

# ST. ANDREW'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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# Parish Profile 2024

## **St. Andrew's Mission:**

*We are called to offer sanctuary in the city, to grow in God's love, and to seek the renewal of the world.*

# Our Vision

## The Tree of Life is Growing

### Here

The “tree of life” is an image found in many traditions and cultures worldwide. At St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, we have drawn inspiration from this timeless symbol to create a simple yet powerful vision:

*The tree of life is growing here*

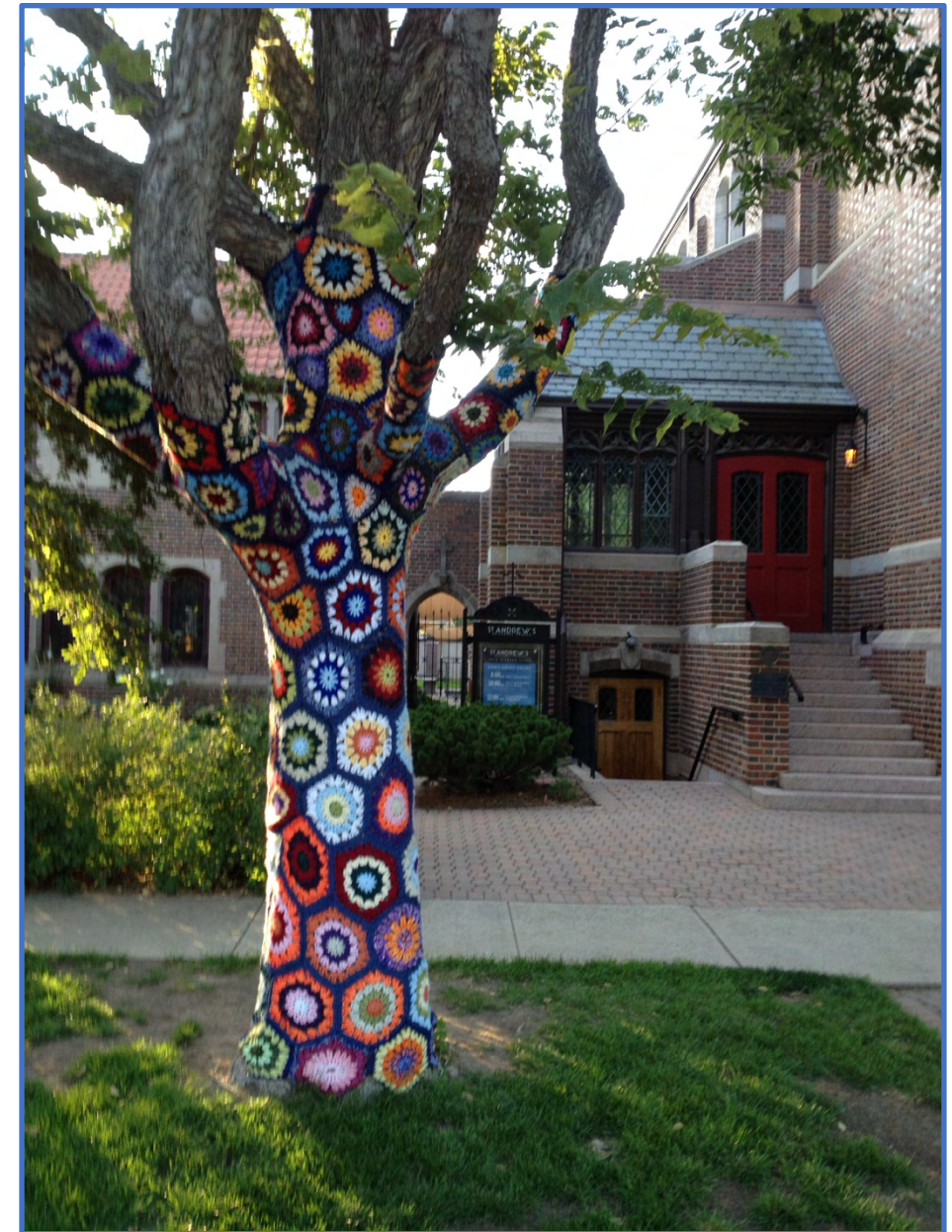
Our members come together to be a part of this unique community that values Anglo-Catholic liturgical practice, beautiful devotional music, full inclusion of all people, and engagement with the world beyond our doors.

