

Welcome



Sunday, December 15, 2019



Advent is a time of HOPE! PEACE! JOY! LOVE!

Let this be our prayer this season. Holy One, the Christ of the season we seek and long for faith, justice and hope in these challenging times we live in. Help us, Christ of the season to be faithful even though it is difficult, to be hopeful even when it is hard and proclaim our hope. Christ of the season, help us to be people of peace, help us to work towards peace in our hearts, communities and in our world. O Christ of the season, may your presence of joy help us to be a witness in our world that you are present. Holy One, give us courage to take a different path, to seek help, to follow the star and be a part of The Christmas Story. Help us O God in all our preparations that amidst the business of the season we will not forget the Christ of Christmas God's wonderful gift to us all.

Our Vision

To live as Christ would have us live, in love, with compassion and seeking justice, by sharing God's grace, learning from scripture, growing through the Spirit and being transformed by faith.

WASHROOMS: Wheelchair accessible and gender neutral bathrooms are located outside the lower auditorium. They can be accessed by the stairs in the Narthex or the elevator outside the church office.

FIND YOUR PLACE

There are many ways to get involved at St. Andrew's. Everyone is welcome so please reach out and step into places that inspire you the most. More details found at <http://standrewsriverheights.com/life-work/church-groups/>.

AFFIRMING: Our continuing mandate is to encourage ongoing understanding of what it means to be affirming and to evaluate the programs at St. Andrew's for inclusivity.

ANNA BLAIR CIRCLE: Monthly functions that are social in nature and promote fellowship and camaraderie.

BIBLE STUDY: We meet Tuesday mornings at 9am in the Lounge. Drop in anytime! Contact klumley@standrewsriverheights.com

BOOK CLUB: We are a group of book lovers who meet Wednesday afternoons, every 5-7 weeks. Anyone is welcome! [Ruth - mckenzieqrst@shaw.ca](mailto:Ruth-mckenzieqrst@shaw.ca)

CARING COMMUNITY: We oversee pastoral care in collaboration with the ministry staff. abburrow@shaw.ca

CENTERING PRAYER: A form of Christian meditation based on an ancient practice of prayer. Newcomers welcome - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7pm in the lounge. Contact clark_brownlee@mts.net for more information.

CIRCLE OF CARE: Lay pastoral care-giving and ministry for all ages and stages of the congregation. klumley@standrewsriverheights.com

OUTREACH: Social justice in our community and beyond. We meet on an 'as needs basis'.

PRAYER/BAPTISM SHAWLS: Do you love to knit? If so, we could use your talents.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Teachers are always needed. Contact Jan Demeduk to volunteer @ j.demeduk@hotmail.com

ST. ANDREW'S MUSIC: Love to sing? Our senior choir meets Thursday evenings and welcomes new members! [Choir Director—dmophy1@mts.net](mailto:Choir Director-dmophy1@mts.net)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are always looking for volunteers to help out with events, fundraising, outreach, Sunday morning coffee & tea, and the Circle of Care interest groups. If you are interested, email the church office at volunteer@standrewsriverheights.com.



OUR LAND - We remember, as we celebrate God's presence in Worship that St. Andrew's River Heights United Church gathers in Treaty 1 land, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota peoples and in the heart of the Metis Nation. As Treaty people, we seek to live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with all our relations.

ORDER OF SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC (*Break forth into joy—J.S. Bach*)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the season when creation stood still and held its breath,
for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.

**This is the season when God embraced humanity
from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Amen!

*HYMN: **VU5**—All the Earth is Waiting (*TAULÉ*)

*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (from Gathering 2019)

In this season of expectant waiting, we rejoice, **dancing the choreography of grace.**

In the dance...all the genders and expressions.

Divine choreography weaves us into complex patterns of connection.

Rooted in joy...as God's beloved, **joy flames into grace-filled celebration of diversity.**

ADVENT HYMN: **VU7 vs. 3**—Hope Is a Star (*MOON BEAMS*)

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Saviour is born.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

OPENING PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (see insert)

*HYMN: **VU46**—Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (*GENTLE MARY*)

SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:1-14 (read by Rita Swan)

ANTHEM: "Prepare the Way" (*Text origin: a 19th century Swedish hymn; Music: a Swedish Dala melody; arr. by Margareta Jalkeus*)

Prepare the way, O Zion; ye awful deeps rise high;
Sink low ye lofty mountains, the Lord is drawing nigh;
The righteous King of glory, foretold in sacred story.

O blest is He that came in God the Father's name.
O Zion, He approaches, your Lord and King for aye;
Strew palms where He advances; spread garments in His way.

God's promise faileth never, Hosanna sound forever.
O blest is He that came in God the Father's name.

SERMON

*HYMN: **VU17**—O Ancient Love (*BEDFORD ABBEY*)

OFFERING/OFFERTORY (*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice—arr. J.S. Bach*)

*OFFERING SUNG RESPONSE (VU55 v4)

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER (VU914/916)

*HYMN: **VU9**—People, Look East (*BESANÇON*)

BLESSING

*BENEDICTION (MV220)

**Hope shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights, and illumine the pathway home.**

POSTLUDE (*Noel Suisse—L.C. Daquin*)

The next Baptism Sunday will be on Sunday, January 12, 2020.

If you would like to have your child baptized in the New Year, please contact the church office.

The Anthem this Week

The Ensemble will sing a piece originally performed by the Swedish Vocal Jazz ensemble “The Real Group”. The melody comes from Dalarna, a region of Sweden best known for their brightly colored carved horses. The Real Group was founded in 1984 by five students at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, and they have since been recognised as one of the foremost Jazz ensembles of their generation.

