



**ST. ANDREW'S**  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

*St. Andrew's is dedicated to supporting your spiritual life. Spirituality is how we are in relationship to God, to other people, to the world around us, and to ourselves.*

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### **December 21, 2025**

*We are livestreaming the 10am service.*

Prelude *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen (It is a rose sprouting)* Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Processional Hymn 56 "O come, O come Emmanuel" vs.1, 6-8 *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever! Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Savior of all.

*People* 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 S102 (front section of hymnal) 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* Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with

child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Richard Clark

*The congregation is encouraged to sing the psalm.*



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading <sup>1</sup>Joseph like a <sup>1</sup>flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are en<sup>1</sup>throned up<sup>1</sup>on the <sup>1</sup>cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, <sup>1</sup>Benjamin, and Ma<sup>1</sup>nasseh, \*  
stir up your <sup>1</sup>strength and <sup>1</sup>come to <sup>1</sup>help us.
- 3 Restore us, O <sup>1</sup>God of <sup>1</sup>hosts; \*  
show the light of your <sup>1</sup>countenance, and <sup>1</sup>we shall be <sup>1</sup>saved.
- 4 O LORD <sup>1</sup>God of <sup>1</sup>hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
de<sup>1</sup>spite the <sup>1</sup>prayers of your <sup>1</sup>people?

- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

## Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ

our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn 81 "Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming"

*Es ist ein Ros*

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be

with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just

when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord

through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus"

Clergy      The Gospel of the Lord.

People      Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Margaret Schwarzer

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 *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen*

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

arranged by Donald Cashmore (1926-2013)

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!*

*Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.*

*It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.*

*The Rose, the stem, of Jesse, by prophets once foretold,*

*Mary alone has brought us the child promised of old.*

*By God's eternal power the maid has borne the infant at this, the midnight hour.*

*The flower so small and slender shines thro' with radiance bright;*

*To us so sweet and tender dispels the darkest night.*

*True Man with God's true power helps us from all our suffering,*

*Saves us from death's dark hour.*

Doxology Hymn 380 "Praise God from whom all blessings flow" *Old 100th*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Eucharistic Prayer B *BCP p. 367*

S129 Sanctus (front section of hymnal) *Robert Powell (b. 1932)*

Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*All are welcome to receive communion. Ushers will direct the congregation.  
Gluten free wafers are available.*

S 156 Fraction Anthem (front section of hymnal) *Christ our Passover*  
*Gerald Near (b.1942)*

Communion Anthem *Mary Had a Baby* *African-American spiritual*

Communion Hymn 266 "Nova, nova" *Nova, nova*

Thanksgiving after Communion *BCP p. 365*

Blessing

Recessional Hymn 57 "Lo! he comes with clouds descending" *Helmsley*

Dismissal

*Clergy* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich (Let us together praise our God)*  
*J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

**Copyright: Music reprinted and streamed with permission  
under OneLicense #A-736732. All rights reserved.**

**Please join us after the service for coffee hour.**

## How to use your smartphone to connect to the listening system



We recently installed *ListenWiFi* for parishioners who use hearing aids with Bluetooth capabilities. Download the *ListenWiFi* app from your app store. Then follow the instructions at the ushers table for how to connect your app to the church system.



## If this is your first time at St. Andrew's, Welcome!

We are happy you found us. Please use this QR code to fill out a *seeker information form* or check with a member of our membership committee in the narthex so that our clergy and members of our congregation can welcome you and help you get engaged with our church.



