



## Sunday, December 19, 2021



Advent is here! A time for waiting! A time to reflect on the coming Christ Child.

As we anticipate the birth of Jesus we light candles. Each Sunday we light candles:

The First Sunday of Advent we light the Candle of the Angels

The Second Sunday of Advent we light the Candle of the Shepherds.

The Third Sunday of Advent we light the Candle of the Magi.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent we light the Candle of Mary.

### 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

### Christmas Eve Services

**Christmas Family Service Friday December 24<sup>th</sup> at 12pm:** Pre-recorded and viewable online. This will be performed by our youth.

**Christmas Eve Communion Friday December 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:15pm.**

**Lessons and Carols Friday December 24th at 10:00pm**

*\*The evening services will be recorded and edited and will be available as soon as possible after Christmas\**



**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: My Souls gives Glory to my God  
(Morning Song) *arranged Michael Burkhardt*

### CENTERING WORDS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2021*

When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth,  
their lives were forever changed.

**Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit  
And Mary proclaimed faith in God, her Savior.**

The children they carried in their wombs  
Heralded expectation and hope for the world.

**We are heirs of this expectation and hope.**

**We are heirs of this promise of God.**

Come! Let us worship.

HYMN: **VU5** All Earth is Waiting

GREETING/ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF LAND:

Welcome in the name of Christ.

**Welcome to this place of worship, situated on  
the Traditional lands of the  
Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree and Dakota Na-  
tions and homeland of the Métis Nation.**

Welcome to this place of retreat and refuge, wor-  
ship and wonder.

**It is good to be here. It is good to be together.**

It is good to be together here in this place and it is  
good to connect on line.

Let us prepare to worship God.

CANDLE LIGHTING: The Candle of Mary– **VU38**  
Angels We Have Heard on High vs.4

### OPENING PRAYER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

An update from our Church Council – Rob Siddall

HYMN: **VU16** Mary, Woman of the Promise

### CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM: Behind the Clouds (*Abbie Betinis*)

Behind the clouds that darken human life,  
Forever shines the Light of God;

And whensoever those clouds may go,  
Dispelling the shadows in which we so blindly  
grope,

Then is it, indeed, Hope.

With ears attuned to heaven's prophecies,  
Our hearts await a Prince of Peace,  
And whensoever that Prince appear,  
And we in darkness, and we in fear find release,  
Then is it, indeed, Peace.

Awake! Awake! Lift up your hearts downcast,  
For sorrow shall transform at last,  
And whensoever that Rose unfurl'd,  
Invites Hosannas for all the world to employ,  
Then is it, indeed, Joy.

O come, O come, come closer still tonight,  
The pains of life remain, but Light...!  
And whensoever that Light breaks through,  
And we, in radiance, reflect a new world above,  
Then is it, indeed, Love.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:30-55 read by  
Paul Forget  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

DUET: Evan and Izzy - When the Wind of Winter  
Blows (*Ruth Duck and Lori True*)  
Text: **MV71**

(Refrain) Holy Light, warm our night;  
Warm the time of winter.  
Holy Light, warm our night;  
Warm the time of winter.

When the wind of winter blows,  
Bringing times of solitude,  
Fill the silent icy night;  
Be our hearts' compassion. **R**

When we shiver in despair,  
When the chill of death comes near,  
Hold us, Spirit, calm our fear,  
While the evening deepens. **R**  
When in days of fallen snow,  
Change confounds or love burns low,  
From the ashes may there rise  
Phoenix of our growing. **R**

### SERMON

HYMN: **VU899** Song of Mary

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Praise God wholeheartedly.

Sung response: **VU10** Prepare the Way of the Lord

## THE LORD'S PRAYER **VU916**: A Paraphrase

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from form one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love now and forever. Amen

## OFFERING/OFFERTORY: **VU74** What Child is This vs. 3

**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!**

## BLESSING: (*The Abingdon Press, 2021*)

Go forth and bear Christ's hope to the world  
**We will carry Christ's hope everywhere we go.**  
Go forth and bear the mystery of God.  
**We will shine God's light each and every day.**  
Go forth and bless the world.  
**We will share the Spirit in all that we say and in all that we do.**

## BENEDICTION: **VU17** O Ancient Love vs. 1

**O ancient love, processing through the ages;  
O hidden love, revealed in human form;  
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:  
O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.**

POSTLUDE: "O Come, All Ye Faithful". *Arrangement by Lani Smith.*

### 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	ritamswan1@gmail.com
Choir Director	Katy Harmer	music@standrewsriverheights.com
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

### **Announcements**

**Thanks to our** quintet: Judy Oatway, Susanne Reimer, Nolan Kehler, Katy Harmer & Paul Forget who will also be reading the scripture, for offering their gifts in the service today.

**Thanks to** all who participated in the tour of Human Rights Museum on The National Human Rights Day here at church or at home. Thanks to Outreach for organizing this.

**Thanks** to all who bought and those who delivered the wreaths this year. A special thanks to Allison Koots and Charlotte Lindsay who organized it all. Thanks to RBM Gardens who made the wreaths for cost for our fundraiser for JAWS (Just A Warm Sleep). We raised \$1,105.00 for that cause.

**Thanks** to Gord Shawcross for bringing up the Outdoor Crèche items from the basement and to Bruce & Luba Scott who were responsible in setting it up.

**Thanks** to all who participated in the Family Christmas Eve Service recording last Sunday, which will be available for viewing on December 24th at 12pm.

**We are** collecting new socks (wool socks with some acrylic) for JAWS (Just A Warm Sleep). These are handed out every night for those in need of warm socks for the winter months as people come to sleep for the night. Thank you so much for your continued support!

**Bruce Holland** passed away Thursday morning December 16th, remember his family in your prayers.

**Sunday, December 26th**, at 10:45am we will be joining Westworth United in worship. You can attend in person through pre-registering, contact Westworth for information on how to register. You can also view their live-stream or view it later in that week.

**If you** or anyone you know has a special birthday, anniversary or celebration coming up let us know so that we can announce it.

### **Make Poverty History Manitoba!**

Let's Talk About Poverty in a Safe Space!

January 18th, 2022 | 7-8:30 pm | ZOOM

Why does poverty exist? What can be done about it?

Join in conversations with other community members about addressing poverty in Manitoba.

This event is 'Kitchen Party' style, where participants engage in conversations about tough issues with their neighbours and community through facilitated dialogue.

Register now through EVENTBRITE.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/lets-talk-about-poverty-conversations-in-a-safe-space-tickets-227183841987>

### **Scripture Readings for next week:**

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

### **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, through E-transfer by contacting Bill Craddock our Treasurer at 204-488-1130 just leave a message on the phone and Bill will return it, or can be dropped off at any time through the church office.

Check out our website for more information and forms. The church is very grateful for any and all donations. Thank you so much.



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



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Office Hours: Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm | Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!