

Welcome to the service tonight, we are so glad you chose to celebrate the birth of Christ with us on this special night.

Whether you are a long-time member of our congregation or whether you are a newcomer to our church family, we appreciate that you incorporated St. Andrew's River Heights United Church into your own personal Christmas Eve tradition this year. May the hope, peace, love and joy of the season be with you and your family tonight and throughout the year.

#### **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* 

**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* 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—dmorphy1@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.

# Family Service—6:30pm

**GATHERING MUSIC** 

WELCOME

PRAYER

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, Kathleen Smith

## LIGHTING THE CANDLES—Elliot & Quinn Ledlow

In this season...in our hearts, hope that in the infant Jesus who is our promise of hope to come.

Hope leads us to pray...in all our relations. In that peace, we find the Prince of Peace.

Peace transforms into joyful celebration.

Joy inspires us to dance in freedom and in pure delight. Joy makes all things new and, in that newness, we discover the deep meaning of love shared.

Love is given through humility in the birth of Christ as a child. It shows us the Christ, still completely vulnerable, yet filled with promise, hope, peace, joy and love.

Tonight is Christmas Eve...is the centre of our lives. Happy Birthday Jesus!

HYMN: VU7—Hope Is a Star (MOON BEAMS)

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

# A Very Merry Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant

by Gwynne Watkins A Beat by Beat Play | www.bbbpress.com

#### Cast of Characters

Reverend—Ciara Delorande Herod—Charlese Richard Leslie—Izzy Dyck Magi—Trayzeaus Chartrand

Narrator—Evan Demeduk Star—Ben Dyck
Mary—Rosemary Lea Joseph—Elliot Ledlow
Gabriel—Mya Delorande Dragon—Sam Dyck

Shepherd—Gabriel Richard Interjecting Kid—Saraya Richard

Animals & Angels—Elise Bennett, Micah Bennet, Meghan Cole, Andrew Dolensky,

Jasper Lea, Quinn Ledlow, and James Richard

Director—Jan Demeduck

(The congregation is encouraged to join in singing the songs during the pageant.)

SONG #1: Away in a Manger (VU69)

SONG #2: Silent Night (VU67)

SONG #3: Go Tell it on the Mountains (VU43)

SONG #4: The First Noel (VU91)

#### INTERACTIVE STORY

King(s): Stand and Bow

Palace: "Ooooh" (impressed)

Camels: "Brrr" (a camel noise by flapping lips)
Star: Twinkle, Twinkle (flicking fingers in and out)

You cannot be serious: Left side — 'Oh yes, we can"; Right side — 'Oh no, you can't"

Count: Shout - "2, 4, 6, 8. who do we appreciate? Jesus!"

## OFFERING/OFFERTORY HYMN (VU74 vs3)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him. The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

**PRAYER** 

**BLESSING** 

**POSTLUDE** 

Thank you to all who participated in the pageant, the candle lighting and the interactive story tonight, as well as the Junior Choir and their accompanist, Martha Graham, for the beautiful song.



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!

A special thank you goes out to our greeters tonight (Maria Stapleton, Elly Hoogterp-Hurst, and Lorne Hurst) who go out of their way to make both congregational members and newcomers feel welcome!

Sunday, December 29, 2019: Join us for a all-ages caroling service on Sunday, December 29. There will be no Sunday School, so worship packages will available for the children in the Narthex.

What are your Top 5 favourite

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner is Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Dinner starts at 5:00pm. Come and bring the whole family, only \$5.00 per person!



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.



Join us at 10:30am on Sunday, May 3, 2020 for our annual church picnic. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and you'll find us across the street in the school grounds!



# Sacrament of Communion—9:15pm

Rev. Karen Lumley Rita Swan, Lay Worship Leader

#### **CENTERING WORDS**

**OPENING PRAYER** 

SCRIPTURE READING—Matthew 1:18-25

### SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### It is a season of feasting:

feasting on carefully prepared food, feasting...regardless of our circumstances.

# It is a season of feasting.

Tonight we come to this table...made known in bread and cup.

## As we remember the birth of Jesus so long ago,

We remember...as we prepare to partake in communion.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts in prayer. We lift them up to God!

Let us give thanks to God. It is right to give God thanks and praise!