We come from many directions and distances to participate. Our parish community includes seniors, youth, children, LGBTQ+ individuals, and families of all sorts.

St. Andrew’s is a place for discovery and discernment. We recognize that each person’s journey is unique and important. We welcome everyone to tell their story... and to ask questions of all kinds!

For some at St. Andrew’s, their journey leads them to a consideration of what God may be calling them to do. This may draw them to programs such as Education for Ministry and Sacred Ground, or to various forms of lay leadership.

Some enter, or continue, the discernment process for ordained ministry during their time at St. Andrew’s. Our clergy and community have placed a high value on providing support for these candidates and their paths.



# We Are Called To Be A Sanctuary In The City

St. Andrew's is located in the heart of downtown Denver and is surrounded by economic and demographic diversity. We come from varied religious, social, and economic backgrounds. We come from many directions and distances to participate in the community. It is a challenge to create true sanctuary for everyone who comes through our doors. However, our congregation is made up of individuals who are passionate about doing just that, while maintaining the traditions upon which St. Andrew's was built.

## LGBTQ+

Having a sanctuary is perhaps appreciated most deeply by those who have encountered exclusion and fear in other church communities. Our recent demographic data show that 25% of our congregation identifies as LGBTQ+. Private belief is not equal to welcoming. Thus, we publicly proclaim that we are a community of seniors, parents, children, singles, LGBTQ+, and families of all types. Our community is committed to opening our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to love each other as images of God. We endeavor to enter into the



struggle, and there to discover the Divine stories that shape us, increase awareness, and call us to action.

We are pursuing designation as a “Believe Out Loud” congregation. This is a movement across denominations to make their welcome for LGBTQ+ persons explicit and public. We believe an open and affirming stance is at the very core of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe in the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in all aspects of our church community. We support the ordination of LGBTQ+ clergy and the blessing of same-sex marriages. We are committed to teaching our children and youth to be a part of the

conversation as we extend our beliefs beyond the physical walls of our church. Our parish is proud of our history of strong representation, from our youth to our seniors, at the Denver Pride Parade. We also have created a new Sacred Identities curriculum, in collaboration with the Social Justice Ministry.

# Neighborhood Task Force (NTF)

The NTF was formed recently to engage and build relationships with residents and businesses in our surrounding area. We started by gathering demographic information about our community, and have used that information to organize a number of neighborhood activities. These include collaborating with other ministries to host a neighborhood clean-up day, march in the Denver Pride parade, conduct a Valentine's Day supply drive for the unhoused, and organize annual Book Fair fundraisers. In order to reach the demographics the NTF has identified, we have developed a vision for young adult formation offerings and a new community connection hub through social media. Many initial goals have been achieved, and the vision and work of the NTF is evolving.

## Garden Guild

The St. Andrew's Garden Guild has created an outdoor space that is more than just landscaping. Plants have been selected to be beautiful and inviting, and also environmentally

sustainable. Xeric and native plants fill the garden where birds, pollinators and other wildlife have a healthy home. The garden offers an invitation to neighbors to come and be at peace, and neighbors have expressed their gratitude for this welcoming space.



## Ministries of St. Andrew's:

- Altar Guild: Leo Bonfadini, Sacristan
- Children and Youth Ministries: Scott Coulter
- Acolyte Warden: Alicia McKim
- St. Benedict's Guild (Readers): Zoe Cole, Micaëla Larsen Brown
- Exploring Life & Faith:
- St. Andrew's Endowment: Diana Solomon
- Arts Ministry: Diane Jameson
- Mission and Outreach Ministry: Mike Ogborn
- Pastoral Care:
  - Eucharistic Visitors: Diana Solomon
  - Prayer Chain: Jean Rafsnider
  - Community of Caring: Barbara Day
- Flower Guild: Judie James
- Welcome Ministry: Maryella Morley, Jonathan Culwell
- Daughters of the King: Joyce Culwell
- Friends of Music: Linda Mack
- EfM Mentors: Jennifer Macy, Shawn Nowlan, Pennie Goodman
- Garden Guild: Diane Jameson
- Social Justice Ministry: Sue Torfin
- Building Our Vision: Chris Buri, Mike Ogborn
- Community Connection Ministry: Scott Barnette
- Neighborhood Task Force: Katie Schmidt
- Live-Streaming Ministry: Will Stowe, Debbie Arnold, Patty Gerstenberger