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

*Altar Guild* Becky Hamlin, Debbie Lorenz, Linda McCammond,  
Debbie Monti, Caren Parker, Laura Hewitt Riley,  
Liz Rogers, Pamela Tusiime, and Betsy Veidenheimer  
*Flowers* the flower guild

**Serving at 8am**

*Lay Eucharistic Minister* Wendy Haering  
*Ushers* Mark Benjamin and Ken Graves

**Serving at 10am**

*Acolytes* Crucifer, Katherine Svedlund; Torch, Emmy Svedlund; and Torch, Abby Dietz  
*Broadcast Tech Volunteer* Rob Brandt  
*Greeters* Sandra Rigney and Karen Metcalf  
*Lay Eucharistic Ministers* Joe Hamilton, Suzy Littlefield,  
Peter Mahoney, and Paul Shackford  
*Readers* Michael Kemp and Debby Rempis  
*Ushers* David Boghosian, Eric Cigan, Lisa Howe, and David Osborn

**Intercessions from the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**

*Churches of the Alewife Deanery*  
Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard, Cambridge  
Lutheran Episcopal Chaplaincy at Mass. Institute of Technology, Cambridge  
The Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge  
Hospital Chaplaincies and Healthcare Chaplains



# Icon of the Week

## Holy Family Byzantine

The main reason Orthodox Iconography is more about imitation than innovation is to prevent heretical concepts from entering the Church, since heresy can just as much be depicted in icons as written in books or proclaimed from the pulpit. One such innovation in Orthodox iconography that began in America is the depiction of the “Holy Family,” showing Christ either in the arms of both St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary, or in the arms of St. Joseph alone. While such depictions may seem innocent, they in fact, display a lack of attention to essential matters of Orthodox doctrine.

In traditional Orthodox iconography, the Christ Child is properly portrayed, not alone with St. Joseph, but rather alone with his Mother, thereby stressing the dogma that he is “a son without a father, who was begotten of the Father without a mother before the ages.”

For example, in the Icon of the Nativity of Christ, Professor Constantine Cavarnos comments, “He is not shown at the central part of the composition, like the Theotokos (Mother of God) and the Child, but away, at a corner, in order to emphasize the Scriptural account and the teaching of the church that Christ was born of a Virgin.” Leonid Ouspensky and Vladimir Lossky, in their pivotal work on iconographic theory, make a similar observation: “Another detail emphasizes that in the Nativity of Christ ‘the order of nature is vanquished’ — this is Joseph. He is not part of the central group of the Child and His Mother; he is not the father and is emphatically separated from this group.” In icons with similar themes, Orthodox iconology does not understand St. Joseph to be the head of some sort of “Holy Family”; rather, he is seen as the providentially ordained guardian of the Theotokos and her Divine Child. His humble acceptance and virtuous fulfillment of this role are precisely the points of focus in his veneration by the Orthodox Church.





# Christmas & Epiphany Services

## **Christmas Eve Services**    **Wednesday, December 24**    *All services will be broadcast*

### **Children's Service**

**at 3pm**

This half-hour service is aimed at young children. We sing carols, hear the Christmas story, and have a children's homily (no Holy Communion).

### **Family Eucharist**

**at 5pm**

This hour-long Holy Communion service is the most well attended Christmas Eve service at St. Andrew's. The service ends with the church darkened and everyone holding a candle as we sing "Silent Night."

### **Holy Eucharist**

**Choral Service at 10pm**

This is a traditional service with communion, carols, a sermon, and choral anthems. A 20-minute musical prelude precedes the hour-long service with the full choir and a string quartet.

## **Christmas Day Services**    **Thursday, December 25**

### **Barn Service    at 9am**

A service of carols, readings, and prayers among the hay bales, and animals. At the red Hunnewell Barn on Washington St. **Register on Realm; space is limited.**

### **Church Service    at 10am**

A relaxed one hour service with communion, Christmas carols, and a short homily.

## **Epiphany Fireside Service & Dinner**    **Sunday, January 4, at 5pm**

This Holy Communion service—in the parish hall with a roaring fire—is attended by an intergenerational congregation. We hear a short Epiphany homily and sing Epiphany hymns followed by dinner.