It is indeed right...and the signs of your love are everywhere

Out of nowhere...your kindness to us.

Glory indeed, our God—the whole earth cries "Glory" tonight.

Angels sing...as we glimpse your glory,

# we yearn for it in fullness for all people

and for the healing of creation.

# And so we pray for those who are in pain tonight,

those who do not hear...in need of your transforming love. (silence)

# Come to us once again, O God:

In the face of the child...will be filled with love.

The love of God is...let us find courage.

## Come to us once again, O God:

In the hand offered...Christ's truth shall last.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel who comes to us to make us whole.

#### SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The holiness of the ordinary...things made holy this night.

The body of Christ, the bread of life.

The lifeblood of Christ, the cup of blessing.

Let us eat and drink together for our strengthening in the faith,

celebrating the birth of the Christ Child this special night.

SHARING THE FEAST—Please come forward down the centre aisle to receive communion. You will be offered a small piece of bread to be dipped in the cup (intinction). Return to your seats by the side aisles. Those not able to come forward will be served in the pew. In the quiet sharing of elements, we ponder the familiar Christmas story—yet ever new to us today.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you God, for a wee infant who is the Christ of the Christmas Story, through whom we are made new. We remember your self-giving in a Bethlehem manger. Through your Spirit, we become empowered in your name, to go into the world to tell the Christmas story. We thank you for this meal of thanksgiving at this special time of the year. Amen.

# Festival of Lessons and Carols—10pm

("Carol" = Solo or Choir; "Hymn" = With Congregation)

**GATHERING MUSIC** 

Carols Arranged for Flute and Organ (arr. J. Pachelbel)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: **VU62**—Once in Royal David's City (IRBY) vs 1—Colleen Watters, soloist; vs 2—choir only; vs 3 & 4—with congregation

CALL TO WORSHIP — Rev. Karen Lumley

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CAROL 1: "Love Came Down at Christmas" (Mark Sirett)

LESSON 1: Isaiah 9:2-7 ~ Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Read by Fred Cross

HYMN 2: VU60—O Come, All Ye Faithful (ADESTE FIDELES)

LESSON 2: Micah 5:2-4 ~ *The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.* Read by Rita Swan

CAROL 2: "As I Walked in Bethlehem" (W.H. Anderson)

LESSON 3: Luke 1:26-38 ~ *The angel Gabriel visits the virgin Mary.*Read by Elly Hoogterp-Hurst

HYMN 3: VU74—What Child Is This (GREENSLEEVES)

LESSON 4: Luke 2:1-7 ~ Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Read by Evan Demeduk

CAROL 3: "Rise Up, Shepherds, in the Night" (Michael Haydn) - Charmaine Bacon, flute

LESSON 5: Luke 2: 8-14 ~ *The angels appear to the shepherds.*Read by Jan Demeduk

CAROL 4: "Angels From the Realms of Glory" (Will Todd)

HYMN 4: **VU75**—While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (WINCHESTER OLD)

LESSON 6: Luke 2:15-20 ~ *The shepherds go to Bethlehem.*Read by Catherine Wreford-Ledlow

CAROL 5: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (Albert Greer) - Charmaine Bacon, flute

#### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Variations on an Old French Carol (N. Nourse) - Charmaine Bacon, flute

OFFERTORY (VU55 vs 4)

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.

HYMN 5: **VU59**—Joy to the World (ANTIOCH)

LESSON 7: John 1:1-14 ~ *John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation*Read by Bernard Boland

CAROL 6: "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" (Molly Ijames)

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN 6: VU67—Silent Night, Holy Night (STILLE NACHT)

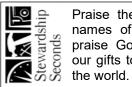
**POSTLUDE** 

#### YOUR GIFTS MATTER.

Get the benefits of a Tax Receipt for your Donation! Let us know who you are and sign up for PAR. Preauthorized 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.



Praise the Lord! Praise the names of the Lord! Let us praise God through offering our gifts to do God's work in the world

## Coming Up...

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

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 Sunday @ 10:30am

**MONDAY, JANUARY 6** 

Annual Reports due!

