

# Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2016

Prelude Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes Sohn

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Processional Hymn 72 "Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes"

Richmond

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant

Together, let us bless the Advent Wreath.

People

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever! Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom, Jesus our Savior and King of the ages. Blessed be God for ever.

#### The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer p. 355

Celebrant

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

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

BCP p. 355

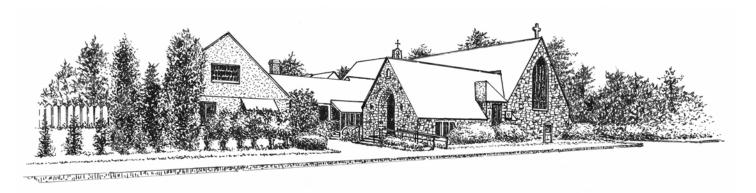
Trisagion S 102

Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924)

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.



#### Collect of the Day

Celebrant

Together we pray.

People

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*.

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in

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

the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm 146:4-9 Richard Clark

The congregation is encouraged to sing the psalm.



- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \* whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \* who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are op pressed, \* and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \* the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; \*
  he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- †9 The LORD shall reign for ever, \*
  your God, O Zion, throughout all gene rations. 
  Halle lujah!

Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not

grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn 65 "Prepare the way, O Zion"

Bereden väg för Herran

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look

at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

Sermon Rev. Catherine Healy

Nicene Creed BCP p. 358

Prayers of the People

After each bidding the Reader says, Lord, in your mercy. The People reply, Hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin BCP p. 360

Peace

**Announcements** 

#### The Holy Communion

Presentation of Bread and Wine

Offertory Anthem The Record of John

Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625) Lucas Alvarado, tenor

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites to Jerusalem to ask him: Who art thou? And he confessed and said plainly: I am not the Christ. And they asked him: What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said: I am not. Art thou the

prophet? And he answer'd: No. Then said they unto him: What art thou? That we may give as answer to them that sent us. What say'st thou of thy self? And he said: I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord.

Doxology Hymn 380 v. 3 "Praise God from whom all blessings flow" Old 100<sup>th</sup>

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

Sanctus S 131 Gerald Near

David Hurd

Fraction Anthem S 151

Breaking of the Bread

Ushers will direct the congregation to communion stations, starting from the rear of the church and moving forward. Gluten-free wafers are available. All are welcome to receive communion.

Communion Anthem E'en so, Lord, quickly come

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Peace be to you, and grace from Him, Rejoice in Heaven, all ye that dwell therein,

Who freed us from our sins, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,

Who loved us all, and shed his blood, For Christ is coming, is coming soon,

That we might saved be. For Christ is coming soon.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,

The Lord, Almighty God! And night shall be no more;

Who was and is, and is to come, They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun,

Sing holy, holy Lord. For Christ will be their All!

Communion Hymn 55 "Redeemer of the nations, come" Veni Redemptor gentium

Thanksgiving after Communion BCP p. 365

Blessing

Recessional Hymn 640 "Watchman, tell us of the night" *Aberystwyth* 

Dismissal

Clergy Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott J.S. Bach



## Please join us for coffee hour following the 10am service, hosted by Betsy Millane and Lynda Sperry.

Flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Corydon P. Cronk and Louis A. Woltzen.

#### Serving St. Andrew's this week

Altar Guild D.D. Alexander, Dell Beggs, Jean Childs, Liz Parsons, Cynthia Scott,
Carol Sullivan, Liz Tecca, and Joann Tuytschaevers

Flower Guild Dell Beggs and Katie Barrack

Greeter Heidi Harper

#### Serving at 8am

Lay Reader/Chalice Bearer Debbie Lorenz
Ushers Nancy Kohl and Bob Ware

#### Serving at 10am

Acolytes Diana Faust, Elizabeth Robbins-Cole,
Maggie Donahue, Kelly Rawson, and Drew Donahue
Chalice Bearers Margaret Blackwell, Al Bornemann, Adams Carroll,
David Hamlin, Meg Harris, and Joanna Horobin
Lay Readers Paul Merry and Becky Hamlin
Ushers David Boghosian, Giles Boland, Tim Phillips,
Calvin Place, Bill Wiberg, and Paul Zusky

