

What to expect at Saint Andrews Traditional Anglican Church

You will enjoy a warm welcome from the two greeters in the foyer who will hand you the pew bulletin. We love visitors! Please introduce yourself and stay for refreshments after the service.

There is a blessed water stoup for those who want to use it – it reminds us of our baptism. The prink stand has votive candles which may be lit together with a private prayer. A small censer is lit prior to the service and reminds us of prayers rising to God. When we have a Feast Day, a big censer is used.

Our worship is liturgical, which comes from the Greek word meaning "the work of the people," and carries with it the idea of duty and service. Our foundation liturgy is the Book of Common Prayer, although we mostly use the Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion of the Church of England.

The Liturgy contains two parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Sacrament. In the Liturgy of the Word, we read from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the Epistles, and the Gospels. Then there is the sermon, delivered by one of the clergy or a lay person or visiting preacher.

Then we move into the climax of the service, the Liturgy of the Sacrament. This is where the altar is prepared and we prepare to receive Christ in the bread and wine.

Everyone participates in worship. The congregation does much more than just sing together. We pray together. We join in saying the Creed together. Standing together to sing, sitting together for instruction, kneeling together for praying and for receiving the Eucharist.

Post Covid, you may dip your host (altar bread) in the chalice instead of drinking from it. The prayers that have stood the test of time and have been prayed by Christians worldwide for many hundreds of years and find their roots in the prayers of the earliest Christians. These timeless words beautifully capture our yearning for God and our joy in his love and mercy.

Anglican worship emphasizes the holiness and majesty of God. We don't hold back when confessing our sin. Our prayers leave no wiggle room. Together, we confess that "there is no health in us." We acknowledge our unworthiness to "gather the crumbs under [God's] table." Anglican worship is about admitting we are utterly incapable on our own of pleasing God or earning our salvation and admitting that only by what he did on the cross on our behalf can we be forgiven and saved. This is the source of our victory, our joy, our peace.

We sing hymns that have lasted through the ages and have stood the test of time as well as more modern ones. These songs praise God and serve to teach the faith. Ronnie, our organist, is well known in Gauteng as a teacher and organist of rare talent.

We worship with our whole being. At different times during the service, we may bow or cross ourselves. Our main motivation for doing so is our love of God and our desire that he receive the honour and reverence he deserves.

Anglicans observe the traditional Christian calendar. The season of Advent, during which we prepare for Christmas, begins on the Sunday closest to November 30. Christmas lasts twelve days, after which we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany (January 6). Lent, the forty days of preparation for Easter, begins on Ash Wednesday. Easter season lasts fifty days, concluding on the feast of Pentecost. As the seasons change, so will the colours you see in the church.

Our clergy wear vestments that are rich in history and symbolism, clothing that takes the attention off of them as individuals and emphasizes their role in worship, preaching, and in celebrating the Holy Eucharist.