

# ST. ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH

Established 1706



## THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE CANDLEMAS

The Family Service at 9:00 a.m.

January 31, 2021



# OLD ST. ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH

## *The Clergy & Staff*

THE REVEREND MARSHALL HUEY, *Rector*  
THE REVEREND DR. DONALD MCDANIEL, *Associate Rector*  
THE REVEREND JOSEPH VELLA, *Assistant to the Rector*  
DAVID ACRES, *Director of Music*  
KIRSTEN HOLLEY, *Organ/Piano*  
BRAD NETTLES, JR., *Director of Youth Ministry*  
AMY AUSTEN, *Parish Administrator*  
JEANNE GERHARDT, *Parish Bookkeeper*  
JUDITH ACRES, *Administrative Assistant*  
WALTER STANLEY, *Sexton*

PAUL PORWOLL *Historian*

THE RT. REV. WILLIAM J. SKILTON  
*Bishop Suffragan, South Carolina, Ret.*  
*Assistant Bishop, The Dominican Republic, Ret.*  
*Bishop in Residence, Old St. Andrew's Parish Church*

## *The Vestry*

Kathy Abraham 2024  
William Adams 2024  
Gene Arner, 2022  
Jim Beall, 2022  
Mandy Beckmann, 2023  
Rich Carns, 2023, *Junior Warden*  
Tommy Compton, 2022  
Carrie Davis, 2023  
Roxanne Erskine, 2024  
Jenny Fogle, 2023  
Herb Huser, 2024  
Michael Ulmer, 2022, *Senior Warden*  
John Steinmeyer, *Treasurer*  
Sally Hartnett, *Clerk*  
Andy Lacour, *Chancellor*

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THE RT. REV. MARK J. LAWRENCE, *Bishop of The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina*



*The flowers on the altar today are given  
to the Glory of God  
and in loving memory of Annie Holland  
by Mr. and Mrs. Wouter Gulden.*

# The Presentation of Christ in The Temple

## Candlemas

31 January 2021

The Family Service at 9:00 a.m.

### We Gather in the Lord's Name

The Processional Song, *standing*

*Here I Am to Worship*

1. Light of the world, you stepped down in-to dark - ness, o - pened my eyes, let me see,  
2. King of all days, oh so high - ly ex - alt - ed, glo - rious in heav - en a - bove,  
beaut - y that made this heart a - dore you, hope of a life spent with You.  
hum - bly you came to the earth you cre - at - ed, all for love's sake be-came poor.

*Refrain*

Here I am to wor-ship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God;  
you're al - to-geth-er love - ly, al - to-geth-er wor - thy, al - to-geth-er won - der - ful to me.

Words and music by Tim Hughes  
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The Acclamation, *standing*

(BCP page 123)

*Leader:* For unto us a child is born.

*People:* **Unto us a son is given.**

The Collect for Purity

(BCP page 124)

*Leader:* 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 love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

*People:* **Amen.**

The Summary of the Law

(BCP page 124)

*Leader:* We remember what our Lord Jesus Christ taught us:

*People:* **We should love the Lord our God with all our hearts. We should love our neighbors as ourselves.**

*Leader:* These two commandments explain the way God wants us to live.

## Welcome!

to our historic, living church  
where the saints have  
gathered to worship  
since 1706!

If you are visiting with us today,  
please take a **welcome brochure**  
(located in the envelope rack on  
the back of each pew) and fill out  
the **visitor card**. Please place it in  
the offering plate or leave it with  
an usher.

The liturgy begins with the **Acclamation**, which is an eager expression of praise. In this acclamation we identify who our God is: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity.

The Song of Praise, *standing*

*Give Thanks*

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One, give  
thanks be-cause He's giv - en Je - sus Christ, His Son.  
Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One, give  
thanks be-cause He's giv - en Je - sus Christ, His Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say, "I am  
rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for us."  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say, "I am  
rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for  
us." 1. Give us. 2. Give thanks, give thanks.

Text & Music: Henry Smith (b. 1952)  
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**The Collect** is a prayer that touches on the theme of the Scripture readings and transitions us from speaking and singing God's praise to listening to his Holy Scriptures.

