

St. ANDREW'S CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2015



**5802 Roland Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21210-1398
410-435-9470 www.saintandrewscc.org**

THE REV. ERNEST R. D. SMART, *Pastor*

Patricia McKewen Amato, *Music Director*

Sunday, December 27, 2015

9:00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE: And the Glory of the Lord, MESSIAH, G.F. Handel

THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God has called us to this place of worship, away from the tinsel
and superficial

**People: into the light and out of the darkness of so much of our
experience,**

Pastor: to acknowledge God's presence with us in surprising and
unexpected ways.

**All: Let us come, in hope and joy, and let us worship Almighty
God.**

*CAROL 148 O Come, All Ye Faithful Adeste Fideles

CALL TO PRAYER, PRAYER, AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Lord Jesus Christ, we remember today how You came into our world, and
found no welcome; how, from the very beginning, You were shut out, no room for
You even in the inn.**

**Forgive us that we are sometimes guilty of shutting You out in turn, and
failing to make room for You in so many areas of our lives. Despite our words of
faith and commitment, we turn our back on You when we would rather not face
Your challenge.**

**Forgive us, and help us to make room for You, not just this Christmas
but always. Teach us to give You not merely a token place in our hearts, but to
put You at the very center of our lives. Come now, and make Your home within
us, by Your grace. Amen.**

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PROMISE OF NEW LIFE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 61:10-62:3

SPECIAL MUSIC: Il est ne, French Carol, arr. Raymond Haan

GOSPEL LESSON St. Matthew 2: 13-23

*CAROL 165 Once in Royal David's City Irby

SERMON: "TAKE TIME TO DREAM" Rev. Ernest Smart

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*CAROL 144

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella, French Carol,
arr. Jeanine Yeager

THE DOXOLOGY

**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.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER AND THE PASTORAL PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Leader: Let us pray . . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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 forever and ever. Amen.

* CAROL 164

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

THE BENEDICTION (Unison)

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

POSTLUDE:

Sussex Carol, English

arr Dale Wood

WELCOME NOTES FOR THIS GRAND AND GLORIOUS THIRD DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

ON THIS FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, we warmly welcome each of you to worship. May the message of Christmas be a blessing for you, your family and friends for the next 362 days.

A LIGHT RECEPTION has been arranged for everyone in the lounge. We continue to thank those who prepare and donate goodies each week.

WE GIVE A SPECIAL AND WARM WELCOME TO Julia Martin Frazier who is providing our special music this morning.

MANH THANKS ALSO TO ALL who contributed to the worship, the music and celebration of Christmas together, not least at our Christmas Eve Service. Along with our good friends at First Christian Church we have been able to spread the blessings of Christmas far and wide.

ERNEST AND ROSEMARY SMART wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone within our Church family and beyond for their cards, gifts, and good wishes over the Christmas season.

ON THIS LAST SUNDAY OF 2015, it is more than appropriate to thank everyone who has contributed so very much to the life, soul and mission of St. Andrew's in so many ways. Most especially we want to thank Patti Amato for her brilliant musical leadership throughout this past year. She is a real blessing to us all.

OUR GUEST PREACHER FOR THE NEXT TWO SUNDAYS, January 3rd and 10th will be our good friend Rev. Dr. George Gray Toole. Let everyone come and give him our customary enthusiastic welcome.

WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR, and may you be blessed with peace, hope, happiness, and good health throughout 2016.

Thought for the Week Ahead:
“Christ has turned all our sunsets into dawn.”
- Clement of Alexandria (c. 150-215 AD)-