

The Adoration of the Shepherds El Greco, 1596.

Christmas Eve

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

24 December 2023

10:30 PM

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church & School Houston, Texas

VOLUNTARIES

Noël nouvelet Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Still, still/In the Bleak Midwinter French carol, arr. Cater Polish carol, arr.. Swanson German carol/Gustav Holst, arr. Slavens

THE WORD OF GOD

The Introit

Sung by the choir.

The Infant King

Sing lullaby, lullaby baby, now reclining, sing lullaby.

Hush, do not wake the infant king,

Angels are watching, stars are shining over the place where he is lying.

Sing lullaby.

Sing lullaby, lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, sing lullaby.

Hush, do not wake the infant king,

Soon will come sorrows with the morning, soon will come bitter grief and weeping.

Sing lullaby.

Sing lullaby, lullaby baby, now a-dozing, sing lullaby.

Hush, do not wake the infant king,

Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, then in the grave, at last reposing.

Sing lullaby.

Sing lullaby, lullaby, is the babe awaking? Sing lullaby.

Hush, do not wake the infant king,

Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning, conquering death, its bondage breaking.

Sing lullaby.

Words: Sabine Baring-Gould Music: Frederick Teardo

All stand and sing.



Words: John Frances Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others

Music: Adeste fideles, present from of melody att. John Frances Wade (1711-1786); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

All standing, the Priest says

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

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

The Priest says

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

A Hymn of Praise

Gloria



The Collect of the Day

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

All sit.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness-on them light has shined.

You 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.

For 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.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For 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.

His 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.

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

At the Gradual, Psalm 98

Alan Gray

Sung by the choir to Anglican chant. The translation is that of Miles Coverdale.

- 1 O sing unto the Lord a new song: for he hath done marvellous things.
- 2 With his own right hand, and with his holy arm: hath he gotten himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord declared his salvation:

his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

- 4 He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel: and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.
- 5 Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands: sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
- 6 Praise the Lord upon the harp: sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.
- 7 With trumpets also and shawms: O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is: the round world, and they that dwell therein.
- 9 Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord: for he is come to judge the earth.
- 10 With righteousness shall he judge the world: and the people with equity.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. World without end. Amen.

The Second Reading

Titus 2: 11-14

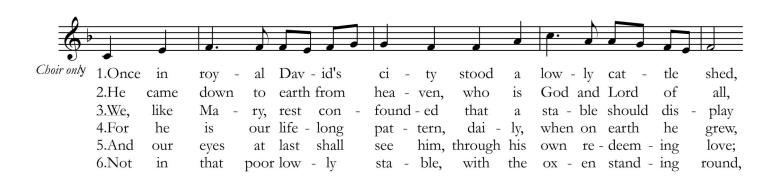
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

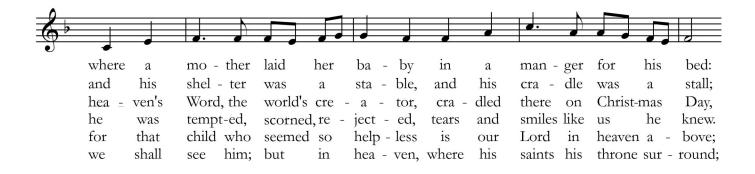
Reader The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

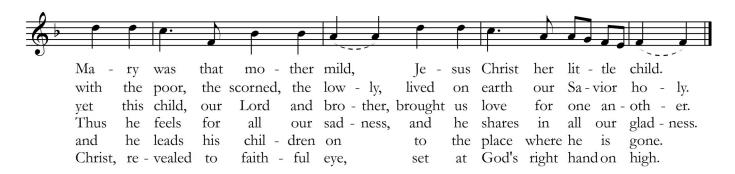
At the Sequence, a Hymn

Irby

All stand and sing.







Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895); st. 3 James Waring McCrady (b.1938). Music: *Irby*, Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876), harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child

lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

In Reflection, an Anthem

On Christmas Night

Sung by the choir.

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.

Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad: When from our sin He set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before Your grace, then life and health come in its place; Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night: "Glory to God and peace to men, Now and forevermore. Amen."

Words: Bishop Luke Wadding, 1684 Music: Sussex Carol, arr. Philip Ledger

The Homily

All sit.

The Rev. James M.L. Grace

The Nicene Creed

All stand and together say

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.

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, "Glorious Lord, grant us your peace."

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil.

Glorious Lord, grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

Glorious Lord, grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you.

Glorious Lord, grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to yourself. May all the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence.

Glorious Lord, grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to the anxious, the depressed, the addicted, and to the broken. May they see their value in your heavenly

kingdom. We pray for those on our parish prayer list. We pray for St. Andrew's School; our teachers, staff members, students, and families.