Rental - AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

**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 (sanctuary) @ 8pm

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12** 

Baptism Sunday @ 10:30am Rental—Li Recital (sanc.) @ 1:30pm **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 (sanctuary) @ 8pm (AGM)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18** 

Rental—RCM Exams (sanctuary/chapel) 8-6pm

Charmaine (lounge) @ 2pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 Worship @ 10:30am

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20** 

Rental—RCM Exams (sanctuary/ lounge) 8-1pm

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 21** 

Rental—RCM Exams (sanctuary/lounge) 8-6pm

Rental—Things (chapel) @9am Council Meeting (chapel) @ 7pm

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22** 

Rental—RCM Exams (sanctuary/lounge) 8-6pm

Rental—RCS (auditorium) @ 7pm

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 23** 

Rental—RCM Exams (sanctuary/ lounge) 8-1pm

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm

☐ Choir (sanctuary) @ 8pm

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25** 

Rental—RCM Exams (sanctuary/ chapel) 8-6pm

Charmaine (lounge) @ 2pm

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26** 

Worship @ 10:30am

Choir show rehearsal—TBD

**MONDAY, JANUARY 27** 

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 28** 

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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29** 

Rental—RCS (auditorium) @ 7pm

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 30** 

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm 

☐ Choir (sanctuary) @ 8pm

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2** 

Worship @ 10:30am

Annual Reports released Rental—Opera Idol (sanc.) @ TBD

**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 (sanctuary) @ 8pm

**SUNDAY, FEBRAURY 9** 

Worship @ 10:30am

ABC Valentine Bake Sale @ 11:45am

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10** 

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11** 

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12** 

Rental—RCS (auditorium) @ 7pm

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13** 

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm 

☐ Choir (sanctuary) @ 8pm

**SUNDAY, FEBRAURY 16** 

Worship @ 10:30am

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17—STAT** 

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18** 

Bible Study (lounge) @ 9am Rental—Things (chapel) @ 9am

Council Meeting (chapel) @ 7pm

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19** 

Rental—RCS (auditorium) @ 7pm

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20** 

Basement Bookstore @ 10am – 5pm 

☐ Choir (sanctuary) @ 8pm

**SUNDAY, FEBRAURY 23** 

Worship @ 10:30am

AGM & Lunch following worship

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24** 

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25** 

Bible Study (lounge) @ 9am Shrove Pancake Supper @ 5pm

Centering Prayer (lounge) @ 7pm



Basement Bookstore: The Basement Bookstore has many current and popular titles from art, biographies, Canadiana, classics, cookbooks, dictionaries, fiction, mysteries and non-fiction to large coffee table books. The Basement

Bookstore is located at the bottom of the stairs inside the 255 Oak St. doors and is also accessible by the elevator. Customers and donations are welcome. The bookstore is always open, however a librarian is in attendance on Thursdays from 10-5pm.

Reminder: Annual reports are due Monday, January 6, 2020. A copy of last year's report can be found on the at www.standrewsriverheights.com/ publications. The Annual General Meeting & Luncheon will be on Sunday, February 23, 2020.

Newsletter Sign-up: If you would like to sign up for our weekly newsletter, please either visit our website at www.standrewsriverheights.com and complete the "Subscribe to our mailing list" on the right hand side of the page, or send us an email and we can manually add you to the newsletter list.



### Save the Date!

St. Andrew's Annual Choir Show March 6 & 7, 2020

> Featuring songs from the 1920's & 1930's

There will be a 7:30pm performance both nights, as well a matinee at 1:30pm on Saturday, March 7. Tickets are \$20 with reserved cabaret seating; snacks and punch provided. Wine and beer will also be available for purchase by the glass.

Tickets will be on sale near the end of January. Watch for ticket information in the new year!





love

peace

believe

christmas

Bridge Luncheon—Save the Date: St. Andrew's River Heights United Church is hosting their Annual Bridge Luncheon on Monday, April 27 at 11:45 - 3:15 in the

St. Andrew's Auditorium. Get four of your favorite bridge players together and watch for ticket info in the new year. \$60 per table.



