes

My friend, Ken says, “Don’t should yourself.” When you think that you should be or shouldn’t be; or that something in your life should or shouldn’t be; or that the world should or shouldn’t be, it makes reality seem like a hot mess. After all, should happens, right? No, *reality* happens. What should or shouldn’t be is the problem.

I never fully understood the Gloria Patri until researching our communion carol for this morning. In the Gloria we say, “as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.” In other words, everything *is* as it should be.

Boris Ord was music director at King’s College from 1929-1957. First used in 1957 during the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, this carol is his only published work. The text, from around 1400, is thought to have come from a wandering minstrel. Minstrels were medieval acrobats, jugglers, poets, or musicians who made a living entertaining for the court.

I love carols like this, simple, clean, and straightforward. What strikes me about this seemingly benign piece is the profound meaning of the text. It's basically saying that if Adam had *not* eaten the forbidden fruit, there would be no Christmas to sing about; therefore, "should we" be thankful? It's interesting to go back in time and wonder if something shouldn't have been, even in your own life. If Adam hadn't sinned, there would be no need for a savior, no church. What a shame. I happen to like church.

In the beginning, when the universe formed, it was a hot, dense, smoldering "mess." Science tells us that the conditions had to be just right for the chaotic, primordial soup to spring forth time, space, and life. The temperature, density, and energy of the singularity had to be precisely thus and so to form multiplicity. All odds were against life forming thereafter, but *nothing* could have been askew, even by a miniscule amount for that to have happened. If the conditions had to be just right for the world to begin, and then life to follow, what makes you think the conditions aren't just right, right now?

The poet reminds us that if Adam *hadn't* "messed up," there'd be no Christmas. Everything fits together, and it's our perceptions that fool us. One tiny difference in the substructure of the world, and it would unhinge the miracle. Who are we to judge what is "flawed?" You may think you and your life are a hot mess, but remember, the primordial swirl appeared that way billions of years ago, and out of that seeming chaos, order, clarity, and life formed. What appears as random and messy might very well be perfection and organization in disguise, but that doesn't mean you "should" spend your life's savings on lottery tickets!

We stew about our own conditions, standing at our cauldrons and stirring our own primordial soups and hot messes when we "should" ourselves. We've all said, "This stinks!" When you should yourself, it *does* stink. The world was not set in motion like a windup toy and left to crash and burn. Distrusting the story is not your purpose. Accepting reality and trusting The Author is. We need to look deeper into what *appears* as misfortune. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, and we can sing *Deo Gracias*, even amid what looks like a hot, swirling mess. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

-Ryan Hebert

Make a Pledge for 2024

Please return your pledge card for 2024 as soon as possible. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, cards are available at the back of the church, in the Parish Hall, or through the parish office (813-221-2035). Make a commitment and support St. Andrew's in the coming year.



RECTORY CHRISTMAS PARTY

*You are invited to join the Reeses for a Christmas party
on Friday, December 15th • 6:00—10:00pm
159 W. Davis Boulevard
(NE corner of W. Davis and Barbados, on Davis Islands)*

GREENING OF THE CHURCH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th, after the 10:30am service

All hands on deck to help load Christmas trees, poinsettias, lights and wreathes
to decorate our beautiful church for the Christmas holidays!
Volunteers ages 8 to 80 needed! With many hands this task can be accomplished quickly!

CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH AT 5pm

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, was first held on Christmas Eve in 1918. Since then, churches around the world have continued this time-honored celebration. The service this year will be on **Sunday, Dec. 17 at 5p.m.** and will include carols by Herbert Howells, Harold Darke, David Willcocks, and more. You don't want to miss this service, as it is a wonderful way to usher in the Christmas season. Plan to join us and to bring a friend or two. The parish Christmas party will follow in the parish hall.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us for our annual Christmas party in the Parish Hall immediately following Lessons & Carols on **Sunday, Dec. 17th**. Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share as we celebrate the joys of the season together. You may drop off your food (including items that need to be reheated with instructions) in the kitchen before or after morning services or before Lessons & Carols. Please contact Pam Curry: plcurry@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Watchfulness

In Frankfort, Kentucky, it is said that the city was enthralled in a big debate many years ago about placing a water fountain in a public square. The argument became heated in the legislature and at the governor's mansion. Finally, a decision was made to ask three contractors to bid on the project.

The first contractor was from Western Kentucky. When asked what his bid was he replied, "\$3,000." Then he was asked to break it down, to which he replied, "\$1,000 for labor, \$1,000 for materials, and \$1,000 for me." The next contractor was from Eastern Kentucky. When asked to give his bid and to break it down he said, "\$6,000. \$2,000 for labor, \$2,000 for materials, and \$2,000 for me."

The last contractor was an established contractor from Frankfort who usually got all of the bids for the capital. When asked to give his bid, he replied, "\$9,000." Then they asked him to break it down. He closed the doors, looked around cautiously, and then said, "\$3,000 for YOU, \$3,000 for me, and we give the bid to the guy from Western Kentucky!"

Now, they had bigger problems in Frankfort than deciding on a water fountain. But so often we can get sidetracked by things that seem important. Much like the disciples being more concerned with the temple being destroyed and the world coming to an end than they were with the things that matter most in life: character, integrity, compassion, and preparedness for Christ's return. This is what Jesus means when he tells his Disciples to watch!