The Collect of the Day, *standing*

(BCP page 125)

*Leader:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Leader:* Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

## We Hear God's Word

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON, *seated*

Malachi 3 verses 1-4

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

The Scriptures teach that much of our spiritual renewal is by the washing of the Word of God, which cleanses our minds and purifies our hearts. This portion of the service is known as the **Liturgy of the Word**, and it consists of the readings, the sermon, the creed, and the prayers of the people.

THE EPISTLE LESSON, *seated*

Hebrews 2 verses 14-18

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

The SPARK Bible Reading, *seated*

Simeon and Anna  
SPARK Bible, pg. 226

The Gospel Song, *standing*

*Change My Heart, O God*

Change my heart, O God, make it ev - er true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

You are the Pot - ter, I am the clay; mold me and make me,

this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God, make it ev-er true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

*Gospeller:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

*Gospeller:* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## We Respond to God

The Nicene Creed, *standing*

(BCP page 127)

*Celebrant:* Let us stand and confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

*People:* **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.**

**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, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified who 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 **Nicene Creed** is a statement of what the Christian community believes to be true about God. It was born of rigorous intellectual debate in the fourth century, culminating in councils of the whole church at Nicaea in 325 and at Constantinople in 381. The word “creed” comes from the Latin word “credo” which means “I believe.”



*Reader:* Let us offer our prayers to God.

Lord God, we thank you for the leaders of our Church, especially Archbishop Beach, Bishop Lawrence, Bishop Skilton, Father Marshall, Father Donnie, Father Joe, Father David, and our staff, and we ask you to bless them. We also pray for St. Andrew's Mission and their Vicar, Fr. Jimmy Gallant.

Lord God, we pray for all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others, in particular for All Saints' Church in Florence, their Rector, Fr. Jason Hamshaw, Chelsea and their family; for San José Church in the Dominican Republic, their Rector, Fr. Sandino Sanchez and their Bishop, Moises Quezada; and for Fr. Rob Sturdy, Anglican Chaplain at The Citadel.

Lord God, we pray for the leaders of our country, especially President Biden, Governor McMaster, Mayor Tecklenburg, and we ask you to bless them.

Lord God, we thank you for all our blessings, especially for people who love and care for us. (*intercessions may be spoken aloud*)

Lord God, we ask you to take care of everyone who is sick or sad. (*intercessions may be spoken aloud*)

Lord God, we know you hear us when we pray. We ask that you answer our prayers as may be best for us.

## We Ask for God's Forgiveness

We are sinful people. "From the beginning, human beings have misused their freedom and made wrong choices" and that "Sin is the seeking of our own will instead of the will of God, thus distorting our relationship with God, with other people, and with all creation." Here, in the Confession, we admit our wrongdoings and lay our sins at the feet of Jesus on the cross.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." - 1 John 1:8

The Confession of Sins

(BCP page 130)

*Celebrant:* Let us kneel and confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
(*Silence*)

*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 Absolution, *kneeling*

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says:*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace, *standing*

(BCP page 131)