#### Intercessions from the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Parishes of the Alewife Deanery
Christ Church, Cambridge
St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge
St. James' Church, Cambridge
St. Peter's Church, Cambridge
Diocesan Disciplinary Board



## **About the Readings**

From Preparing for Sunday <a href="http://standrewswellesley.org/worship">http://standrewswellesley.org/worship</a> reading.html

**Isaiah 35:1-10** Chapter 35 is a hymn of praise to God for Zion's restoration. The lord will lead the people in a new exodus out of Babylon through the wilderness. Instead of being a place of trial and suffering, the desert will resemble paradise. The lord's coming will bring salvation and wholeness, especially to those who suffer in body or spirit. They will all be restored to Zion and worship there as the culminating act of God's redemptive work. After the actual return and its disappointments, this passage was easily taken to describe the coming of the Messiah. The highway imagery is typically from Isaiah and graphically illustrates the call to journey into Zion, God's kingdom.

Psalm 146:4-9 Psalms 146–150 all begin with the shout "Hallelujah!" (meaning "Praise the lord!"). They, along with Psalm 145, were part of daily morning prayers in the synagogue. The psalm calls for an unwavering trust in the lord's goodness, power and sovereign reign in the midst of outwardly dark and painful conditions. The psalmist is thankful that Yahweh is a God who cares for all who are most neglected by society.

**James 5:7-10** This short reading from James centers upon the need for patience in awaiting "the coming of the lord" (v. 5). The early Church seems to have expected the lord's return within the span of the first generation of believers and, as time went on, had to deal with the apparent delay. In contrast to the unbelieving rich, Christians have reason to look forward to his coming. They must, however, exercise self-restraint, as does the farmer waiting for the harvest. The imminence of judgment also colors the admonition against grumbling. A second exhortation to patience under persecution is based on the example of the prophets who often proclaimed God's message amidst the darkest circumstances.

Matthew 11:2-11 Jesus' words and works challenge people to a decision about the person of Jesus himself. Matthew, speaking for the Church, identifies Jesus as "the Messiah" (v. 2). John the Baptist asks if Jesus is indeed the "one who is to come" whom John announced. Jesus answers indirectly by referring to his own words and deeds, which point to God's action revealed through Jesus. Such miracles are not proofs but signs, for one

may witness a miracle and react with doubt or rejection depending upon how one understands its significance. Jesus then gives his own understanding of John's role. He points to John's fierce independence and austerity. He was neither pliant nor fashionable, but rather the forerunner and thus the returned Elijah. Despite his preeminent position among the prophets, John was never a disciple of Jesus. He stands only upon the threshold of the kingdom.



## **Notices & Announcements**

Newcomers and visitors: We extend a warm welcome to those who are new in our community. Please fill out one of the welcome cards in the narthex (foyer) and hand it to a greeter for a fuller welcome!

#### Advent Lessons & Carols

Join us for Advent Lessons & Carols, today, December 11 at 5pm. It is a time to contemplate the great mystery of the season we have entered into, a time to still our busy minds and bodies as we listen to Bible readings and anthems of hope and faith in a candlelight service. There will be a reception immediately following. Come and bring your friends and neighbors. — Wardie Mannix

• wardiemannix@gmail.com

## In Memoriam: Patricia Jane Conroy Dwight

I regret to inform you of the death of a longtime St. Andrew's parishioner, Patricia Jane Conroy Dwight. Please pray for the repose of Pat's soul and for the comfort of her family. A funeral service will be held on **Monday**, **December 12**, at **11:30am** at St. Andrew's. All are invited to take part in giving thanks for Pat's life. — Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole

• adrian@standrewswellesley.org

# 9am Christian Learning Series Join us today, December 11 at 9am in Room 2 when two spiritual directors from Bethany House of Prayer will lead us in an Advent meditation: *A Graceful Silence*.

