

St. Andrew's

Episcopal Church

Sunday Worship Booklet

December 7, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

2 Advent

Are You New?

We are SO glad you are here!

St. Andrew's is a warm community just waiting to love you. If you like, you will definitely find good friends here.

- This booklet is designed to help you fully join us in our worship experience. If it feels like a lot of words to follow, don't worry. Let go, and listen. It is perfectly OK to let us wash you with our prayers.
- Please fill out one of our **connection cards** (or use this QR Code) so we can let you know how happy we are to meet you.
- More info about the church and what we are up to can be found in the insert to this booklet.

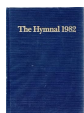


The Word of God

Prelude

The Christmas Rose

Before the worship begins, the priest greets the people and introduces the first hymn. The people stand, as able, to sing.



Hymnal #68

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect (Prayer) for Purity

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.**



Hymnal S-236

The Collect (Prayer) of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

Procession

The Greek word in the new testament for church means “assembly.” One of the reasons we start our service with a procession is to mark people coming together for this holy time.

Diving Deeper

Collect

A “collect”, pronounced “COLL-ect”, is a traditional type of prayer. It is written to gather or “collect” the rest of prayers together with a theme. There is a special collect for each Sunday of the church year.

Diving Deeper

The people are seated for the lessons.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the Ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Psalm is read/prayed in unison.

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, ***
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously ***
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, ***
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

**5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.**

**6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.**

**7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

**18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!**

**19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.**

The Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13

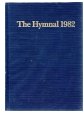
A Reading from Romans

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able



Hymn 82

Of The Father's Love Begotten v. 1-2

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Les Carpenter

Preacher prays then all sit

The Nicene Creed

All stand as able and say the creed in unison.

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 Form IV

All kneel as able

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;



Payers of the People

These prayers are meant to be a response to what we read in the scriptures and heard in the sermon. They are for the whole world because we need God's grace.

Diving Deeper

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Sam and Jennifer our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. (Especially our sick and suffering _____, and those who serve in the armed forces especially_____).

Silence

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died (Especially _____) ,

that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

(Deacon) We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Celebrant) 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.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another and offer their blessings of peace.

Welcome and Announcements

The congregation sits as directed and announcements are shared. If you are new, this is a great time to fill out your Connection Card. There should be a paper one in your pew or you can use the QR code on the front page.

If you want to give electronically to our church the best way is to download the church's app (see last page) or you can make a one time gift through the QR code here.



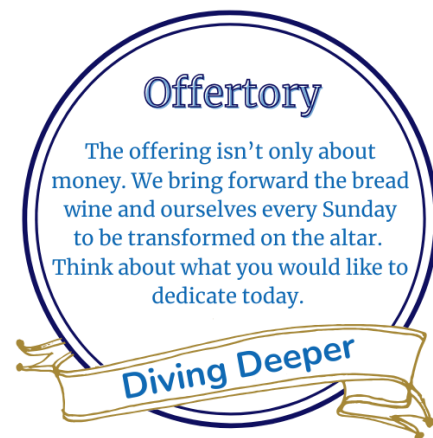
The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Music

Offertory Music Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand. Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood.
Lord of Lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood, He will give to all the faithful to His own self for heavenly food.



Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, As the light of light
descendeth from the realms of endless day, That the powers of hell may vanish as the
darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to
the presence as with ceaseless voice they cry.
Al-le-lu-ia Lord Most High!

After which the people stand and sing the Doxology.

Hymn 380 v 3



The Great Thanksgiving

(Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP 367)

All stand as able

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 him thanks and praise.

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:



Hymnal #S-128 "Sanctus"

The people kneel or stand

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 [_____ and] 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 Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,	who trespass against us.
hallowed be thy Name,	And lead us not into temptation
thy kingdom come,	but deliver us from evil.
thy will be done,	For thine is the kingdom
on earth as it is in heaven.	and the power, and the glory,
Give us this day our daily bread.	for ever and ever. Amen.
And forgive us our trespasses,	
as we forgive those	

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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.

The people sit

Ministers come forward to receive communion before sharing it. The congregation follows as directed by the ushers.