# We are Called to Grow in God's Love

## Worship, Liturgy, and Music

At St. Andrew's, we genuinely believe that liturgy is the work of the people. For over 100 years, we have been one of the few high-church Anglo-Catholic parishes in Colorado, bringing praise to God through worship and music of exceptional quality, under the leadership



of talented staff members. There is also ample opportunity for parishioners to participate in leading the worship. Our capable acolytes may be teens or octogenarians. Our lay readers, both volunteer and staff choir members, welcome ministers, altar guild members, and flower guild participants all work together to provide a rich worship experience.

St. Andrew's offers a variety of such experiences. Like most parishes, we are adjusting to the realities of attendance and budget following the pandemic. We have recently changed to one Sunday morning service instead of two. Many local parishioners as well as people from across the country join us on livestream. The fully sung service includes a choir, organist, incense, and a wealth of music, congregational, choral and instrumental. The worship is very formal, but our congregation is informal. This brings an exceptionally warm and human element to our parish.

There has been increased interest in a less traditional worship gathering. We saw this as an opportunity to explore new ways to encounter the Divine through our contemplative Still Point service on Sunday evenings. Still Point joins

poetry, Gregorian Chant, Taize Chant, and periods of silence for personal reflection.

St. Andrew's is proud to be one of the few churches in America to celebrate choral Evensong weekly under the leadership of our longtime choirmaster, with his exceptional knowledge and love of Anglican music. We have a full choir once a month and a smaller group of staff musicians who provides the music for the other services. Evensong brings a beautiful worship opportunity mid-week and has been a gateway to our church for some new members. With live-streamed services, we're joined by Evensong worshipers from around the world.

## Christian Formation

### Children and Youth

St. Andrew's Children and Youth programs are led by a vibrant staff member for Children and Youth. He is creatively developing opportunities for children to explore their spirituality at three different levels. There is some overlap in the age groups.

Our youngest children, ages 3 to 10, experience the Godly Play curriculum every Sunday. This



Montessori-based program offers a space where they can wonder freely about the presence of God and engage deeply in the foundational stories of our Christian faith.

Children's Chapel is a new offering for those ages 9 to 12 who want to experience a worship service more closely aligned with "what the grownups are doing" in church. It invites the children to lead all aspects of the liturgy and explore scripture through a slightly more advanced lens. This group meets most Sunday mornings at the same time as Godly Play. Our most mature youth, ages 11 and up, are collaborating with another local parish, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. Both of our parishes

have small numbers in this age range. Coming together allows us to create a group that meets the need for strong peer engagement. They meet twice monthly, once at each parish. The curriculum is "Journey 2 Adulthood", developed by the Episcopal Church.

In addition to these formation programs, we host activities to bring families together. We regularly volunteer at a local food bank, a day retreat for the homeless, and a world-wide distributor of donated medical supplies. Social outings occur on a semi-regular basis where families gather for arts and crafts, bake sales, and ice-skating. All the youth are invited to participate in our annual Christmas pageant and our Epiphany Lessons and Carols. This helps reinforce the feeling of a strong Episcopal community beyond our single Parish.

## Adults

During our self-reflection process, the topic of adult formation was exposed as an area of desired growth and attention. Adult formation is an important part of our ministry, but currently does not have clear leadership or a clear framework. This is difficult to accomplish in a small parish that is also a destination church. The pandemic had both positive and negative

effects on our attempts to provide rich and interesting adult formation opportunities. Our "in-person" activities have not returned to a pre-COVID level. However, we have benefited from the option to meet remotely using Zoom.

These are the current adult formation classes offered at our parish.

