



## Sunday, November 29, 2020



Advent is a time of waiting, anticipation, hope, peace, joy and love as we look forward to the long awaited birth of the Christ Child. In Advent we are anticipating the arrival of the baby Jesus the Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Saviour and Coming King. It is a time we are waiting for God, for the birth of hope, for the arrival of new life. As we wait, we prepare our hearts to receive the gifts of God.

We ask God to shape us and to prepare our hearts for the long awaited Good News that Jesus Christ is born!

### 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

## FIND YOUR PLACE

### In-Church Services Suspended at St. Andrew's

The number of new covid-19 cases in Manitoba continues to climb at alarming rates. Effective November 12, all of Manitoba has been designated as Critical (Red) on the Pandemic Response Scale with new restrictions to limit social contact and to close non-essential businesses. The Directive specifies that community, cultural and religious activities are to be provided on a virtual basis only. That is exactly what St. Andrew's has been doing for the past two Sundays and we will continue that practice. The services are recorded in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings with a small group of people (all well social distanced) and then streamed later on the St. Andrew's Facebook page. These ever changing circumstances are disappointing but it is our utmost priority to keep our church community and the general public we interact with safe. Be assured that we will re-start Sunday services in our church building when covid case counts decline and it is deemed safe to do so. We will keep our congregation posted.

*St. Andrew's Re-Opening Committee*



**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: O come, o come, Emmanuel (Veni Emmanuel) *arr. Martha Mier*

CENTERING WORDS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **VU 9** People Look East vs. 1 & 2

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Response: **We wait in hope.**

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: **VU 9** People Look East vs. 3 & 4

CANDLE LIGHTING:

Response: **We gather as people of Hope.**

HYMN: **MV 220** Hope Shines as the solitary star

CHILDREN'S TIME

SOLO: Judith Oatway- Almost There

*Words and Music by M.W. Smith, W. King & A. Grant*

Mary, full of innocence

Carrying the Holy prince

You're almost there, you're almost there

Mother of the Living Word

Trusting in the voice you heard

You're almost there, you're almost there

You're almost where the angels see

Redemption's plan unfolding

All hope is in the child you'll bear

You're almost there

A lonely road, a willing heart

Pray for strength to do your part

You're almost there, you're almost there

Trust in Christ to provide

Bread of heaven prophesied

You're almost there, you're almost there

You're almost where the waiting ends

Delivering the life within

The answered prayer, Emmanuel

You're almost there

You're almost where the journey ends

Where death will die and life begins

The answered prayer, Emmanuel

You're almost, almost there

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 13:24-37 read by Jan Demeduk

SERMON

HYMN: **VU 2** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus vs 1 & 3

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER pg. 914/916:

OFFERING/OFFERTORY:

**VU 55** vs. 4 In the Bleak Midwinter

### SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

**We give thanks for the hope of the season,  
as we anticipate and prepare for the coming Christ Child.  
We give thanks for all that births new life.  
May we be the hands and feet of Christ,  
bearing Christ's hope and life into the world. Amen.**

BLESSING

BENEDICTION (**VU 1** O Come O Come Emmanuel vs. 7)

**O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
and be for us the Prince of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,  
O Israel.**

POSTLUDE: Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Picardy) *arr. Noel Rawsthorne*

### 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!

Clergy	Rev. Karen Lumley	klumley@standrewsriverheights.com
Lay Worship Leader	Rita Swan	
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	Charlotte Lindsay	office@standrewsriverheights.com

**A special thanks** to all who helped to decorate the church for Christmas following Covid protocols. Thanks to Ruth McKenzie, John Swan, Paul Bennet & Betty Jubinville for the indoor decorations and Bruce & Luba Scott and Gord and Kay Shawcross for setting up the Manger Scene outside.

**Scripture Readings for Next Week:**

\*Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2,8-13,  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
\*Mark 1:1-8

**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.



In a generous act of hospitality, God invites us into ministry. How shall we then respond?

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Wreaths are for sale.** Pre-order by calling or emailing the church office or Karen @klumley@standrewsriverheights.com. The proceeds are for Oak Table for their bathrooms for the homeless at Oak Table.

Oak Table is a community ministry of 1JustCity, the United Church of Canada and works with the homeless. Money is being raised for new washrooms and here is why they are needed, "All God's children need a washroom. Using a washroom is right, not a privilege. Can I use your washroom? NO! is the answer for Winnipeggers who are homeless"

Let's help and buy a Wreath! Cost is \$20.00 with curbside drop off. Money can be left in your mailbox on the day of delivery or a cheque can be mailed in to the church. Wreaths become available after December 5th. Order yours now!

**St. Andrew's River Heights United Church** at the corner of Oak Street & Kingsway will be lighting a "Memory Tree" on the Oak Street side of the church grounds on December 13, 2020. We will maintain proper social distancing to follow COVID protocol and wear masks.

This is a marvelous way for the community to dedicate lights in memory of deceased family members and friends. Lights are available for a minimum donation of \$10 each and the names of remembered people will appear in a permanent Memory Book which will be on display at the church. You will also receive a beautiful keepsake card for each light you purchase. Tax receipts will also be mailed out.

The lighting will take place promptly at 5:00 preceded by a few words and a prayer outside. We will be following all of the COVID protocols –wearing masks, 6 feet apart and outside. You may also remain in your cars and watch the lighting.

If you would like to participate, please mail or drop off the order form available on the website by December 11, 2020 with a cheque. The lights will shine continuously from December 13, 2020 to the end of the year, warming your neighbourhood and many hearts.