Post Communion Prayer

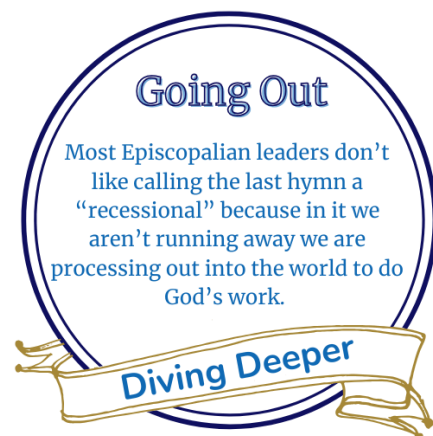
The people kneel as able

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

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



Hymnal #76

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry v.1-3

Dismissal

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!!

Postlude

Sun of my Soul

Welcome to Worship

Thank you for joining us!

We have two different regular worship services on Sunday, both of which include Holy Communion. Holy Communion is a sacrament using bread and wine. It reminds us of Jesus, His teachings, His sacrifice on the Cross, and His continued presence in this church. A few more things about Holy Communion.

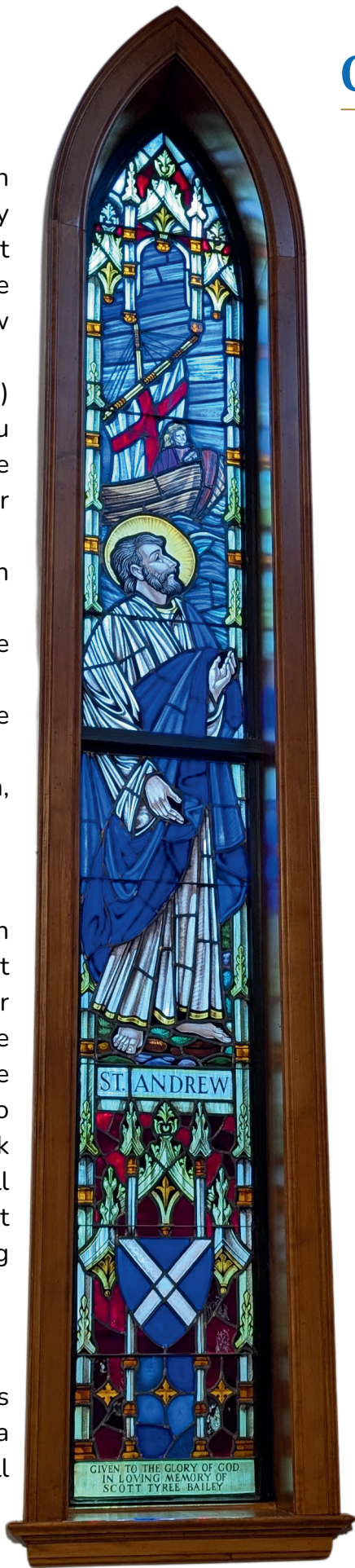
- All baptized people (regardless of Christian Tradition) are invited to receive Communion with us. If you prefer, you can come forward for a blessing. When the minister comes to you, cross your arms across your chest to indicate your preference
- If you don't want to come forward feel free to stay in your seat.
- If you have a gluten sensitivity, Gluten free wafers are available on request.
- If you have mobility concerns tell an usher and we would be happy to bring Communion to you.
- For more info on the basics of the Episcopal church, check out our "Priest Me" podcast on YouTube.

8 AM Rite I

Our 8 am service is smaller and more contemplative than our 10:30. Most Sundays, it is spoken (without music). It uses traditional (Old English) language throughout. For those new to this form of worship, it can take some getting used to, but it is also special to pray in the language of Shakespeare. For the service, you will need to use the *Book of Common Prayer*, which is the black book in your pews with the cross on the front. The priest will call out page numbers as we go. We also provide a sheet with today's readings, which will be helpful for praying the psalm and following today's teaching

10:30 AM Rite II

This is our principal (largest) service on Sunday. It includes music and singing in addition to prayer. We offer a "Sunday Booklet" to help you follow this service. You will also need the blue "1982 Hymnal" found in the pew.