God's Timing

It is hard for us to understand Jesus' delay in his coming. God's time clock is certainly out of sync with ours as Little Jimmy learned one day as he was lying on a hill in the middle of a meadow on a warm spring day. Puffy white clouds rolled by and he pondered their shape. Soon, he began to think about God.

"God? Are you really there?" Jimmy said out loud.

To his astonishment a voice came from the clouds. "Yes, Jimmy? What can I do for you?" Seizing the opportunity, Jimmy asked, "God, what is a million years like to you?"

Knowing that Jimmy could not understand the concept of infinity, God responded in a manner to which Jimmy could relate. "A million years to me, Jimmy, is like a minute."

"Oh," said Jimmy. "Well, then, what's a million dollars like to you?" "A million dollars to me, Jimmy, is like a penny."

"Wow!" remarked Jimmy, getting an idea. "You're so generous... can I have one of your pennies?"

God replied, "Sure thing, Jimmy! Just a minute."

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Sarah Hudson, Terry Bostic, John Wolfe, Fred Heyer, Rhys Klug, Phyllis Kubal, Rose Ann Mayer, Lynwood Arnold, Robert Hursey, John Chapman, Will Proctor, Stan Rzad, Nancy Milam, Betty Jane Kent, Virginia Mullen, Roz Cole, Ann Crowder, Charlie Carl, William Maxfield, Jane Barrett, Al Getz, Luis Medel, Joanne Baldy, Nancy Dinkel, John Dinkel, Don McGinnis, Joy Bell, Bill Dye, Veronica Greaves, Nita McClintock, Owen Meats, Charles Caro, Evelyn Smith, Mignon Grant-Levy, John Tomlinson, Nell Rorebeck, Marion Gustin, Jane Collins, Paul Cullen, Barbara Jones, Gerry Calahan, Mary Nichols, Peggy Kleven, Linda M. Delmasto, Angela Massari, Evelyn O. Jewell, Brycen Coyle, Anita Ramirez, Jane Cantler, Phyllis Sheaffer, Diane Kemker, Martha Medel, Sarah Moody, Larry Kleven, Isabelle Ferrell, William Shuler, Ian Snider, Libby Dickinson, LouAnn Connors, Roma Plimmer, Patricia Maxfield, Jenette Kerr, Kay Rankin

THOSE FOR WHOM PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY REQUESTED:

Mark Caro, Sgt. Billy Gudzak, Charlene Maxwell, Joan Hoppe, Carlton Hart, Stephen Tedrowe, Mercedes Richardson, Virginia Sink, Charlie Richardson, Christine Hudson, Janet Norona, Michael Norona, Tom Huffman, Sonja Waters, John Mennell, Christopher Hunt, Kathy Connolly, David M, Bob Hart, Dale Dubin, Charles Mullen, Jack Plimmer, Corinne Gaile, Jack Boyet, Jean Turner, Fabio Pompili, Michael Perkins, Judy Crowley, Analee Mayes, Sonja Waters, John Mennell, Sandra, Steve Finessy, Warren Brown, Cathy Neely, Rick Ostman, Judith Mish, Mark Prater, Linda Barry, Ann & Gene Overmyer, Matt Harper, Susan Dawson, Dawn Headland, Beth Luensman, Carole Fields, Roy Collins, Judy Van Valkenburgh, Joe Daurril, Georgia Vahue, Sean Heavey, Janet Cook (*We are happy to include all prayer requests. Names will remain on the list for four weeks. Please call Lauri in the church office if you desire a name to remain on after four weeks or to be removed sooner.*)

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

509 East Twiggs Street ✕ Tampa, Florida 33602
Telephone 813.221.2035

Emergency Number 813.451.5521

Electronic Mail: secretary@saintandrewstampa.org

Web Site: www.saintandrewstampa.org

Parish Office Hours: Monday through Thursday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday Healing Service: 12:10 p.m.

Sunday Service Schedule: Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Scharf, *VI Bishop of Southwest Florida*

The Rev. John Reese, *Rector*

The Rev. Canon Jerold R. Stadel, *Assisting Priest*

Ryan Hebert, *Director of Music/Organist*

Coleman Flentge, *Associate Director of Music*

Pamela Frost, *Parish Administrator*

Lauri Harder, *Administrative Assistant*

Alicia Schmid, *Director of Children's and Youth Ministries*

Anguel Dimitrov, *Sexton*

Vestry

Class of 2024: Pam Curry, Richard Ferlita, *Senior Warden*, Kathy Lawless,
Paul Scheuer, Lori Taplow, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Class of 2025: Barbara Brotherton, Derrick Brown, Chris Capsambelis,
Richard Chapman, *Junior Warden*, Brad Hall

Class of 2026: Allison Besselieu, Holly Clemmons, Martha Cobb, Wallace Dixon,
Eric Hargens, *Treasurer*

In the name of Christ, we the people of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, in response to God's call, proclaim our belief that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, and thereby declare our purpose to be to glorify God through our worship and work, to serve the spiritual and temporal needs of others as Christ's disciples, and to build a lively, growing community in Christ's image.