Join us for breakfast before the Easter Sunday worship on April 2020! Breakfast will consist of a scrambled egg

dish, ham, and hot cross buns. Breakfast will be served from 9:00 to 9:45am, and will be \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 for a family of 4 or more. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex mid-March. Please sign-up to let us know you are

# Important Dates to Remember in 2020!

January 6—Annual Reports Due January 12—Baptism Sunday February 2—Annual Reports Distributed February 9—ABC Valentine Bake Sale February 23—AGM & Luncheon February 25—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper March 1—1st Sunday of Lent (Communion) March 6 & 7—St. Andrew's Annual Choir Show March 22—Celebrating Guatemala Ministry April 5—Palm Sunday April 6—Memorial Flowers Due April 10—Good Friday Service @ Westworth April 12—Easter Sunday Breakfast & Service April 19—Affirming Celebration Sunday April 27—Bridge Luncheon May 3—Church Picnic May 31—Pentecost & Pride Sunday September 13—Celebration Sunday October 4—World Wide Communion October 25—Harvest Supper

> December 5—Cookie Walk December 13—Memory Tree Service

### Minister's Message

By now the shopping is done, the presents are bought and wrapped, baking is done, and everything is all set for the big Christmas celebration tomorrow. Whether you are hosting Christmas or going out, the familiar smells of the Christmas traditions you and your family have will be remembered and celebrated.

It is my prayer that the Christ of Christmas will bring you and your family hope for the New Year, peace for the upcoming year, joy in the celebrations of the day and love for all year long. May the Christ of Christmas be present at your table and celebrations this special day. ~ Rev. Karen Lumley

#### 



### **Music for Christmas Eve**

Late on Christmas Eve! Time to reflect on and ponder the eternal mystery, now that the inevitable rush is over! We hear the biblical passages, and sing and listen to the Christmas carols, some familiar and some which provide a fresh perspective on the ancient story.

The carols we will all sing together are all centuries old, and sit deep in our memories. Our opening processional hymn, "Once in Royal David's City" with the first verse, as so often in the past few years, sung by Colleen Watters, is from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The original Latin words of "Adeste Fideles" (O Come all ye faithful) come from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and the melody of "What Child is This", Greensleeves, is a traditional English folk song dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, as does the melody Winchester Old of "While shepherds watched their flocks by night". The tune of "Joy to the World" is attributed to George Frederic Handel, to an 18<sup>th</sup> century text of Isaac Watts. Finally, the text of our beloved carol, "Silent Night" was written by a vil-

lage priest, Father Joseph Mohr, in Oberndorf, Austria, in 1816, and, two years later on Christmas Eve, was first sung to a tune composed by local organist Franz Xaver Gruber.

The choir will offer six carols tonight, three written by Canadian composers. Kingston, Ontario, organist and composer Mark Sirett set the familiar Christina Rosetti text "Love came down at Christmas" to a lovely gentle melody. W. H. Anderson served as organist and choir director in this Church for twenty years prior to his death in 1955. He was also a prolific composer, setting several choral works to poems by female writers, in particular. "As I walked in Bethlehem" is by Nanaimo, British Columbia poet, Audrey Alexander Brown, who imagines a variety of thoughts and connections to the first Christmas, as she wanders through the streets of Bethlehem. Austrian composer, Michael Haydn, is the younger brother of the better known Joseph, who apparently strongly admired his brother's compositions. "Rise up, shepherds of the night" is a cheerful piece, in which the shepherds are encouraged to go to Bethlehem to worship the new-born child. This arrangement features a flute accompaniment, played by Charmaine Bacon.

The final three carols are all familiar texts set to new melodies. English composer, Will Todd recommends that his 2018 version of "Angels from the realms of glory" be sung "radiantly". The tune is refreshingly bright, and perhaps fits the text more appropriately than the familiar one. In contrast, Ontario composer, Albert Greer, uses a lovely reflective angular melody in his gentle setting of "In the bleak Midwinter", also accompanied by flautist, Charmaine Bacon and organist Wes Elias.

Our closing offering features a familiar tune (at last!) in a 2019 setting by American Molly Ijames of "God rest ye merry, gentlemen let nothing you dismay". This is a lively and imaginative piece, set at a brisk tempo, after which we will return to a more contemplative mood with the blessing, and all joining in to sing the traditional final hymn, "Silent Night".

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who helped with today's Christmas Eve services—we couldn't have pulled them off without you!

The flowers near the pulpit are in loving memory of: Geoffrey C. Morrow, from his family, and Jack and Dawn McKeag, from their family.

## ST ANDREW'S CONTACT LIST

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