# Notices and Announcements

*Note: all staff email addresses are on the second to last page.*

*Deadline for materials is noon on Tuesdays for both the bulletin and the e-Pistle.*

## Intergenerational Choir

Please join us in leading hymns **at the 5pm Family Eucharist on Christmas Eve**. The intergenerational choir will meet **at 3:45pm before the service on Christmas Eve in the choir room** to review the hymns. During the service we will help to lead the congregation from the choir loft at the front of the church. All ages are welcome, and entire families are strongly encouraged! Please see or [email Benedict Hensley](#) if you can join us.

## Year End Donations

Looking towards year end, please observe the following best practices to **fulfil your 2025 pledge or contribute toward your 2026 pledge** in this calendar year:

- **In-person** Drop in the collection plate **by Sunday, December 28** or at the church mailbox outside 79 Denton Road by noon on **Wednesday, December 31**.
- **Realm** If paying through Realm, please process your request **by Friday, December 26**. Payments submitted online can take 48 hours to be received and will not be credited to your 2025 statement if received in 2026.

**For your 2025 pledge balance**, log in to *Realm* and go to “Giving” where your payments and balance will be listed.

**For 2026**, you should update your automatic payments from 2025 Pledge to 2026 Pledge. If new to *Realm*, you can set up automatic payments within *Realm* specifying the amount and frequency as well as a start and end date to have your pledge payments paid and recorded. Please reach out with questions and thank you for your continued support of St. Andrew’s! —Joanne Butler

## 9am Adult Christian Learning

Last week was our last 9am class for 2025. Join us on **Sunday, January 25**, for the first class of our new term. Attend every class or just the ones that interest you. Meet in the parish hall [or on Zoom](#).

—[Margaret Schwarzer](#)



# Children and Youth

*Please see previous announcements for any intergenerational information.*

## Kids' Place Childcare on Sundays

Kids' Place is for children three and under, or any older child who would prefer to be in nursery care rather than church school, and is open **from 9:45am to 11:45**. Kids' Place will be available **Sunday, December 21**, but will **not** be available on **Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or Sunday, December 28**.

## Church School

There will be **no** classes on **Sunday, December 21 and Sunday, December 28**. Church School will resume on **Sunday, January 4**.

## Rite-13

**Sunday, January 4, at 5pm** Rite-13ers should attend the Epiphany Fireside service **in the parish hall**.

## Confirmation Class

- **January 4 5pm** with attendance at the Epiphany Fireside service **in the parish hall**.
- **January 11 4:30pm** classes will resume.

## Youth Group

- **January 4 5pm** with attendance at the Epiphany Fireside service **in the parish hall**.
- **January 11 5:45pm** class will resume.

## Children's Choir

There will be no rehearsals until **Thursday, January 8**. See you then.





# Gratitude

Thank you to all the children, youth, families, and volunteers whose enthusiasm and dedication made our Christmas pageant such a joyful celebration for our whole community. We are deeply grateful for your time, energy, and heartfelt participation throughout this busy and meaningful season. Also, thank you to the coffee hour hosts who worked doubly hard to provide plenty of snacks for the youngest members of our congregation.

Thank you to our children, youth, families, teachers, and volunteers for filling this church school year with curiosity, kindness, and a spirit of joyful learning. Your presence, dedication, and care have shaped a community where faith is nurtured, friendships grow, and God's love is felt in all we do—thank you for making this year such a blessing.



# Vestry

---

- Any member of the vestry can be emailed at their ministry address. All addresses are on our website: <https://standrewswellesley.org/about/vestry/>

**Adult Formation** Carrie Hawley

**Clerk** Tad Heuer

**Communications** Betsy Veidenheimer

**Fellowship** Sarah Harris

**Finance** Sam Burns

**Human Resources** Laurin Baldwin

**Membership** Amanda Curtis

**Outreach** Herb Manning

**Property** Sam Schaefer

**Stewardship** Madison Riley

**Treasurer** Joe Hamilton

**Wardens** Tom Faust  
Ginny Snow

**Worship** Erica Gelser

**Youth Formation** Pamela Grossetti

## Staff

---

- In an emergency, please contact Adrian on his cell phone, 603/831-4938. Additional clergy cell phone numbers are: Margaret Schwarzer, 617/733-0661, and Sarah Robbins-Cole, 603/831-4711.
- The clergy are available to assist you if you email or call them if you or a member of your family expects to be in the hospital and wishes to be visited.
- Please let the clergy know of names that should be added to our prayer list.