## Exploring Life and Faith (ELF).

This was formed by parishioners to examine many aspects of our faith journey. The topics have been varied, including a series on Islam, contemplative traditions, the Book of Genesis, walking the labyrinth, and an exploration of the great theological questions. Recently, the Social Justice Ministry has collaborated with ELF to offer programs designed to increase awareness of social justice issues and increase the skills needed to participate in advocacy.

## Education for Ministry (EFM)

St. Andrew's coordinates with the Church of the Holy Redeemer to provide a multi-parish Education for Ministry (EFM) seminar group. This four-year program of academic study helps participants encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition. It supports lay persons as they explore their roles in the Church. Currently, four parishes participate in this seminar. Since COVID, all classes are held on Zoom.

Catechumenate: A catechumenate program has been offered in the past, but has not occurred since COVID.

## Parish Life

St. Andrew's is a center for community life. The fiber of the community is strengthened through opportunities to gather together beyond worship and ministry. Each year, St. Andrew's hosts a silent auction which raises money for the parish. The most successful offerings are social gatherings such as dinners, parties, mystery parties, trips to a wildlife sanctuary, badminton tournaments, and many other creative events.

We truly enjoy being together. Some gather monthly in movie or book groups.

Our Moveable Feasts are always well attended. These are dinners that take place throughout the year in homes. Guest lists are intentionally randomized, giving us opportunities to enjoy good food and conversation with people we may or may not know.

## Pastoral Care

Lay people at St. Andrew make the community real by actively participating in pastoral care. Parishioners are trained Eucharistic Visitors who offer communion and comfort to the homebound. St. Andrew's also supports a Community of Caring that encircles parishioners in distress, offering a range of services that respond to their needs - such as meals, hospital and home visits, holiday gifts, companionship, and prayer.

## Prayer

A number of parishioners gather weekly in person or online to pray and meditate for personal contemplation and enrichment, for those on the parish prayer list, and for social

justice. In addition, the Prayer Chain currently has 12 members who give their time to hold the requests of the parish in prayer. Each member chooses a day of the week as their particular time to offer the Parish Prayer List in private prayer.

## Our Process of Gathering Information for the Parish Profile

We are experiencing transition as a parish. We see ongoing changes in our neighborhood. We are adjusting to a post COVID world. We are searching for a new rector. These factors led us toward extensive self-examination in our preparation of this Parish Profile. We gathered information for our profile in several ways, including a clergy-led workday to explore our history and "DNA", a "dream catcher" process in which parishioners responded to open-ended questions, and a formal survey. The combination of these methods has helped us clarify our strengths and challenges.



# We Are Called To Seek The Renewal Of The World

## Social Justice Ministry

The Social Justice Ministry (SJM) supports St. Andrew's in the fulfillment of our baptismal covenant to "strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being." We live our baptismal covenant through four areas of ministry:

**ADVOCACY.** In an effort to make a difference in the systems that affect social justice, we present our views to the state legislature on bills related to housing and homelessness, LGBTQ+ issues, climate and environment, and racial

justice. Parishioners write or call legislators to support bills that reflect our progressive Christian values. Some also share their personal knowledge and concerns in testimony before the state legislature.

**PRAYER:** Every week, using the ancient practice of *lectio divina*, we reflect on essays and poetry written by authors from disempowered communities. We sometimes integrate these readings with scripture. These resources form a foundation for compassionate prayer, contemplation, and sharing. Sessions are open to anyone who seeks to become more prayerfully awake to social justice.

**STUDY:** Our Ministry leads Sacred Ground, a 10-session course developed by the Episcopal Church. We explore the history of race and racism in American society, examine continuing systemic racism, and consider how we can work together to dismantle racist structures. SJM also offers film and book studies and joins with the St. Andrew's adult formation program to engage the congregation about social justice issues.

**SHARING OUR STORIES:** Recently, a group of SJM members, other parishioners, and friends joined to create Sacred Identities, a faith-based

interactive series on gender identity and sexual orientation. The series facilitates conversations between people within and outside the LGBTQ+ community by incorporating readings and media. All are welcome and have the opportunity to share the stories that have shaped their lives and the lives of those they care about.

## Mission and Outreach Ministry

The St. Andrew's Mission and Outreach Ministry (M&O) seeks to renew the world by serving the marginalized through action, love and compassion. It collaborates locally and globally with like-minded partner agencies in the areas of poverty, homelessness, education, and mental and physical health.