- Rev. Margaret Schwarzer
- margaret@standrewswellesley.org

#### Mitten Tree

The St. Andrew's mitten tree is in the parish hall. Please bring new hats, gloves, and mittens for those in need this winter.

- Debbie Osborn
- debbieosborn@verizon.net

#### Blue Christmas Service

Sometimes, Advent and Christmas are full of peace and soulful satisfaction; in other years, we may find ourselves in the midst of loss, disappointment, worry, or illness. If you or someone you love has had hardships this year, or if you are longing for a chance to make room for the Spirit of God at a time of struggle or loss, please join us on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30pm in the Children's Chapel for a Blue Christmas Service. We will gather with solemn, gentle silence, a spoken service, and the opportunity for each of us to silently light candles and kindle a prayer or a hope for the year that is past, and the year that is ahead. We will rest in the promise of Christmas, remembering that even in times of sorrow, God's love and grace can find us and support us.

- Rev. Margaret Schwarzer
- margaret@standrewswellesley.org

#### Bible Circle Reminder

Bible Circle will meet on **Tuesday**, **December 13** at **10:30am**, in the **Harvey Room**, and **Wednesday**, **December 14 at 7:30pm** in **Room 2.** (On Wednesday night we start ½ hour later than usual to accommodate our Blue Christmas Service.) Margaret Schwarzer will lead the discussions. The title for this year is: *Reflecting on Epistles: The Letter to the Hebrews and the Letter of Paul to Philemon*. We will read and discuss chapters 5 and 6 of the letter to the Hebrews. We hope that you can come. Please bring your Bible! — Margarethe Kulke • mnbkulke@verizon.net

#### Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

All children and youth are invited to join in the 2016 St. Andrew's Christmas pageant: Rehearsals are as follows:

- Today, December 11, 11:15am: Rehearsal for speaking roles
- Saturday, December 17, 9:40am to 12pm: Rehearsal for all participants
- Sunday, December 18, 9am: Participants gather for 10am pageant.
- Amanda Kern
- amanda@standrewswellesley.org

## 5pm Christmas Eve Intergenerational Choir

The Intergenerational Choir is an opportunity to make your Christmas Eve at St. Andrew's even more special by singing in the choir with your family and friends!

To participate, please pick up music posted outside my office and send me an email. — Amanda Kern

- <u>amanda@standrewswellesley.org</u>. Important dates:
- Thursday, December 22: 6-7:30pm
   Intergenerational Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary. Pizza supper after rehearsal!
- Saturday, December 24: 4pm
   Meet in the choir room for warm-ups and a final rehearsal. The choir sings at the 5pm service.

## Advent Book Drive: Support St. Stephen's

This year, our Advent church school outreach project is a book drive for the Blackstone Elementary School library, which is run by volunteers from St. Stephen's in Boston, our sister parish. The Blackstone library has a specific wish list of new, hardcover titles to stock its shelves—check the e-Pistle for a link to the Amazon list or visit <a href="https://www.tinyURL.com/BlackstoneLibrary2016">www.tinyURL.com/BlackstoneLibrary2016</a>. Books can be delivered to my office.

- Rev. Catherine Healy
- <u>catherine@standrewswellesley.org</u>

#### Note from the Treasurer's Office

Please help us end the year on a positive note by **paying your 2016 pledge before December 31, 2016.** If you have any questions contact Ruth Hubert at 781/235-7310 or <a href="mailto:ruth@standrewswellesley.org">ruth@standrewswellesley.org</a>. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

#### Online Giving Now Available

Electronic giving is now offered on our website under the GIVE tab. You may choose your checking account, savings account, or credit card to make pledge payments (one-time or recurring) or special contributions (e.g., memorial flowers, outreach). Creating a profile will only take a moment, and you will be able to make changes to your donations and view and print your online donation history.

Lynda Sperry • <u>lynda.sperry@verizon.net</u>

#### **Donate Winter Coats**

Coats for Kids, our annual collection of gently used winter coats for children and adults, has begun. All sizes are needed, but especially Pre-K and adult XL sizes. Drop them off in the red bin marked "Coats for Kids" in the corridor outside the parish offices.