**Rector** Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole

[adrian@standrewswellesley.org](mailto:adrian@standrewswellesley.org)

**Associate Rector for Adult Formation and Membership**

Rev. Margaret Schwarzer

[margaret@standrewswellesley.org](mailto:margaret@standrewswellesley.org)

**Associate Rector for Youth & Family**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Robbins-Cole

[sarah@standrewswellesley.org](mailto:sarah@standrewswellesley.org)

**Pastoral Associate** Rev. Karen Vickers Budney

[revkar7@comcast.net](mailto:revkar7@comcast.net)

**Parish Administrator** Katharine L. Clark

[kate@standrewswellesley.org](mailto:kate@standrewswellesley.org)

**Financial Administrator** Joanne Butler

[joanne@standrewswellesley.org](mailto:joanne@standrewswellesley.org)

**Music Minister** Helen Ward Mannix

[wardie@standrewswellesley.org](mailto:wardie@standrewswellesley.org)

**Children's Choir Director** Benedict Hensley

[benedict@standrewswellesley.org](mailto:benedict@standrewswellesley.org)

**Christian Learning Coordinator** Susan Jackson

[susan@standrewswellesley.org](mailto:susan@standrewswellesley.org)

**Sexton** Steve Killeen

[steve@standrewswellesley.org](mailto:steve@standrewswellesley.org)

**Assistant Sexton** Bill Clover

# Weekly Calendar

---

- The **Holy Eucharist** is celebrated on **Sundays at 8am, 10am** (*also online*) and **5pm**. **Morning Prayer** is offered online **Monday through Thursday at 8:30am** on our website, our YouTube Channel (*use the QR code for a link to our YouTube channel*), and on Facebook.
  - **Parish office hours** are **Monday through Thursday, 9am to 4pm** (the doors are locked, please ring the intercom) and **Friday, 9am to noon** (church access by appointment) unless otherwise announced. **Tuesday at noon is the deadline for all materials** for the bulletin, the e-Pistle, or any email for the following Sunday.
  - **12-Step Programs** Men's AA, Wednesdays at 8pm; Women's AA, Thursdays at 7pm; Emotions Anonymous, Saturdays at 9:30am; Sober Sisters AA, Saturdays at 10:30am.
- 



---

## Regular meetings and gatherings, *unless otherwise announced below*

**Sundays** • 9am adult Christian learning • 9:45am Kids' Place • 9:45am church school  
• 11am coffee hour • 4:30pm confirmation • 4:30pm Rite-13 • 5:45pm youth group  
**Thursdays** • 12pm weekly beginner's Bible study • 5pm children's choir  
• 7:30pm senior choir  
**First and third Saturdays at 8am** • men's Bible study  
**Second Tuesdays at 11am and second Wednesdays at 7pm** • open Bible study

---

### Sunday, December 21

9am **NO** Christian learning  
9:45am **NO** church school  
4:30 **NO** Rite-13 or Confirmation class  
**NO** 5pm service  
5:45pm **NO** youth group

### Wednesday, December 24

3pm The Nativity of Our Lord children's service  
5pm Family Holy Eucharist  
9pm senior choir rehearsal  
10pm Festival Choral Holy Eucharist

### Thursday, December 25

*Parish office closed*  
**NO** Bible study or choir practices  
9am Christmas Day barn service  
10am Christmas Day church service

### Sunday, December 28

9am **NO** Christian learning  
9:45am **NO** Kid's Place or church school  
4:30 **NO** Rite-13 or Confirmation class  
**NO** 5pm service  
5:45pm **NO** youth group