M&O determines how outreach funds in the annual budget (in 2023, totaling \$23,200) are distributed to these partner agencies. The Ministry also leads and supports volunteer teams responding to the needs of the community around us:

- St. FRANCIS CENTER. This Center for men and women who are homeless in the metro Denver area provides shelter and a myriad of services that enable people to meet their basic needs for daily survival and to transition out of homelessness.
- METRO CARING. This leading anti-hunger organization in Colorado works with the community to provide nutritious food and build capability to address the root causes of hunger.
- FAMILY PROMISE OF GREATER DENVER. This organization forms relationships with families at risk of or experiencing homelessness by providing shelter, meals, and a spectrum of supportive services as they seek permanent stability. Their mission is to end homelessness forever, one family at a time.

There is much more to be done. M&O seeks to make community needs more real to the congregation by inviting agency leaders to share their vision, mission and work, and in other ways to involve more parishioners in direct ministry in the community.

## Evangelism

The national church describes evangelism in this way: “Every baptized Episcopalian has vowed to proclaim with our words and our lives the loving, liberating, and life-giving good news of Jesus Christ. Through the spiritual practice of evangelism, we seek, name, and celebrate Jesus’ loving presence in the stories of all people - then invite everyone to more.”

At St. Andrew’s, evangelism is essentially about invitation - to ‘come and see’ what life in Christ is about. For us, the phrase, ‘there is a place for you here’ is a core value that we aspire to realize in our individual and communal lives. Many say that the welcome and acceptance they receive here is a key reason that they stay. Many who have been hurt or ostracized elsewhere have found healing here. Additionally, many are drawn to St. Andrew’s by the excellent music, and many musicians choose to worship with us. A number of these folks expand their participation to other areas of ministry.

For us, believing means following Christ and bringing others into God’s gracious presence. Our challenge is to discover ways to

tell those outside our walls that there is a place for them here.

### **Our Response and Renewal in Pandemic Time**

During the challenging time of global pandemic, St. Andrew’s responded quickly by implementing video technology to enable people to meet and worship together. Live streaming continues after the pandemic, offering options for those who are unable to meet or worship in person. Through this we recognized that we need to leverage technology to help us expand our reach.

Recognizing that the pandemic had a disproportionate effect on the marginalized, we also increased our commitment to social justice and advocacy during this time. We explored what it means to be the Church in new, more expansive ways. We believe this has had a lasting impact, and that we bring a broader, richer view of our mission with us going forward.

# Our Roots

## A brief History of St. Andrew's



Saint Andrew's is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. The congregation worships in a 1908 building designed by Ralph Adams Cram of Boston, architect of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

The traditions that form our current identity were established early. The Rev. Neil Stanley began St. Andrew's legacy of Anglo-Catholic liturgical practice and a heartfelt concern for the poor of the neighborhood through his ministry in the 1920s. The Rev. Jon Mark Stark, named rector in 1969, founded the Order of the Holy Family at St. Andrew's, and opened the church's



Rev. Neil Stanley talks to a colleague in the back row. Also pictured are associate priests and acolytes.

undercroft as an overnight shelter. His legacy to St. Andrew's was an abiding determination to help Denver's rising homeless population. With assistance from St. John's Cathedral, St. Andrew's served as the center for St. John's inner-city ministries and continued a commitment to the city's marginalized populations.

In 1991, the Rev. Constance Delzell came to St. Andrew's as an interim vicar. She is the first woman to go through the process of discernment, postulancy, and ordination in the Colorado Episcopal Church. Mother Connie was installed as Canon Missioner of St. John's and

Vicar of St. Andrew's in 1992. In 1995, she invited the Rev. Sally Brown to join her in ministry. Deacon Sally assumed leadership of congregational outreach efforts and nurtured a focus on local and global outreach ministry. During Mother Connie's tenure, St. Andrew's solidified itself as a congregation intrinsically welcoming of the LGBTQ+ community, and significantly expanded the music ministry, including bringing in Timothy Krueger as choirmaster.