Glorious Lord, grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection. We pray for those who have died.

Glorious Lord, grant us your peace.

The Priest adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

The Priest says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Priest and People

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

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

All stand.

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Giving to St. Andrew's

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



At the Offertory, an Anthem

Sung by the choir.

All Bells in Paradise

Deep in the cold of winter,

Darkness and silence were eve'rywhere;

Softly and clearly, there came through the stillness a wonderful sound,

A wonderful sound to hear.

All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth, a heavenly King.
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sing.

Lost in awe and wonder,
Doubting I asked what this sign may be;
Christ, our Messiah, revealed in a stable,
A marvelous sight, a marvelous sight to see.

He comes down in peace,
A child in humility,
The keys to his kingdom belong to the poor;
Before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures,
Gold, incense, and myrrh.

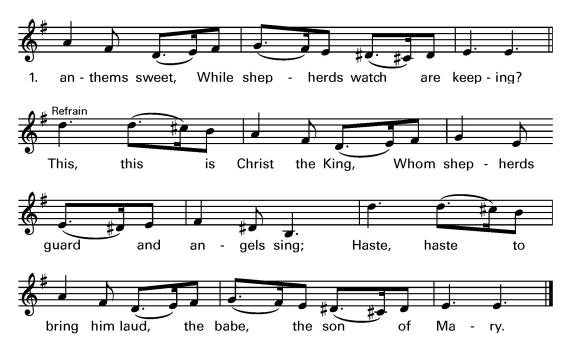
Words & Music: John Rutter

At the Presentation, a Hymn

Greensleeves

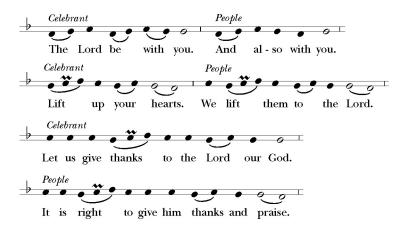
All stand and sing as the elements and offering are brought forward.





The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

The Priest proceeds

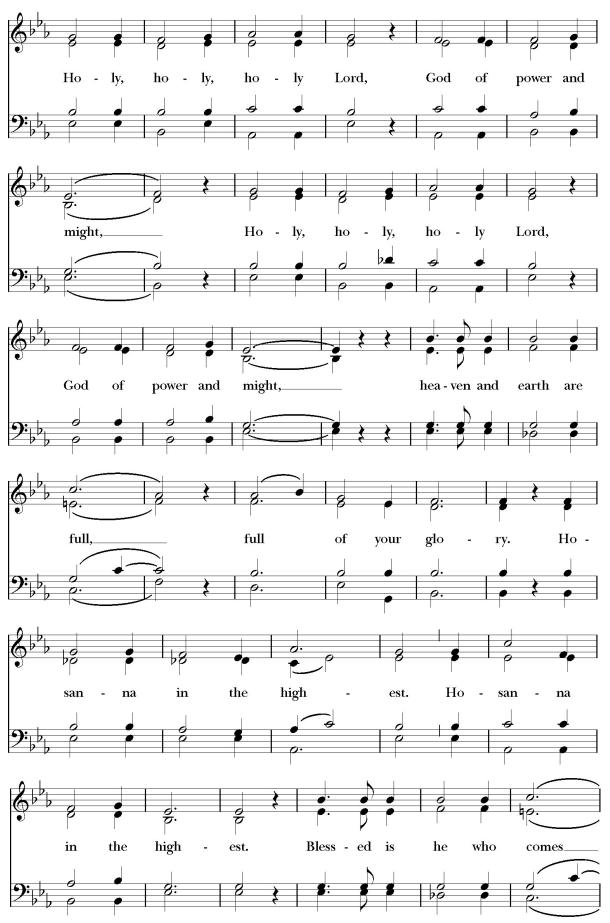


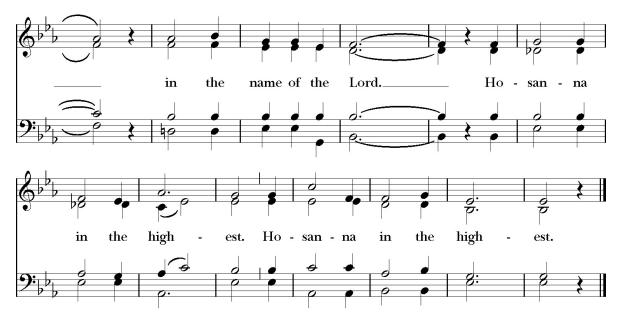
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

Sanctus et Benedictus Schubert





The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

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 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 Celebrant then continues

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

People and Celebrant

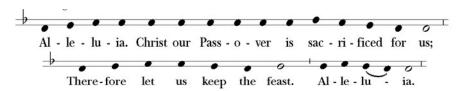
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

Ambrosian Chant



The Celebrant says

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.