- Joanna Horobin
- joannahorobin@gmail.com

#### Reading Mavens

The Paris Wife by Pauline McClain is Reading Mavens book for the Monday, January 9 meeting in the Harvey Room at 7pm. The Paris Wife is a 2011 novel, which became a New York Times Bestseller. It is a fictionalized account of Ernest Hemingway's marriage to Hadley Richardson, the first of his four wives.

The February book—for the meeting of Monday, February 5, 2017—is Caroline Kennedy's inspiring, A Patriot's Handbook: Songs, Poems, Stories and Speeches Celebrating the Land We Love. It includes works from John F. Kennedy, Ansel Adams, Robert Frost, Herman Melville, Huddie Ledbetter, W.E.B. Du Bois, Alice Walker and more. For details about Reading Mavens, please contact Charlene Smith • charlenesmithwriter@gmail.com

#### Prayer Request Cards

In your pew, you will find yellow cards that you can use to make a public or private prayer request. Please place these cards in the offering plate or give them to a member of the clergy. — Rev. Catherine Healy

• <u>catherine@standrewswellesley.org</u>

#### Illness and Off-Hour Emergencies

The clergy are always available to assist you. Please email or call the clergy if you or a member of your family expects to be in the hospital and wishes to be visited. Also, please let us know of names that should be added to our prayer list. Our prayers and concerns are with all those in need.

- Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole 603/831-4938
- adrian@standrewswellesley.org

#### Name Tags

Name tags are a great way to get to know folks and help everyone feel welcome. The membership committee offers lovely, reusable magnetic name tags for all members. If you would like a new or replacement name tag, please contact Jane Andrews at <a href="mailto:jmlandrews@gmail.com">jmlandrews@gmail.com</a> or at 781/431-1372.

#### Weekly Deadlines

Announcements and anything else to be added to the leaflet or e-Pistle are due by **Tuesday at noon**. Please consider limiting your announcement to 50 to 100 words.

- Katharine Clark
- kate@standrewswellesley.org

#### Men's Book Club

Our next meeting is **Wednesday**, **February 8**, **at 7:30pm in the Harvey Room**. We'll discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson. Join us for one session or for the whole season. Snacks are served. —Michael Vanin

• mcvanin1@gmail.com

#### Revised Parish By-Laws Approved

The Standing Committee has approved a revised set of our parish by-laws. Three provisions were added/deleted in the approved version:

- Added language that would prevent two or more members of the same household or family from serving concurrently on the vestry.
- Deleted language that would allow the rector to name a non-voting, ex-officio member to the vestry for a one-year term. Since all vestry meetings are open to the parish, this language was not necessary to allow the rector to ask parishioners to participate in vestry discussions.
- Added language stating that any formal organizations connected to the parish (e.g., a St. Andrew's food pantry serving the community) must have charters declaring their purposes, defining their members, and describing their scope of action. While we currently do not have any such organizations, it was prudent to add this language, in case there are any changes in the future.

We will need to re-approve our revised parish by-laws at the **Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2017**. Please contact me with any questions. — Lynda Sperry

• <u>lynda.sperry@verzion.net</u>



#### **Gratitude**

#### Thanksgiving in Action

Many thanks to all our parishioners who generously donated to our outreach partners who help local people in need: the Wellesley Food Pantry and Health Care Without Walls. Our neighbors will be warmer and have food on their table because of your generosity during the past month. Over 20 bags of groceries and housekeeping items were collected for the Food Pantry and many, many socks to help the homeless with diabetes.

A special thank you to Laura Brown MacKinnon, Donna Kell, Margarethe Kulke, Peter Lull, and Cynthia Scott for their support in getting our donations to our partners. The spirit of Thanksgiving was truly present for all of us during November!

#### Holiday Alternative Gift Fair

We offer our gratitude for our very generous parish contributions to the Holiday Alternative Gift Fair, held last Sunday and continuing all through December. Thank you to Cam McCormick for writing the short skit and for her IT skills, and to Ann Johnson for her coordination of the event. Thanks also go to the outreach committee, Donna Kell, Steve Taylor, and to our speedy checkout people: Dell Beggs, Linda Gallo, and Linda Lull.