A tragic fire destroyed the interior of the church in 1999. It was fully restored, and in the following years, membership grew dramatically. In 2000, St. Andrew's moved from mission status back to parish status.

In 2007, our average attendance was 147, the annual budget was more than \$300,000. At that point, the congregation initiated the Sacred Vision/Sacred Space program to build on this growth and expand our facility.

The Rev. Elizabeth Randall joined St. Andrew's as Rector in 2009, following her role as Canon at St. John's Cathedral. Mother Elizabeth was committed to developing the children and youth ministry, emphasizing a clear message that

children are full members of the parish. Under her leadership, the church also significantly expanded its focus on social justice and advocacy as a ministry. Energized by the strength of her preaching, her keen pastoral awareness, and her compassion for parishioners facing challenges, church membership, pledges, and budget increased during Mother Elizabeth's tenure.

In 2014, St. Andrew's formed a committee known as Building our Vision (BOV). Its

purpose was to determine a way to utilize the parking lot adjacent to the church for a purpose that would serve the community. Since its formation, BOV has begun five major creative and visionary projects. For a variety of reasons, these efforts did not come to fruition. At the direction of the vestry, and in consultation with the parish, BOV will continue to discern the way forward to fulfill St. Andrew's vision and mission.

During these past 14 years under Mother Elizabeth's leadership, St. Andrew's expanded its contemplative worship and programs, including adding Still Point on Sunday evening, Downward to Darkness on Good Friday, and other contemplative services throughout the year.

Most recently, with her sensitivity and strength, Mother Elizabeth

guided St. Andrew's through the COVID pandemic, including launching the church's virtual services, which continue today.

### St. Andrew's By The Numbers

Average Sunday Attendance: 100  
Average Weekly Attendance  
(including weekday services): 131  
Easter attendance: 313  
Participants in adult formation programs: 45  
Average participants in weekly  
children/youth formation: 6  
LGBTQ+: percent of congregation  
(estimated) LGBTQ+ 25%  
Approved 2024 Budget:  
\$564,486 Operating Expenses  
Endowment Balance: \$456,000



St. Andrew's interior, 1969-1984  
The art on the far wall remains today!

# Who We Are & Who We Are Seeking

St. Andrew's looks to the future with hope, with faith in God and our community, and with knowledge that we face many unknowns. As we emerge into a post-COVID world, facing challenges that are both new and familiar, we intend to rely on our identity and values. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are confident that we will grow as a community that ever more truly lives out its vision and mission.

We are a community that always strives to root our outward-reaching ministries in deep spiritual practice and growth. We know that action and contemplation are not merely complementary, but essential for authentic movement toward the renewal of the world. We are aware that we must maintain our strength to do the demanding work of social justice, mission and outreach, and other life-giving endeavors.

We seek a rector with genuine spiritual practices and the energy and creativity to engage in meaningful ministry.

