



# Welcome

Sunday, December 22, 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](mailto: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.

**CENTERING PRAYER:** A form of Christian meditation based on an ancient practice of prayer. Newcomers welcome - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 7pm in the lounge. Contact [clark\\_brownlee@mts.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### INTROIT JUNIOR CHOIR: "Who Would Send a Baby?" (Mary Kay Beall)

Singers: Evan Demeduk, Ciara Delorande, Mya Delorande, Izzy Dyck, Rosemary Lea, Charleze Richard, Saraya Richard, George Antony Sheriff, Kathleen Smith

Who would send a baby to heal a world in pain?	Who would choose a manger to cradle a King?
Who would send a baby, a tiny child?	Who would send angels to sing?
When the world is crying for the Promised One,	Who would hang a star in the sky above
Who would send His only Son?	To shine on the gift of His infinite love?
Who would send a baby to light a world with love?	Who would send a baby to bless a world with peace?
Who would send a baby, a tiny child?	Who would send a baby, a tiny child?
When the world is hoping for the Promised One,	When the world is yearning for the Promised One,
Who would send His only Son?	Who would send His only begotten Son?

### CALL TO WORSHIP

\*HYMN: **VU76**—See Amid the Winter's Snow (*SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW*)

\*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (from Gathering 2019)

In this season of expectant waiting, we hold our breath. **We yearn for love that makes us whole.**  
When we feel lonely...when we despair, **God settles into our hearts, loving.**  
On that foundation...created reality within, **we trust with growing confidence.**  
Into the vacuum...divine loves fills to overflowing,  
**as the flame of love is gifted from the One who transforms.**

ADVENT HYMN: **VU7 vs. 4**—Hope Is a Star (*MOON BEAMS*)

Love is a flame that burns in our heart, Jesus has come and will never depart.  
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.

### PRAYER

\*HYMN: **VU64**—O Little Town of Bethlehem (*ST LOUIS*)

### READING

SOLO: Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth" (*From "Elijah" by Felix Mendelssohn; Soloist: Chris Donlevy*)

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 1:18-25 (read by Khal Shariff)

ANTHEM: "Songs of the Promise" (*Music: Joseph M. Martin; Soloist: Heather Kozak*)

*This is a marriage of two seasonal hymns—the choir sings the Advent Hymn "Come thou long-expected Jesus" (VU #2), while the soloist sings the traditional English carol "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day".*

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day.  
I would my true love did so chance

To see the legend of my play  
To call my true love to the dance.  
Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love.  
This have I done for my true love.

### SERMON

\*HYMN: **VU40**—Before the Marvel of This Night (*MARVEL*)

OFFERING/OFFERTORY (*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come—arr. J. Pachelbel*)

\*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 (p. 914/916)

\*HYMN: **VU44**—It Came upon the Midnight Clear (*CAROL*)

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 (*Hark! the herald angels sing—arr. N. Rawsthorne*)

### The Anthem this Week

*Songs of the Promise* by prolific American composer, Joseph Martin combines two carols which speak of the promise of Advent. The one sung by the choir is the well-known Charles Wesley hymn *Come thou long expected Jesus* - #2 in *Voices United*, although Martin uses the Welsh tune, *Hyfrydol*, and not the one in the hymn book, the older Lutheran tune, *Stuttgart*. The choir sings the first two verses. There is one interesting text change in verse 2 – Wesley's text has "Israel's strength and consolation" which is changed to "Israel's rest and consolation". It would be interesting to speculate why!

Of greater interest perhaps is the tune that Martin pairs up with *Come thou long expected Jesus. Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day*, appears in William Sandys "Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern of 1833, although the nature of the language of the verses suggests that its origins are much earlier. The complete carol traces the entire life of Christ (rather like *Lord of the Dance*), but here Martin only uses the Advent verse. The idea of Christ addressing sinful man as "my love" is foreign to traditional carols, but there are some instances in medieval poetry, typically in appeals from the cross. The biblical source of such imagery is in the "Song of Songs", of which the "lover" and "beloved" are interpreted by Paul as Christ and the Church. The reference to the "legend of my play" suggests the mystery and morality plays which would have been performed by travelling players in medieval times.

### Announcements

**Holiday Office Hours:** The Office will be closed from December 24 - January 1. Voicemails and emails will be monitored. There will also be no newsletter on Thursday, December 26, 2019. For pastoral care concerns during this time, please contact Rev. Karen Lumley at 204-250-5073.

**2019 Annual Report:** It's nearing that time of year again! The due date for the 2019 Annual Reports will be Monday, January 6, 2020. You can see a copy of last year's Annual Report on our website, under publications.

**What are your Top 5 favourite hymns?** Fill out a ballot, which can be found in the Narthex. In a special Hymn Sing service on Sunday, January 19, 2020, we will include the top voted songs from St. Andrew's to sing during the service.

**Baptism Sunday on Sunday, January 12, 2020:** If you would like to have your child baptised, please contact the church office or Rev. Karen Lumley by Monday, January 6!

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### 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 candle lighters, Ciara and Mya Oliver-Travers and Zander DeLaronde, and our greeters, David Bergman and Rob Siddall.

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.

Check out our website for more information and forms.



We belong to Christ. As God's beloved, we offer these gifts with love and joy.

### Coming Up...

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Advent IV Worship @ 10:30am  
Charmaine recital (sanctuary) @ 1:30pm

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 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 (lounge) @ 7pm

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

Epiphany Worship @ 10:30am

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 6

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

2019 Annual Reports are due!

#### 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 (lounge) @ 7pm  
ABC Meeting (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

Worship @ 10:30am

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Rental—Royal Conservatory Exams (sanctuary/lounge) 9-1pm  
Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 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 (lounge) @ 7pm

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Bible Study (lounge) @ 9:30am  
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) @ 9:30am  
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

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Bible Study (lounge) @ 9:30am  
Centering Prayer (lounge) @ 7pm

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Rental—RCS (auditorium) @ 7pm

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm  
Choir @ 8pm

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Worship @ 10:30am

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Bible Study (lounge) @ 9:30am  
Rental—Things meeting (chapel) @ 9am  
Council Meeting (chapel) @ 7pm

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Rental—RCS (auditorium) @ 7pm

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Worship @ 10:30am  
AGM & Luncheon @ 10:45am

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