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

## We Give in Thanksgiving for God's Blessings

The Offertory Song, *seated*

*Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)*

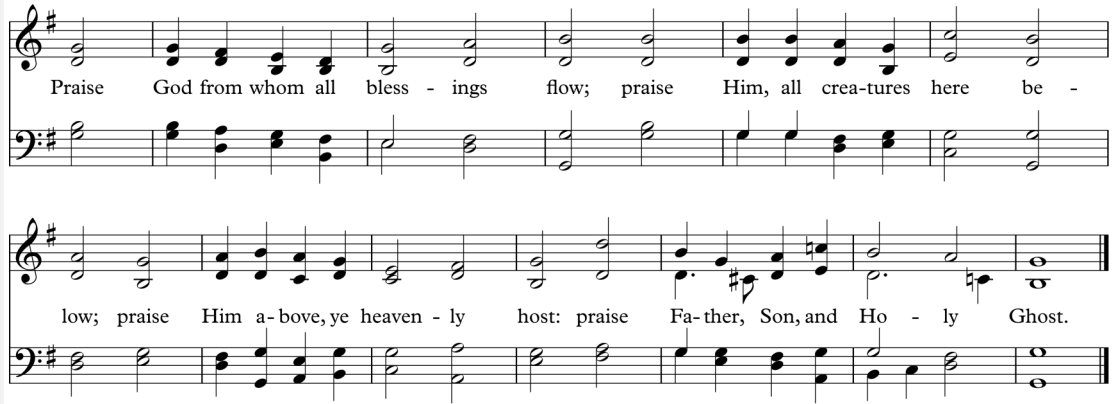
Verse 1 & 2

1. You call me out up-on the wa-ter the great un - known where feet may  
2. Your grace a-bounds in deep-est wa-ters Your sov-reign hand will be my  
fail. And there I find You in the mys - try, in o - ceans  
guide. Where feet may fail and fear sur - rounds me, you've ne - ver  
deep, my faith will stand. And I will call upon Your name  
failed and you won't start now.  
And keep me eyes above the waves. when o - ceans rise, my soul will rest in Your em-  
- brace for I am Yours and You are mine. Spirit lead me where my trust  
is with out bor-ders let me walk upon the wa - ters where ev-er You would call me  
Take me deep - er than my feet could ev - er wand - der and my faith  
will be made strong - er in the pres - ence of my Sav - iour.

Sing Bridge 3x  
Then Repeat Chorus

The Presentation Song, *standing*

*Doxology*



Text: Thomas Ken (1637-1711)  
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

*Celebrant:*

(BCP page 131)

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O Lord,

*People:* **And of your own have we given you.**

Our altar is The Lord's Table and all baptized Christians (baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) are welcome to receive Holy Communion here.

In the Anglican tradition, Communion is received in two kinds: in the Bread and in the Wine.

Individual communion elements are available for you to take to your seats.

## We Share God's Holy Communion

The Sursum Corda, *remain standing*

(BCP page 132)

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

### The Sanctus and Benedictus

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
2. Bless - ed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Ho

Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
san - na in the high - est, Ho san - na in the high - est.

Text: International Consultation on English Texts  
Music: LAND OF REST American; arr. Emily R. Brink (b. 1940)

The **Sanctus** is the song of the seraphim contained in the great vision that the prophet Isaiah experienced while worshipping in the Temple in Jerusalem. This vision is recorded in the 6th chapter of Isaiah. It is inspired by Isaiah's vision of the heavenly court "Holy, holy, holy" acknowledging the transcendence of God.

### The Prayer of Consecration, *kneeling*

(BCP page 132)

*Celebrant:*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you have made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

When we gather together, we remember the presence of Jesus. By repeating the words and actions of Jesus' last meal with His disciples, we join the story and make it our own. We don't just watch the drama or listen to it unfold, we enter into the story as we, too, take the bread and wine and eat and drink.

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People:*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ has risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant:*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

This **AMEN** is often called the “Great Amen” because it is the apex of our liturgy, the powerful ending to the Eucharist Prayer.

## The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

The **Lord's Prayer**, so called because Jesus gave this prayer to His disciples as an example of how to pray, has been a part of Eucharistic liturgies since the fourth century. The link between “our daily bread” and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is very ancient. In the Lord's Prayer, we ask for daily bread, meaning the things we need to get through each day. But as a part of that, the sacramental bread is Jesus Christ. When we eat of this bread, we most certainly receive our daily bread.

Our Fa-ther who art in heav-en, hall-ow-ed be thy Name, thy king-dom come thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav-en. Give us this day our dai-ly bread and for give us our tres-pass-es as we for-give those who tres-pass a- gainst us. And lead us not in-to temp - ta-tion, but de - liv-er us from e - vil. For thine is the king-dom, and the pow - er, and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men. A - men. A - men.

Text: International Consultation on English Texts  
Music: R.D. Duckett (1959-2013) Used by permission. This arr.: M. Wilkinson (b. 1991) & C.L. Walchesky (b. 1989). Used by permission.

