

# St Andrew's Episcopal Church & School

*The Celebration & Administration of*  
**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**  
*for*  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**

17 December 2023 at 10:30 am

## Concerning the Liturgy

This bulletin provides page numbers for *The Book of Common Prayer* (the book with the cross) and *The Hymnal 1982*. Hymns that are marked with "S" are found at the beginning of the hymnal. The italicized words are rubrics, or directions, to let you know when to stand, sit, kneel, and sing.

### **VOLUNTARY**

*Air from* Orchestral Suite No. 3, BWV 1068  
Johann Sebastian Bach

### **THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **The Blessing of Birthdays & Anniversaries**

*Those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries are invited to come forward for a blessing prayed by the priest and congregation:*

May God guard your joy and keep you in holy grace;  
may God meet you in your celebration  
and give you the Spirit's peace;  
may God bless you and at the last,  
bring you into Christ's everlasting Kingdom. Amen.

### **In Procession, a Hymn**

*All stand and sing.*

*Bereden väg för Herran*

Hymnal 65

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

#### **The Opening Acclamation & Responses**

BCP 355

#### **The Trisagion**

Rutter

Hymnal S101

#### **The Collect of the Day: *Third Sunday of Advent***

BCP 212

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The First Lesson**

**Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11**

*All sit.*

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**At the Gradual, The Magnificat**

Hymnal S 185

*Sung by all, omitting the antiphon.*

**The Second Lesson**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**At the Sequence, a Hymn**

*Ascension*

Hymnal 75

*All stand and sing.*

**The Holy Gospel**

**John 1:6-8,19-28**

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered,

“No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

### **The Sermon**

John Ibanez  
*Lay Preacher*

### **The Nicene Creed**

BCP 358

*All stand.*

### **The Prayers of the People**

As witnesses to your light and truth, we come to you in prayer, O Lord.

Infuse the heart of your church with your Spirit and focus it on your mission. Renew your people and their leaders as they serve your purpose. Remind us continually whose we are.

*Silence*

Turn the hearts and actions of all the world’s leaders to justice and peace. We pray for Joseph our president, Greg our governor, the Congress and courts of this land. We pray for an end to war and violence, especially in Gaza and Ukraine.

*Silence*

Open our eyes to what is going on around us. Open our hearts to our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Move us to open our hands in love when they are in need and to stand up for them when they are oppressed. We pray for those suffering from natural disasters, from unjust economies, from hunger, and want.

*Silence*

We know people around us who are suffering from anxiety, scarcity, illness, and loneliness. Some of them we know, and most are unknown to us. Some may be in the pews next to us. We ask that you assure them of your presence and sustain them with your grace. We pray for those we know by name, including Sarrah, Lynette, Gary, Stacy, Jeanne, Karena, Kevin, Leo, Enrique, Vicki, Nell, Jerry, Jade, and Tom.

*Silence*

Our hearts break when someone whom we love dies. Today we mourn for those who have died, including John. May we be a comfort as we walk with those who grieve.

*Silence*

*The priest adds a concluding collect.*

**The Confession of Sin**

BCP 360

**The Peace**

BCP 360

*All stand. The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**Capital Project Committee Update**

Ms. Catherine Runner  
*Interior Space Subcommittee*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### Giving to St. Andrew's

To make a contribution to the ministry of St. Andrew's, please drop your offering in the plate or scan this QR code to give securely online.



**At the Offertory, an Anthem**

*And the Glory of the Lord (from Messiah)*

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together:  
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Words: Isaiah 40:5

Music: George Frideric Handel

**At The Presentation, a Hymn**

*Veni, veni Emmanuel*

*All stand and sing as the offering is brought forward.*

5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us

5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
6 by thy draw - ing night; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of

5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.; adpt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright ©1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A**

BCP 361

**Sanctus et Benedictus**

*Missa Marialis*

Hymnal S115

**The Lord's Prayer**

BCP 364

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**Fraction Anthem**

Ambrosian Chant

Hymnal S172

**Agnus Dei**

Schubert

Hymnal S164

*All are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church. At the altar rail, you may elect to dip (intinct) your wafer in the wine or drink from the chalice as it passes you. If you desire to receive a blessing instead of communion, please cross your arms over your chest. If you would prefer to receive a gluten-free wafer, please clasp your hands together, and one of the clergy will offer a gluten free wafer to you. If you require communion be brought to you, please let the usher know.*