#### Family Cookies & Carols

We had a wonderful evening of Advent celebration with the children of St. Andrew's at Family Cookies & Carols! Many thanks to the Church School Committee for organizing the event, and to Amanda Kern and Wardie Mannix for their fabulous music.

#### Family Promise Metrowest

We are grateful to the St. Andrew's parishioners who helped to host four adults and ten energetic children from Family Promise Metrowest during their week's stay at Village Church following Thanksgiving. Your gifts of food, time, and attention made a difference! Thank you to: Nancy Braun, Kaitlin Braun, Amanda Curtis, Charlie Curtis, Lily Curtis, Heidi Harper, Carol Jankowski, Peter Lull, Anne Manners, Jen Martin, Karen McAdams, Cam McCormick, Suzanne Nystrom, Caren Parker, Carol Shedd, and Lynda Sperry.

#### Little Angels' Gift Shop

The youngest members of our congregation enjoyed doing their Christmas shopping at the Little Angels' Gift Shop! The idea and original implementation of a children's Christmas shopping center was Jeanne Nilson's, 12 years ago. This year, her daughter, Jennifer, her daughter-in-law Christine, and her grandchildren were willing organizers and helpers, along with Margaret Abrahamson, Janet Flett, Gabrielle Lazaro, Anne Manners, Karen Pekowitz, Clarise Pikulik, Dot Reed, Harriet Thompson, and Beverly Wood. The youth group workers who also wrapped a lot of presents were: Connor Daws, Christiaan Eikeboom, Amelia Houghton, Katherine Roer, and Caroline Rogers.

The next men's book club will be Wednesday, February 8th when we will discuss: The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson.

## Vestry

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## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Staff

**Rector** The Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole adrian@standrewswellesley.org

Associate Rector for Adult Formation and Membership

The Rev. Margaret Schwarzer margaret@standrewswellesley.org

**Assistant Rector for Youth and Family** 

catherine@standrewswellesley.org The Rev. Catherine Healy

Pastoral Associate The Rev. Karen Vickers Budney revkar7@comcast.net

Parish Administrator Katharine L. Clark kate@standrewswellesley.org

**Music Minister** Helen Ward Mannix

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**Director of Youth Choirs** Amanda Kern

**Sexton** Steve Killeen

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#### Calendar

- The **Holy Eucharist** is celebrated on Sundays at 8am, 10am, and 5pm. The **Holy Eucharist** is also celebrated every Wednesday at 7:30am. We offer healing prayer at this service. **Silent Contemplative Prayer** is offered weekdays at 8:45am.
- Senior Choir has rehearsal Thursday evenings at 7:30pm, and Sundays at 9am; Junior Choir also has rehearsal Sundays at 9am.
- **Parish Office** hours are Monday through Thursday, 9am to 5pm, and Friday, 9am to 12pm.
- **12-Step Programs** Al-Anon, Tuesdays, 7:30pm; Men's AA, Wednesdays, 8pm; Women's AA, Thursdays, 7pm; Emotions Anonymous, Saturdays, 9:30am; Sober Sisters, Saturdays, 10:30am.

#### Sunday, December 11

9am Christian Learning Series9:45am Kids' Place, Church School, and Rite-1311:15am Pageant Rehearsal5pm Advent Lessons & Carols6pm Candlelight Reception

#### Monday, December 12

11:30am Patricia Dwight Service

#### Tuesday, December 13

9:15am Pastoral Care Team Meeting10:30am Bible Circle7pm Bible Circle7:30pm Outreach Meeting

#### Wednesday, December 14

6:30pm Blue Christmas Service

#### Thursday, December 15

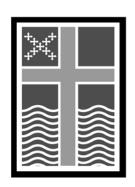
11am Holy Eucharist at North Hill

#### Saturday, December 17

10am Pageant Rehearsal

#### Sunday, December 18

5pm Confirmation Prep 6:45pm-8pm High School Youth Group



## ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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