### The Fraction

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

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

### The Prayer of Humble Access

(BCP page 135)

*Celebrant and People;*

**We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen**

### The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

(BCP page 677)

*Celebrant:* Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people [gathered around every altar of your Church], and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul, never permit me to be separated from you. **Amen.**

## The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Setting: Eric Wyse (b. 1959).  
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The Christian life is deeply personal yet is essentially corporate by nature, not private. Every act of worship is intended not only to glorify God for His own sake, but to lift up and build up one another in Christ for His sake as well. The word "liturgy" literally means "the work of the people." A central function of liturgy is to send the message that in a worship community there are no bystanders. It is corporate through and through and from one end to the other. Singing is also a form of prayer that can help carry the heart to God not only in the words being sung but beyond the reach of words. At Old St. Andrew's, we encourage you to continue to pray by singing both before and after you come to the Communion rail. In this way all of us are helping each other to lift our hearts continuously in the midst of receiving the greatest gift ever given: the life of Jesus Christ.

We have been blessed by being here. Now, at the end of the service, we are reminded that God takes loving delight in blessing us abundantly. We leave in peace, forgiven, fed, and sent out with a purpose in the name of Jesus Christ.

## The Invitation to Communion

(BCP page 136)

*Celebrant:*

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.

## The Communion Song, *seated*

This is the Air I Breathe

*Sung by the Family Service Music Team*

## The Post Communion Prayer

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

**Heavenly Father,**

**We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Blessing

The Recessional Song, *standing*

*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

1. Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise,  
2. Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro - phet, Priest, and King su - preme;  
3. Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;  
4. Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen - dent light,  
Man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;  
and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God - head man - i - fest;  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;  
where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.  
branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;  
man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
man - i - fest in gra - vious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;  
When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Sts. 1-3, Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885); st. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984)  
Music: SALZBURG, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

## We Go Out to Serve God

The Dismissal

(BCP page 138)

*Priest or Deacon:*

Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:*

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia.

After hearing his holy Word and eating and drinking of his precious Body & Blood, we are sent out into the world to proclaim the great things Jesus has done for us.



## **A Brief History of Saint Andrew's Parish Church**

Built in 1706, this simple, elegant church is the oldest surviving structure used for worship south of Virginia. It is South Carolina's only remaining colonial cruciform church.

St. Andrew's Parish Church (commonly known as Old St. Andrew's) was one of ten Anglican churches in South Carolina established in 1706 by the Church Act. It was built to serve the Anglican planters along the Ashley River, a thriving tidal waterway that connected them to the city of Charles Town and to each other.

The ancient building holds a full schedule of worship services every Sunday. Some of its earliest counterparts are still used, but less often. (None is older.) Others have been replaced or augmented by newer buildings, some centuries old themselves, some modern. Still others have vanished, or their ruins stand in eerie silence to ages past. Visitors to this national treasure see a beautifully restored building, but the church hides a past that left it for dead many times.

Rice, indigo, and slaves brought prosperity to the lands along the Ashley, where some of the wealthiest plantations in British North America were located. The church was expanded to the shape of a cross in 1723 to accommodate a growing population. It survived a major fire in the 1760s but was quickly rebuilt inside its existing walls. But the parish declined before the Revolution and into the antebellum era. Ministering to the slaves, at the church and three plantation chapels, became the focus of the clergy. From 1851 to 1891, the Rev. John Grimké Drayton, the renowned horticulturalist at Magnolia-on-the-Ashley just north of St. Andrew's, was rector.

The church was one of the few buildings along the Ashley that Union troops did not burn to the ground during the Civil War. It became a polling place and did not reopen until 1876, eleven years after the war ended. The parish found itself at the epicenter of two of the most important events of late nineteenth century Charleston: the phosphate mining boom along the Ashley and the Great Earthquake of 1886, which caused significant damage to the church. After Rev. Drayton died in 1891, St. Andrew's lay dormant for the next fifty-seven years.

In 1948 Episcopalians moving to the West Ashley suburbs reopened the dilapidated church, even though it was far away from new residential developments. Dogged perseverance brought slow but continual improvements. A parish house was built, and then expanded twice in quick succession. Hurricane Hugo (1989) caused major damage to the graveyard. Into the twenty-first century, the church undertook the most extensive restoration in its history and celebrated its tercentennial. In 2013, the Parish left The Episcopal Church and aligned with the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina and later with the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).

For more than 300 years, St. Andrew's has survived, indeed has thrived, against all odds.