

St. ANDREW'S CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016



**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, January 3, 2016

9:00 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE: On Christmas Night SUSSEX CAROL arr. Nancy Raabe

THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: This day our eyes move from manger to the Lord's Table.

People: For there we see God's great love for us displayed for all to see.

Pastor: Let us ponder anew the significance of both and in them what God is accomplishing.

Through prayers and hymns, Scripture read and expounded, and in anticipation of what God will do this hour, let us Worship God. Amen.

*HYMN 173

As With Gladness

Dix

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

O God, it is that time of the year when we make bold declarations of who we shall be in this new year. When we are honest, we see the pattern of last year, when resolutions were made and then faded. We confess our sins to You – the ones others know and the ones only You and we know. remind us, we pray, that at the very point when we confess our sins, You meet them with Your healing forgiveness. So, pardon us, and by Your Holy Spirit, welcome us to the Table to which Christ invites us, there to be renewed and refreshed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PROMISE OF NEW LIFE

Pastor: How welcome are the words that heal us and the love that prompts them!

People: We gratefully recall Jesus' words, "Your sin is forgiven." Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 10:1-6

SPECIAL MUSIC: People Look East BESANCON arr. Nancy Raabe

GOSPEL LESSON

St. Matthew 2: 1-12

*CAROL 172

We Three Kings

Kings of Orient

SERMON:

"BEARING GIFTS WE TRAVERSE AFAR"

Dr. George Toole

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*HYMN 354

Seek Ye First

Seek Ye First

THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

The Three Kings, NATIVITY SUITE

Wilbur Held

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.**

* COMMUNION HYMN 411

For the Bread Which You have Broken

Agape

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(All are welcome at Christ's Holy Table)

COMMUNION MUSIC

The Hills are Bare at Bethlhem, PROSPECT
Arr. Nancy Raabe

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 (using trespasses)

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.

* HYMN 174

Brightest and Best

Star in the East

THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

Joy to the World, NATIVITY SUITE

Wilbur Held

A GRAND AND GLORIOUS HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE HERE TODAY

MAY GOD BLESS YOU THROUGHOUT 2016 WITH HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND GOOD HEALTH AND NOT LEAST GOD'S LOVE AND WISDOM.

WE DO WELCOME EVERYONE TO WORSHIP TODAY. We are an open community committed to making everyone feel securely at home. It is part of our calling to make God happy in our caring and our sharing.

WE WELCOME ONCE AGAIN OUR GOOD FRIEND, DR. GEORGE GRAY TOOLE who will lead us in worship.

EVERYONE PRESENT TODAY IS INVITED to participate in Holy Communion regardless of church background or affiliation. We are the guests of Jesus Christ.

LOOKING BACK TO OUR CHRISTMAS SEASON AND SERVICES, we are especially grateful to all who contributed to the spirit of Christmas worship, the gifts of music under Patti Amato's magnificent leadership, the gifts of time and talents, and not least the general financial encouragement to ministry and mission.

OUR MISSION COMMITTEE will meet once again on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 3:00 P.M.

OUR NEXT MEETING OF THE P&R (PLANNING AND REVIEW) will be held on Monday, January 25, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. here at church. This is an open meeting to which all are invited to hear and review financial reports, past, present and future plans, plus reports from our several committees.

TRADITION. For historical interest, Wednesday, January 6, is called "EPIPHANY." The word is derived from a Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "showing forth." For centuries, the Festival of Epiphany celebrated and recalled the visit of the Magi or the Wise Men to the child Jesus, manifesting Christ's glory to the whole world.

Thought for the Week Ahead:

**"Some people miss heaven by just eighteen inches –
the distance between the head and the heart."** –

Anonymous