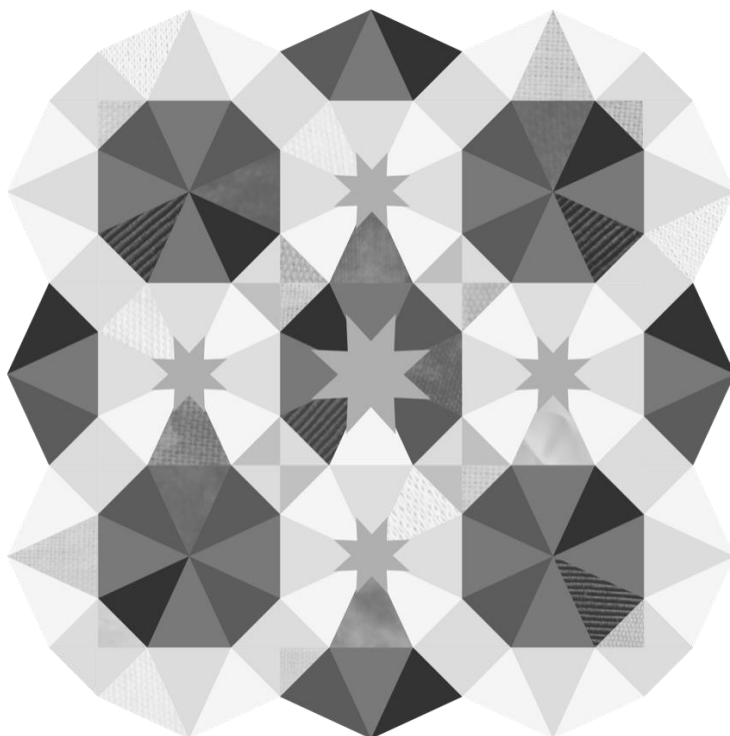


Nativity of Our Lord Candlelight Service

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
December 24, 2024 | 9:00 pm



FOR THE **BEGINNING**

— LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME —

Welcome to St. Andrew!

At St. Andrew Lutheran Church, we strive to be a loving and welcoming community of faith. We are centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ, who calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

All are welcome, without exception, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, education, income, or family status.

All are welcome here to worship God, receive the sacraments, and share in fellowship, leadership, and service. We commit to treasuring one another's similarities and differences as one body in Christ.

We are called to provide a safe space in the community as we break down the barriers of isolation. We will continue to discover what it means to be "Reconciling in Christ."

"Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
- Romans 15:7

Orientation to the Service

This bulletin will guide you through the entire service. Started on page 3, words printed in **bold** are for everyone to say aloud together. Instructions and information are printed in *italics*.

Hymns (songs) are found in the hymnals in the pew racks in front of your seat.

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

ACS = All Creation Sings (blue hymnal)

Green-topped Welcome Cards are found in the pew racks in front of your seat. We would love for guests, visitors, and anyone in need of prayer or more information about the church to fill one out. Please place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service.

Children are welcome in worship! God put the wiggle in children, so please do not feel you have to shush or suppress those wiggles in God's house. All are welcome here! Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is happening in the service. There are worship activity bags available for children just outside the sanctuary, and a staffed nursery is available for very young ones. Ask an usher if you need help locating it.

Restrooms can be found by exiting the back of the sanctuary and turning right. Walk straight until you pass the coffee bar, and you will find the women's and men's restrooms to your right. A gender-neutral, ADA-compliant restroom will be found to your left, near the entrance to the kitchen.

Online access to the bulletin and hymns: standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/



FOR THE BEGINNING

— LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME —

INTRODUCTION

Christ's birth makes the vastness of God personal. The God who made the seas and the stars is also the God who made your beautiful hair and striking eyes. The God of creation takes on flesh, which means you are fully known. When the angels visit the shepherds in the fields, their message is global but also personal: "To you...a savior is born." This birth is good news for everyone, especially those who are ignored or disenfranchised. On this night, God is born, and this God of love knows your name.

PRELUDE MUSIC

"Gesù, Bambino"

Pietro A. Yon/arr. Marilyn Thompson

Susan Werner Reiser, organ; Lindsey Lane, piano

"The Friendly Beasts"

arr. Farlee/Reiser

Sanctuary Choir; Kristie Gladhill, flute

Jesus, our brother, kind and good
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood.
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"I carried his mother up hill and down,
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town."