**At the Distribution, a Reflection** *Andante from Violin Sonata 2* J.S. Bach

**At the Distribution, a Hymn**

*Aberystwyth*

Hymnal 640

**The Post-Communion Prayer & Blessing**

BCP 365

## In Procession, a Hymn

*Puer nobis*



1. Come, thou Re-deem - er of the earth, and ma - ni - fest thy  
2. Be - got - ten of no hu - man will, but of the Spi - rit,  
3. From God the Fa - ther he pro - ceeds, to God the Fa - ther  
4. O e - qual to thy Fa - ther, thou! Gird on thy flesh - ly  
5. Thy cra - dle here shall gli - tter bright, And dark - ness breathe a  
6. O Je - su, vir - gin - born to thee e - tern - nal praise and



vir gin birth: let ev - 'ry age a - dor - ing fall;  
thou are still the Word of God, in flesh ar - rayed,  
back he speeds, his course he runs to death and hell,  
man - tle now, The weak - ness of our mor - tal state  
new - born light, No more shall night ex - tin - guish day,  
glo - ry be, whom with the Fa ther we a dore,



such birth be - fits the God of all.  
the Sav - iour, now to us dis - played.  
re - turn - ing on God's throne to dwell.  
With death - less might in - vi - go - rate.  
Where love's bright beams their power dis - play.  
and Ho ly Spi - rit, e - ver - more

Words: St. Ambrose (c.340-397); tr. J.M. Neale (1818-1866)

Music: *Puer nobis*, melody from Trier MS., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

## The Dismissal

BCP 365

### VOLUNTARY

*Rondeau* from *Abdelezar*

Henry Purcell

*Please join us for Coffee Time in the Parish Hall, which can be accessed by the stairs or elevator.*

Today's guest musicians are *La Speranza*, a Houston string quartet in residence at St. Andrew's for their 2023-24 season. In January, they'll give a series of performances of Beethoven. More information is at [www.la-speranza.com](http://www.la-speranza.com). They're joined today by violinist Laura Cividino.







The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God  
and in loving memory of Lynne Sullivan  
by Mike and Kim Sullivan.

*To dedicate flowers, please sign up using the flower dedication list on our bulletin board.*

# Advent at St. Andrew's

## Sunday morning Education Hour offerings for all ages

### **Advent Wreath Making**

Sunday, December 3  
9:30 - 10:30 AM



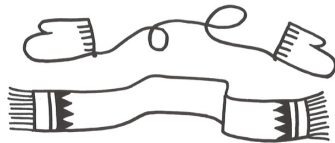
### **The Christmas Market**

Sunday, December 10  
9:30 AM - 1 PM



### **Christmas Cookie Festival**

Sunday, December 17  
9:30 - 10:30 AM



Events for all ages during the  
9:30 Education Hour

## Advent, Christmas & Epiphany at St. Andrew's



### ADVENT IV DECEMBER 24

9AM The Holy Eucharist: Rite I

### CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24

1 PM Rhythms of Grace

*A joyful inclusive service for all ages and abilities in our Parish Hall*

3 PM The Holy Eucharist Rite II with Children's Pageant

*A family-friendly service with a pageant & Christmas carols.*

5 PM A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

*A festive service of Christmas Carols and choral music  
from the Choristers, St. Andrew's Choir,  
and Choral Scholars with harp.*

10:30 PM The Holy Eucharist: Rite II with Candlelight

*A candlelight service with Christmas Carols and choral music from the St. Andrew's  
Choir & Choral Scholars with harp.*

### CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25

10 AM Holy Eucharist

### THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY JANUARY 6

7 PM A Feast of Lights

*Observe the arrival of the Magi with this candlelight service and carols about the three  
kings. This liturgy concludes with the burning of the Christmas greenery.*

## FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS AT ST. ANDREW'S

Each Christmas Eve, St. Andrew's decorates the church with fresh greenery, poinsettias, and altar flowers. If you would like to contribute by offering a monetary donation, please complete the form below and place it in the alms basin along with a check during the Offertory. You may also donate online through your Realm account or at [saecheights.org/giving](http://saecheights.org/giving).

Poinsettias are \$20 each and altar arrangements are \$50 each, but gifts in all amounts are appreciated and will be recognized.

Please print clearly.

**The deadline to place your order is TODAY.**

### FLOWER DEDICATION

*(please select 1 or more category)*



**Your Name:**

**In Memory of:**

**In Thanksgiving for:**

**In Honor of:**

## ST. ANDREW'S PRAYER LIST

*“Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, bear our prayers for this parish family.”*

### **Please keep these individuals in your prayers this week:**

Sarra Moseley, *parishioner at St. Andrew's*  
Lynette Edwards, *parishioner at St. Andrew's*  
Gary Moseley, *parishioner at St. Andrew's*  
Stacy Jenkins, *parishioner at St. Andrew's*  
Jeanne Ingraham, *parishioner at St. Andrew's*  
Karena Kelly, *parishioner at St. Andrew's*  
Kevin Gipson, *father of Kandace Gipson*  
Leo Russell, *nephew of Father Clint Brown*  
Enrique Carrillo, *friend of Susan Peterson*  
Vicki Bird, *friend of Ken and Patti Anderle*  
Nell and Jerry Roberson, *friends of Ken and Patti Anderle*  
Jade Barger, *parishioner at St. Andrew's*  
Tom Pickett, *parishioner at St. Andrew's*

### **We pray for the repose of the soul of:**

John T. Hayes, *friend of Betty Kay Alexander*

As part of their work the Daughters of the King offer prayers daily for those on our parish prayer list. If you would like to add someone to the published parish prayer list above, please notify Carrie Conti, Office Manager, at [cconti@saccheights.org](mailto:cconti@saccheights.org). If you would like your prayer request to be confidential, please let Carrie know.

Names remain on Parish Prayer List for four Sundays unless the request is renewed.

## PARISH LIFE & NEWS

**Cookie Festival:** Our annual cookie exchange and sharing event is today December 17 during the 9:30 hour and following the 10:30 AM service in the Parish Hall. We'll also be decorating cookie houses and enjoying good fellowship on this 3rd Sunday of Advent!

**Youth Sunday:** Calling all youth for caroling! Meet at the church at 5 PM today. We will visit our neighbors at Heights Tower and share the joy of the season. Wear your Santa hats, elf ears, and other festive attire!

**Christmas Pageant:** Children are invited to be a part of the Christmas Play - an easy, no speaking parts pageant - during the 3 PM family service on Christmas Eve. Sign up ends today. Look for sign up sheets on the bulletin board and in the Parish Hall or email Lisa Puccio at [lpuccio@saecheights.org](mailto:lpuccio@saecheights.org).

**Men of St. Andrew's BBQ:** The Men of St. Andrew's will be taking care of your Christmas Eve and Christmas dinner needs! We will be smoking briskets, ribs, salmon, and pork loins. Meat pick-up will be on Christmas Eve following the morning and afternoon services. Scan the QR code to order.



If you would like to come out and barbecue with us on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, email us at [menofsaec@gmail.com](mailto:menofsaec@gmail.com) or talk with Ben Gibbs at church.

**Rector's Book Club:** Beginning January 7th, at 9:30 AM, the Rector's Book Club will be meeting in the Youth Room to read and discuss *From Jesus to Christianity: How Four Generations of Visionaries and Storytellers Created the New Testament and Christian Faith* by L. Michael White. White is the director of the Institute for the Study of Antiquity and Christian Origins at the University of Texas in Austin. To sign up, please contact Jimmy at [jgrace@saecheights.org](mailto:jgrace@saecheights.org)

**Episcopal 101:** Whether you're a newcomer, a member, or just someone wanting to reflect on your faith, join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 am beginning January 7th! This class explores the basic beliefs of the Episcopal Church, what makes Episcopalians unique, and what it means to live a life of faith in the Episcopal way. This class also serves as a "confirmation class" for anyone wishing to be confirmed. The text is *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices* by Scott Gunn and Melody Shobe and it is provided free of charge. To sign up please contact Clint at [cbrown@saecheights.org](mailto:cbrown@saecheights.org).

**Church Nursery:** The nursery is open from 8:15 AM to 12:15 PM for infants through 3 years.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA):** Meetings are offered at St. Andrew's every week. Primary Purposes Group meets Tuesday nights at 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Tradition 5 Group meets Wednesday nights at 7 PM in the Parish Hall. Friday Night Survivors Group meets at 7 PM in the Parish Hall. Al-Anon Group meets at 11 AM Saturday mornings in the Parish Hall. We are Not Saints Group meets at 7 PM Saturday nights in St. Andrew's House. For questions about these groups, contact the Rector at [jgrace@saccheights.org](mailto:jgrace@saccheights.org)



**ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL**

1819 Heights Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77008  
saechights.org | 713-861-5596

**Clergy & Staff**

The Reverend James M.L. Grace, *Rector*  
The Reverend Clint Brown, *Associate Rector for Youth & Adult Formation*  
The Reverend Jeff Bohanski, *Assistant Rector*  
The Reverend Canon Joann Saylor, *Assisting Priest*  
The Reverend Francene Young, *Assisting Priest*  
The Reverend Bob Merrill, *Assisting Priest*  
Carrie Conti, *Office Manager*  
John Kirk, *Director of Music & Organist*  
Lisa Puccio, *Coordinator for Special Needs Worship & Family Formation*  
Jamie Martin-Currie, *Head of School*  
Frank Guevara, *Facilities Manager*  
Byron Pineda, *Sexton*

**Lay Leadership**

Mary Eyuboglu, *Senior Warden*  
Ben Gibbs, *Junior Warden*  
Bruce Banta-Guevara, *Treasurer*  
Steven Runner, *Chancellor*