Agnus Dei Schubert



The Sharing of Communion

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

At the Distribution, a Reflection

Es ist ein Ros

German carol, arr. Burton

And snow falls down on me.

Peace on earth.

The night is dark and soft.

Peace on earth.

The lights that sparkle in the square,

The smoke the lingers in the air.

Peace on earth.

And grace falls down on me.

Peace on earth.

The dark will turn aside.

Peace on earth.

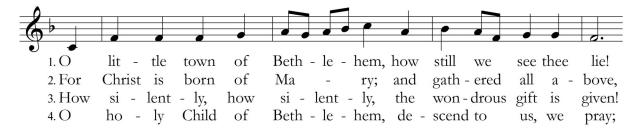
The fires that burn in ev'ry hearth

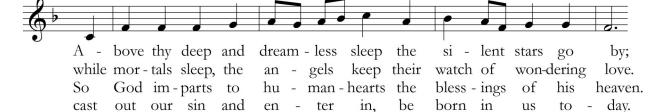
Do sing out praise of Christmas past.

Peace on earth.

Hear them singing. Peace on earth.

Words & Music: Errollyn Wallen









Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: Forest Green, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Post-Communion Prayer

All stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People Holy God,

you came among us as a child in a manger, we thank you for coming among us still in bread and wine. Send us out into the world to proclaim the good news of great joy that a savior has been born for us, your

Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit are one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn in Reflection Stille Nacht

After the candles have been lit, please kneel as we sing.



Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Music: Stille Nacht, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

The Blessing

Congregation remains kneeling.

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

In Procession, a Hymn

Mendelssohn

All stand and sing. Candles are extinguished at this time.



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H.Cummings (1831-1915)

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Paean on Divinum Mysterium

John Cook

GUEST MUSICIANS

Stephanie Gustafson, *harp* Melisa Gultan, Abigail Padilla, & Kiana Semiei, *soprano* Ethan Marfil & Jason Oquendo, *tenor*

Support for today's guest musicians is provided by David & Mary Rennie in thanksgiving for the birth of Christ, and in memory of Elizabeth Yeung Brown, sister of Mary Rennie.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Elaine "Sissy" Massey by Cathey Harrison
The Rev. Haskin V Little and the Rev. John E. Binford by John Lanier
Harry Baxter, Jackie Baxter, Dick Baxter, and Ray Wallace by Kipp Wallace Baxter
Our departed loved ones by Paul and Laurie Hardwick
Xian Biao Zhang by the Rev. Clint Brown and Cavan Zhang
Sara Lewis by Pam Lewis
Victoria Conti by Carrie Conti

Jean Lykes Grace and R. Randall Grace, Jr. by the Rev. Jimmy and Marla Grace
Mary Frances and Bill Jarrett, Martha and Forrest Liger by Alli Jarrett and Karin Farquhar
Lynnae Thompson by Craig Thompson
Betty and Ernest F. Simpson, and Gertie Williams by Nancy and Shannon Simpson

GIVEN IN THANKSGIVING FOR

Family and Friends by Cathey Harrison
The St. Andrew's Staff by the Rev. Clint Brown and Cavan Zhang
Our many blessings by Paul and Laurie Hardwick
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church by the Rev. Jimmy and Marla Grace
Diane and Win Farquhar, Ann Weeks, Nancy and Tony Jarrett by Alli Jarrett and Karin Farquhar
J.D. and Michael Alexander by John and Julie Alexander
Mr. John Kirk and the Music Ministry of St. Andrew's in the Heights
by Stacy and Kay Lynn Jenkins
The grandchildren of Lynnae Thompson, Elle Williams, Parker and Preston Simmons
by Craig Thompson
Gary Burton by Diana Burton

GIVEN IN HONOR OF

St. Andrew's by Stephanie Wells

Dr. Michael J. King by Ken and Patti Anderle



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

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The Reverend Clint Brown, Associate Rector for Youth & Adult Formation

The Reverend Jeff Bohanski, Assistant Rector

The Reverend Canon Joann Saylors, Assisting Priest

The Reverend Francene Young, Assisting Priest

The Reverend Bob Merrill, Assisting Priest

Carrie Conti, Office Manager

John Kirk, Director of Music & Organist

Lisa Puccio, Coordinator of Family Formation & Special Needs Ministry

Jamie Martin-Currie, Head of School

Frank Guevara, Facilities Manager

Byron Pineda, Sexton

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