"I," said the cow, all white and red,
"I gave him my manger for his bed;
I gave him my hay to pillow his head."

“I,” said the sheep with the curly horn,
“I gave him my wool for a blanket warm,
he wore my coat on Christmas morn.”

“I,” said the dove from the rafters high.
“I cooed him to sleep so he would not cry;
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I.”

Thus ev'ry beast, by some good spell,
in the stable dark was glad to tell
of the gift they gave Emmanuel.

“Silent Night”

Allison Katsufakis, marimba

Nathan Daughtrey

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

Lindsey Lane, piano

Anna Laura Page

“Carol of the Bells”

Bells of Grace

arr. Reiser

GATHERING

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

The congregation may stand.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283, verses 1, 3 & 4)

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

In those days, in the beginning, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.
He was to be registered, and she was expecting a child.
The time came for Mary to give birth, so she delivered her child,
wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.
**And the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth, peace to all whom God favors."**

Let us worship our with-us God.
Let us sing songs of praise!

CAROL OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)

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

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace.

Let us begin with joy. Let us begin with love.

Yes, let us begin with love, for surely love knows your name.

Today, in addition to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we light the Christ candle. For surely God is in this place.

Surely the Spirit is near. Surely love knows our name.

May we rest in that good news. Unto us a child is born.

A light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

The Christ candle is lit.

CAROL OF PRAISE

On Christmas Night (ELW 274, verses 1 & 4)

**On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.
On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful king's birth.**

**All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night.
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God in highest heav'n; peace on earth, and goodwill. Amen."**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray.

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace: We are leaning forward. We are craning our necks, straining to hear a murmur of the angels' song, or an echo of a "gloria." We always long for you, but on this night, on this holy Christmas Eve, we long for you to feel as close as possible. So are we prepare to hear this ancient story once again, we ask that you would awaken something new in us. Awaken in us a fire for your Word. Awaken in us proof of your proximity. Awaken in us your love, which is bigger than the sky, and as close as our very breath. We are listening. We give thanks.

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

WORD

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING, AND SONG.

LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION CAROL

Away In a Manger (ELW 277, verse 1)

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

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RESPONSE CAROL

Away In a Manger (ELW 277, verse 3)

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

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Allison Bengfort

The congregation may stand.

CAROL OF THE DAY

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270)

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

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that on a night like this one,
a baby was born and placed in a manger.
We believe that baby was God's love in the flesh,
who grew up to love the outcast and change the world.
We believe that Jesus' love was so big and so personal
that the world will never be the same.
So despite the mystery of this holy night,
we believe that a star shone, that the shepherds ran,
that the angels sang, and that love was born.
Yes, we believe it when the prophets say
that unto you, unto us, a savior is born.
Glory to God in the highest heaven! We believe.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Remind us that no matter where we go or what we do,
you took on flesh for us.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*All are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (handshake, hug, peace sign, etc.).
Placing your hands together in a praying position will signal to those around you that you
prefer not to physically touch others.*

The congregation is seated.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

In worship, we offer our full selves to God, the Source of all that is. We give thanks for the financial resources we have been granted through God’s grace to steward in this life. As an act of gratitude and faith, we share these financial resources with our church community.

Contributions to St. Andrew Lutheran Church may be placed in the offering plate or made online (standrewlutheran.com/give). Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERING “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” John Carter
 Sanctuary Choir

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

“Fear not!” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.

To you in David’s town this day is born, of David’s line,
The Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:

The heav’nly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.