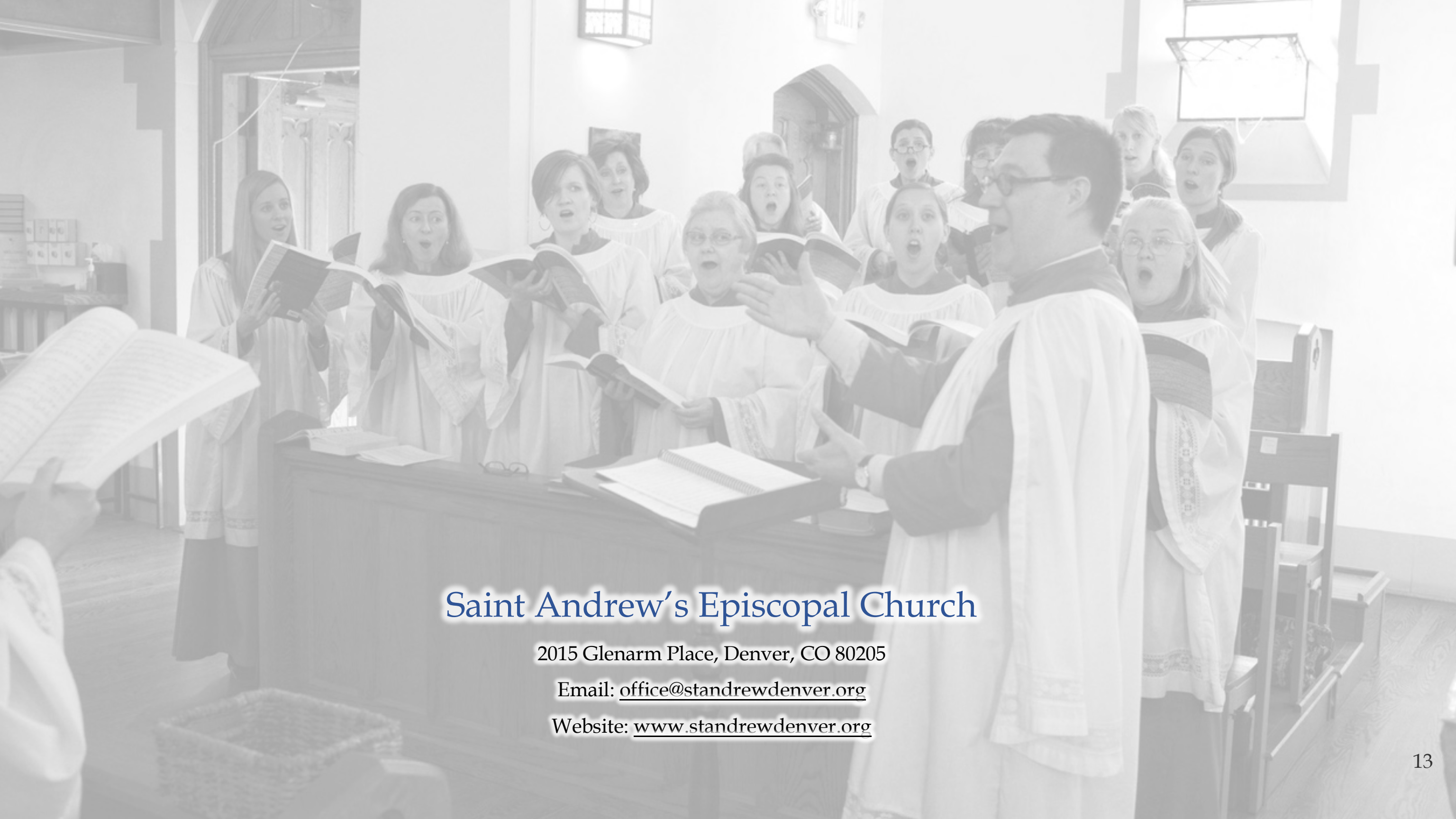
We are a community that sits in the midst of a rapidly changing neighborhood and city. We are a "destination church" that is proud to embrace all. We want to welcome the young professionals in our neighborhood and young families from surrounding areas. We want to expand our efforts toward racial and climate justice, and to continue advancing equity for the LGBTQ+ community. But how do we reach into the wildly diverse area just outside our doors, with unhoused neighbors and luxury condos springing up all around? We need a rector who welcomes this diversity and can partner with us to navigate our evolving landscape.

We are a community that is very aware that change is difficult, but essential if we want to maintain vitality and continue to thrive. We seek a rector who will join with our thoughtful and energetic laity to more deeply understand who we are, help us through the tension that comes from making needed changes, and explore how we might unite in a shared vision for a new future.

We are a community that recognizes beauty as a pathway to the divine. Our personality is rooted in the inspiring music we hear each week, the carefully tended space in which we worship, and the care taken to offer liturgy that is both formal and invitingly personal. Simultaneously, we want our worship to speak with relevance to the world around us. We would welcome a rector who shares those values and enhances them with his or her own character and imagination.

We are a community that seeks to move forward imaginatively and purposefully. We have not fully recovered from the isolation and exhaustion of COVID. Some of us do not know how to re-enter a parish that is both familiar and very different. We are not sure how much of our time and resources we are able to offer. We need a rector who, along with staff and clergy, can both comfort us in the church home we love, and challenge us to move forward boldly.

Above all, we turn to the words of the prophet Micah - we seek to become a community who, along with our rector, does justice, loves mercy, and walks humbly with God.



## Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

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