Other Regular Offerings

Children's Chapel/Sunday School/Nursery

Children are always welcome in worship at St. Andrew's! To support our families, we do offer **nursery care** (0-PreK), and **Children's Chapel** (Elementary Age) during the 10:30 service. Ask an usher, and they will tell you where to drop off your kids prior to the service. Your children will join you for Communion.

Youth Ministries and Acolyting

We love to see our youth grow in service and fellowship with us. There is an active youth group. Indicate your interest on the Connection Card and we would love to reach out to you with more Info. Also, children and youth often participate in our Sunday Worship by serving as acolytes (Those in red robes with a white top). If you are interested in learning more ask Rev. Les or any member of the Vestry (church board)

Adult Sunday School

Meets at 9:15am in the Rector's Study. It is a lovely and informal Bible study. Join Us!

Healing Service Wednesdays 10:30 AM

Each Wednesday, we offer an additional prayer service. This includes the option of Unction (prayers with anointing of Healing Oil). This is an ancient and beautiful practice in Christianity.

Getting Involved

We have so many active ministries, it can be difficult to know where to start. If you want to get more involved here, but aren't sure how to start, fill out one of the **connection cards** in your pew. We will follow up and make sure that you find a meaningful way to start. The Connection card is a way to make sure we have your correct contact info and you are getting the news you want.

Prayers and Celebrations

Prayers Requested

For the Sick and Those in Need:

Catherine
Lisa
Chris
Jinx
Wayland
Teresa
Zanetta
George
Pris

Phyllis
Jeff
Marvena
Caroline
Dan
Ben
Jan
Barbara
Joan

Dan

For those serving in our Armed Forces:

Sean
Veronica
Jericca
Matt
Eric
All Veterans

Fletcher
Will
Rodney
Jonathan
Adam

James
Thomas
Austin
Landon M.

For the Deceased:

On for Next Sunday? (check it out here)

8 AM

LAY: Lynn Arnow
LEM: Forrest Mericle

10:30 AM

LAY: Terry Shackleford
LEM: Martha Lamm

Michele Richwalski

Food Pantry

Elizabeth Mosley
Tim and Kaye Dowd

Acolytes: Christmas Pageant

Ushers: Jan Arnold and John Lea

Vestry Greeters: Lori Joyner
Leslie Hall



Altar Greenery today
are given to the **Glory of God**
by **Elizabeth Pope**
in loving memory of her parents
Dick and Mae Dell Pope



Announcements

Advent Schedule

December 7th

8am Rite I service
10:30am Rite II service
11:30am Pageant Rehearsal



December 14th

8am Rite I service
10:30am Christmas Pageant

December 21st

8am Rite I service
10:30am Lessons and Carols



December 24th

4:30pm Christmas Eve Service

December 29th

8am Rite I service
10:30am Rite II service

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal TODAY!

Full rehearsal after the 10:30am service in the Parish Hall. We are fitting costumes and going over everything. Please make every effort to attend!

"Wings of Love Bag Ministry"

December Items for United Community Ministry Christmas Gift Bags that youth will put together and deliver. Also, monetary donations for Carriage Apartment Christmas in lieu of the Angel Tree. Bags go out December 7th and return December 14th.

Vestry and Convention Reps

Are you interested in running for our vestry or our Convention Representative to the diocese? Do you know someone else you would like to nominate? If so please contact Rev. Les before Christmas.

Lessons and Carols Readers Dec. 14th at 10:30am

Please let the office know if you would like to read a lesson.

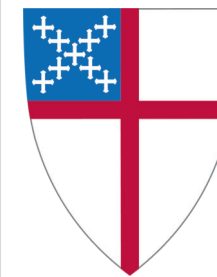
Christmas Flowers

Remember or honor a loved one with Christmas flowers to bring added beauty to our worship space this Christmas. We are asking a donation of \$25 for the flowers. Please email the office the name of your loved one(s) exactly how you would like it printed. **Last day to submit names will be Wed., December 17th.**



252-443-2070
standrewsrmt.org

301 South Circle Drive,
Rocky Mount, NC 27804



St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church

2 Advent
12.07.25



**Believe
Become
Belong**

**Led by the Spirit, we
lovingly serve God** through
worship, fellowship, spiritual
growth, and ministry.

"Unexpected Advent"

Title for Today's Homily
Preacher: Rev. Les Carpenter