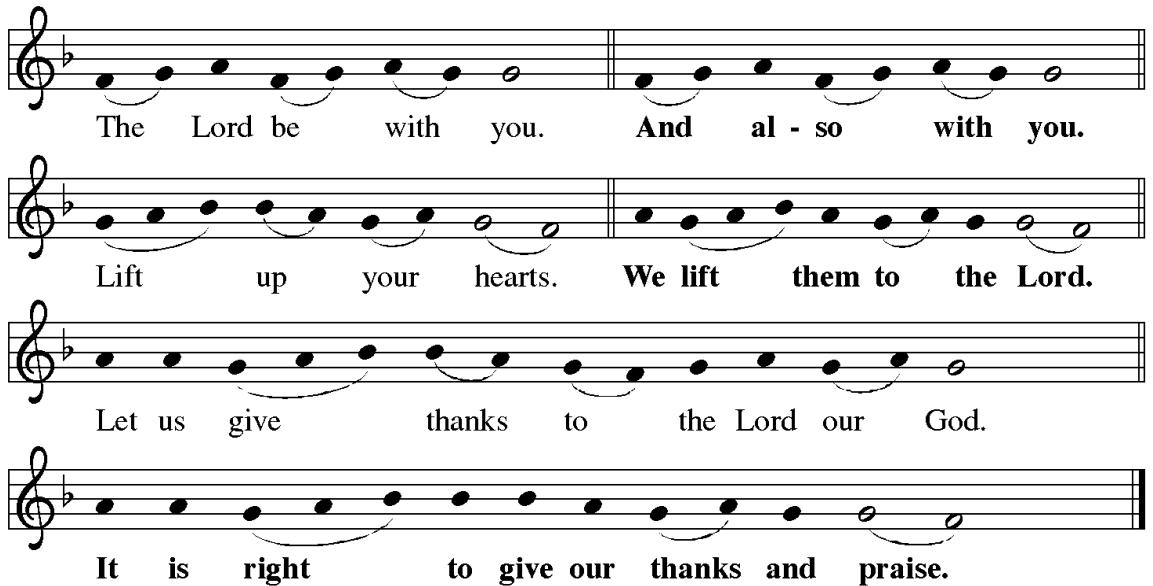
All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
Good will hence forth from heav’n to all begin and never cease.

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY VERSE In the Bleak Midwinter (ELW 294, verse 3)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

CAROL

Love Has Come (ELW 292, verse 1)

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The congregation is seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

All are invited to commune without exception! At the direction of an usher, those wishing to commune may proceed down the center aisle. A piece of gluten-free bread will be placed in your hands. You may dip the bread in the cup of wine (red chalice) or the cup of grape juice (light-colored chalice), or you may choose to partake of the bread only. If you prefer not to receive communion but would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please alert an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.

DISTRIBUTION CAROL

Love Has Come (ELW 292, verses 2 & 3)

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

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

DISTRIBUTION CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

DISTRIBUTION CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (ELW 272)

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.

DISTRIBUTION CAROL

What Child Is This (ELW 296)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

The congregation may stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.
Amen.

LITANY OF LIGHT

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and lived among us.
We have beheld Christ's glory.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night! (ELW 281)

During the introduction, light is passed from the Christ candle to each worshiper. Light your candle by tipping your unlit candle over your neighbor's burning candle. Never tip a burning candle.

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

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

BLESSING

May the Light that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life.

May the Light that the angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to our world.

And may the Light that is the all-loving God,
Creator, † Christ, and Holy Spirit, burn within you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING CAROL

Joy to the World (ELW 267)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

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

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Merry Christmas!
Thanks be to God! Merry Christmas

Please extinguish your candle, wait a minute for the wax to harden, and then place your candle in the basket at the exit. Thank you!

POSTLUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"
Susan Werner Reiser, organ

J. S. Bach

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Serving in Worship

Presider & Preacher: Pastor Allison Bengfort
Assisting Minister: Libby Calhoun
Altar Guild: Susan Werner Reiser
Bells of Grace: Joe Calhoun
Libby Calhoun
Robert Casteel
Pat Christiansen
Liz Hardy
Allison Katsufrakis
Christina Mantey
Tammy Piscitelli
John Reiser
Janet Vorvick
Cantor: Allison Katsufrakis
Lector: Joe Calhoun
Musicians: Susan Werner Reiser, organ
Lindsey Lane, piano
Allison Katsufrakis, marimba
Kristie Gladhill, flute
Sanctuary Choir: Gretchen Bancroft
Pat Christiansen
Kristie Gladhill
Liz Hardy
Julie Larson
John Reiser
Lynn Santelmann
Janet Vorvick
Carol Werner
Ushers: Dan & Sharon Fako
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell



