



Welcome to
**SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TAMPA, FLORIDA**
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 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 and come to coffee hour in the parish hall after the 10:30 a.m. service.

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: Nun Komm, der heiden Heiland BWV 659

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

Tower Bell

Hymn 67 (*stand*)

Psalm 42

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near, calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way; let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

3 Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain; let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad; and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

All standing, the Celebrant says

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
 Amen.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The following is sung, all standing

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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading (*sit*)

Isaiah 40:1-11

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

“Comfort, O comfort my people,” says your God. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.” A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *Sung by the choir to plainsong*

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
 you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
 and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
 for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
 and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
 that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
 righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
 and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
 and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
 and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens

will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 65 (*stand*)

Bereden vag for Herran

1 Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Refrain Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

2 He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. *Refrain.*

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace. His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him. *Refrain.*

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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.

Prayers of the People (*kneel*)

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Doug, our Bishop, John and Jerry, our priests, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Joe, our President, Ron, our Governor, Jane, our Mayor, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, especially the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

The Priest then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Peace (*stand*)

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

Paul Manz (1919–2009)

Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood That we might saved be.
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy, Holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, For Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!

Words related to Revelation, Chapter 22

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 75 (*sit*)

Ascension

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod: Prepare in the
desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills
brought low; make straight all the crooked
places, where the Lord our God may go!
2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get
thee up to the heights and sing! Proclaim to
a desolate people the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay, the power and
pomp of nations shall pass like a dream
away;

3 but the word of our God endureth, the
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the
midst of nations, and he will right the
wrong. He shall feed His flock like a
shepherd, the lambs he'll gently hold; to
pastures of peace he'll lead them, and bring
them safe to his fold.

Anthem

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

This is the truth sent from above, The truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from your door, But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell Woman was made with man to dwell.

And we were heirs to endless woes, Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run That he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year Our blest Redeemer did appear;
He here did live, and here did preach, And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved, To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way, Be pleased to hear what he did say.

Traditional English carol

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 59 (*stand*)

Merton

1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding.
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say; "Cast
away the works of darkness, O ye children
of the day."

2 Wakened by the solemn warning, from
earth's bondage let us rise; Christ, our sun,
all sloth dispelling, shines upon the
morning skies.

3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes
with pardon down from heaven; let us
haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to
be forgiven;

4 so when next he comes with glory, and
the world is wrapped in fear, may he
with his mercy shield us, and with words
of love draw near.

5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing to
the Father and the Son, with the
everlasting Spirit, while unending ages
run.

Dismissal

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

Postlude: Nun Komm, der heiden Heiland *Andreas Nikolaus Vetter (1666–1734)*

THOSE SERVING TODAY: Sunday, December 10, 2023

Celebrant: Fr. Stadel

Preacher: Fr. Reese

Organist: Ryan Hebert

Choral Assistant: Coleman Flentge

Vergers: Allison Besselieu

Crucifer: Ethan Smith

Torchbearers: Wyatt Smith, Abby Turlington

Lectors: Coleman Flentge, Tom Akins

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Patrick Keogh, Dorothy Peters

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

Ushers: Laurence Hammond, George Bedell, Chris Sherman, Frazier Carraway

Altar Guild: Jan Smith, Cathy Szuba

Coffee Hour Hosts: Jennifer and Charlie Richardson




The altar flowers are given to the glory of God
and in memory of A. Bronson Thayer
by his wife, Stella, and daughter, Susannah,
and in memory of Chester and Louise Ferguson by their children,
Stella Thayer and Howell Ferguson, and their families

BIRTHDAYS: Jean Turner

ANNIVERSARIES: Katie Pastorius & Holly Clemmons, Jack & Linda Sparn

Third Annual Holiday Concert

 Embrace the spirit of the season at the third annual Winter Concert presented by the music program of Dr. Kiran C. Patel High School! Join us on **Thursday December 14 at 7:00** at St. Andrew's for an unforgettable evening filled with heartwarming melodies and festive cheer. These exceptionally talented students, under the direction of Coleman Flentge, will showcase their progress through a diverse repertoire that spans classical masterpieces to contemporary holiday favorites performed by choir and orchestra. This is not just a concert; it's a celebration of talent, community, and the joy of music. Share in the warmth of the season with friends and family. Don't miss out – mark your calendars for a night of musical enchantment! ❄️🎄 Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

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

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.