The arranger of the piece, Margareta Jalkeus, is a member of The Real Group. It starts with the melody sung by the altos, and then gradually builds into lush melodic and harmonic lines.

Announcements

Ushers: The Worship Interest Group is looking for Ushers for Sunday mornings as well as for Christmas Eve. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Worship has “**A Prayer Requests Box**” at the back of the church for anyone to write out a prayer request that they would like mentioned in prayers on Sunday. The requests will be picked up weekly and prayers will be offered the next week. If the request is an emergency, please let the minister or usher know. If names are mentioned in your request, we ask that you please ensure the person named has granted permission for the request and that their name to be mentioned in the prayers. Prayer is our life line to God let us become a people of prayer.

Family Christmas Eve Service: Christmas Eve plans are underway in the Sunday School for the "A Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant" play. If children want to participate in the play, candle light, usher or greet, please contact Jan Demeduk, Sunday School Superintendent or Rev. Karen Lumley.

Outreach Message

The Outreach and Worship Groups sold 80 Wreaths and Swags for a total of \$483.04, which has been donated to “Just A Warm Sleep.” Thank you!

A special thank you also goes out to all of you who bought soup and cookie mixes, wreaths & swags and donated toys to St. Matthew's Maryland Community Ministry .

ST ANDREW’S CONTACT LIST

Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who helped with today’s service—we couldn’t have pulled it off without you!

Thank you to our candlelighter and reader, Izzy and Ben Dyck, as well as our greeters, Anne and Neil Grewar.

Clergy	Rev. Karen Lumley	klumley@standrewsriverheights.com
	Rev. Noelle Bowles	noellebowles@gmail.com
Choir Director	Derek Morphy	dmorphy1@mts.net
Organist	Wes Elias	weselias@mymts.net
Sunday School	Jan Demeduk	j.demeduk@hotmail.com
Council Chair	Anne Grewar	nagrewar@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bill Craddock	wjcdlc@mymts.net
Church Office	Andrea Moffatt	office@standrewsriverheights.com

YOUR GIFTS MATTER.

Get the benefits of a Tax Receipt for your Donation! Let us know who you are and sign up for PAR. Pre-authorized remittances throughout the year make it easy to donate to the United Church.

Donations are always accepted either through your weekly giving envelopes, the weekly worship offering, or can be dropped off at any time through the church office.

If you do give through PAR or at other times during the year, we invite you to still touch the plate so that you add your blessing to our givings.



Stewardship
Seconds

Open our eyes, unstop our ears, and let us rejoice in being able to use our gifts to do God's work.

Coming Up...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Advent III Worship @ 10:30am

Rental—Caron recital (sanc.) @ 1:30pm

Memory Tree Service (lounge) @ 4pm

Charmaine rehearsal (sanc.) @ 6:30pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Rental—AFG (chapel) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Rental—Things Meeting (chapel) @ 9am

Council Meeting (Chapel) @ 7pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Rental—RCS (auditorium) @ 7pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm

Choir @ 8:30pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Advent IV Worship @ 10:30am

Charmaine recital (sanc.) @ 1:30pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Rental—AFG (chapel) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Services:

Family Service @ 6:30pm

Communion @ 9:15pm

Lessons & Carols @ 10pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Caroling Service @ 10:30am

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

Rental—AFG (chapel) @ 7pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

Epiphany Worship @ 10:30am

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

Rental—AFG (chapel) @ 7pm

2019 Annual Reports are due on January 6. You can see last year's Annual Report on our website under publications.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

Worship meeting (lounge) @ 7pm

P&A meeting (chapel) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

Rental—RCS (auditorium) @ 7pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm

Choir @ 8pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

Baptism Sunday @ 10:30am

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

Rental—AFG (chapel) @ 7pm

ABC (chapel) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

Centering Prayer (lounge) @ 7pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

Rental—RCS (auditorium) @ 7pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm

Choir @ 8pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

Rental—Royal Conservatory Exams

(sanctuary/chapel) 9-6pm

Charmaine (lounge) 2-4pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Baptism Sunday @ 10:30am

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Rental—Royal Conservatory Exams

(sanctuary/lounge) 9-1pm

Rental—AFG (chapel) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Rental—Royal Conservatory Exams

(sanctuary/lounge) 9-6pm

Rental—Things Meeting (chapel) @ 9am

Council Meeting (Chapel) @ 7pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

Rental—Royal Conservatory Exams

(sanctuary/lounge) 9-6pm

Rental—RCS (auditorium) @ 7pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Rental—Royal Conservatory Exams

(sanctuary/lounge) 9-1pm

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm

Choir @ 8pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Rental—Royal Conservatory Exams

(sanctuary/chapel) 9-6pm

Charmaine (lounge) 2-4pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

Worship @ 10:30am

Choir show rehearsal following worship

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

Rental—AFG (chapel) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Bible Study (lounge) @ 9:30am

Rental—Things Meeting (chapel) @ 9am

Centering Prayer (lounge) @ 7pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

Rental—RCS (auditorium) @ 7pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm

Choir @ 8pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Worship @ 10:30am

Rental—Opera Idol (sanctuary) @ 1-8pm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Bible Study (lounge) @ 9am

Worship meeting (lounge) @ 7pm

P&A meeting (chapel) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Rental—RCS (auditorium) @ 7pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm

Choir @ 8pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Worship @ 10:30am

ABC Bake Sale (auditorium) @ 10:45am

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