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 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 rest of the line-up:

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

I love the *idea* of Advent – longing expectancy. You hear this hand-wringing yearning in the prelude, *Come, Savior of the Heathens*, where Bach is trying to plead with the nonbeliever. We hear this same kind of idea in the offertory, Paul Manz's *E'en So Lord Jesus*. This piece was written by the bedside of his critically ill son in 1953. The composer and his wife collaborated in this powerful anthem, and by their expectancy, their son recovered. Along those same lines, our communion carol has a similar yearning. My favorite line is, "Therefore don't turn me from your door."

Two years ago, I showed up on the doorstep of my parents' home in Houston. They weren't expecting me. My father answered the door, and for about five full seconds, he had no idea who I was. Before I could "introduce" myself, he nearly fell on the floor, enraptured in delight. That moment, when he realized who I was, will be something I'll *never* forget. Later, I asked him about it, and he said, "I was watching the game and was put out that I had to come to the door because I thought you would turn out to be someone trying to sell me something." He expected something different than what was.

What do *you* expect? Even those of us who are supposed to be strengthened by our faith are expecting the worst for our country, our world, our health, and our finances. We're kept up at night because in the back of our collective minds, we're heathens. A heathen is an unbeliever. We're expecting the worst. But Advent is about renewing your expectancy, your *hopeful* expectancy. You can't do that if you expect people to be rude, or to expect that ominous envelope in your mailbox to be a bill you can't pay. You can't expect to lose weight or stop addictions if you think it's "impossible." Collectively, we're expecting the country to fall apart, the church to fold up, the pledges to go down, the pews to be empty, and on and on. Well, what do you expect?

If you expect the Supremacy of The Universe to be in absolute control, then you can live in absolute peace. The world expects catastrophe, so is anyone surprised at our dire situation today? What if during this pledge season, we *all* expected St. Andrew's attendance and income to quadruple over the next 10 years? The heathen would tell you to look at the evidence, the statistics, what "they say," or what's happened in the past, etc. The believer rejoices, despite the "evidence," knowing that the physical world doesn't represent Truth and possibility, but decay and death. Truth and possibility exist within. That's your "lamp," as it says in the offertory. We need no exterior light, for there is none. We need insight, where potential is birthed and rebirthed. We need to realize that

there isn't a stranger at the door, but that we are merely fearing our own shadows. When we see Truth, we'll be raptured in delight. That's what I think the second coming is about.

When you recognize your *low* expectations and general paranoia, Christ appears, and like my dad you light up, laughing at the Wonderful Surprise. The music today is pleading – *come quickly!* Expect more, better, and that God is *everywhere*. Even if the so-called physical evidence suggests otherwise, great expectations open the door to great potential. If you expect a bothersome stranger at your door, you're likely not to even answer it. But I can assure you, what seems to be bothering you is no stranger. With what rapture of utter delight would the world be caught up in, if only we recognized who was at the door? The Power is in you, open your mind and heart to it, quickly! *Soli Deo Gloria!*

-Ryan Hebert

 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.



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.



Saint Andrew's Holiday Schedule

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Friday, December 15 - 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Rectory Christmas Party

159 W. Davis Boulevard

(NE corner of W. Davis and Barbados, on Davis Islands)

*

Sunday, December 17— 10:30 a.m. service

Christmas Pageant

*

Sunday, December 17 right after the 10:30 Service

The Greening of the Church

Volunteers ages 8 to 80 needed! With many hands this task can be accomplished quickly!

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Sunday, December 17 — 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Lessons & Carols

followed by Parish Christmas Party *(child care provided)*

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Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve services

5:30 p.m. — Choral Eucharist (Rite II)

9:00 p.m. — Choral Eucharist

(Rite I with incense)

A string ensemble will perform at both services,
with pre-service music at 5:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

*

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day service

10:30 a.m.

END OF YEAR GIVING: According to IRS tax rules for charitable deductions, donors must deliver checks on or by December 31, 2023 in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2023. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2024 (January 7th) will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2023, even if the check is predated to 2023 or was actually written in 2023. However, checks that are written, mailed and post-marked in 2023 will be deductible in 2023 though they are not received by a church until 2024.

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, Virginia Sink, Charlie Richardson, Christine Hudson, Janet Norona, Michael Norona, Christopher Hunt, Charles Mullen, Jack Plimmer, Corinne Gaile, Jack Boyet, Jean Turner, Analee Mayes, Rick Ostman, Linda Barry, 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, Victoria Klug,

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.