



**Sunday, December 18, 2022**



Advent is a time of waiting, anticipation, peace, hope, 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 Prince of Peace. May we begin to understand God's vision of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love each week as we light the candles.

#### **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.

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

### **Christmas Eve Services**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 12pm-Christmas Family Service (online only)** - Pre-recorded and viewable online. This was performed by our youth.

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:15pm-9:30pm- Christmas Eve Communion**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00pm - Lessons & Carols sung by the choir**

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

### **Upcoming Services:**

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day Service, Westworth will be joining us.

Sunday, January 1 - Service at Westworth at 10:00am - "Around the Table"  
(Please sign up to bring 6 muffins or cheese. Sign-up sheet is at the back of the church.)



**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

*(Advent 4– Love)*

GATHERING: Wes Elias -*O Lord, how shall I meet you* (St. Theodulph) arr. Paul Manz  
Handbells - *Meditation on "Forest Green"* (arr. Jodi Acker Bohr)

BREAKING NEWS: George-Anthony Shariff & Andrew Dolinsky

## WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY: *(Kairos-a religious organization that works together for ecological justice and human rights around the globe)*

Welcome to this service of worship.

We acknowledge the traditional territory upon which we gather this morning.

**For many thousands of years, the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota Nations and Metis nations have sought to walk gently on this land.**

They offered assistance to the first European travelers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate.

**We seek a new relationship with the original peoples of this land, one based in honour and deep respect.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minute for Council – Kathy Knowles

HYMN: **VU31** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

♪ **O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you are!**

**Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!**

**O kindle, then, most holy, a lamp within my breast,**

**to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.**

**Love caused your incarnation love brought you here to me;**

**your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.**

**O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love all loves excelling our lost and fallen race.**

**A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high,**

**that will not fail nor leave me as earthly riches fly. My heart shall bloom forever for you with praises**

**anew,**

**and from your name shall never withhold the honour due. ♪**

## CENTERING WORDS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Seasons of the Spirit*  
God's people ask for signs of God's presence.

**(whispered) Emmanuel! God with us!**

From ancient times, they have called upon God for help.

**(a little louder) Emmanuel! God with us!**

"Shine your face upon us," they cry.

**(louder still) Emmanuel! God with us!**

And an angel said to Joseph:

**(full throttle) Emmanuel! God with us!**

Come, let us worship God!

CANDLE LIGHTING: *Gathering 2019/2020*

In this season of expectant waiting, we hold our breath.

**We yearn for love that makes us whole.**

When we feel lonely, when we feel alone, when we feel abandoned,

when we don't know where to turn when we despair

**God is with us!**

On that foundation, on that potential, on that created reality within,

**we trust with growing confidence**

divine love fills to overflowing,

**as the flame of love is gifted from the One who transforms.**

HYMN: *We Light a Candle* (Valerie Kingsbury and Christopher Bowman) vs. 4

**We light a candle for all people who travel unafraid**

**to follow love into the night.**

**Their courage is displayed.**

**A candle's light will guide our way.**

**The gift of love is ours today.**

**A candle's light will guide our way.**

**The gift of love is ours today.**

## PRAYER

HYMN: **VU42** *Down to Earth, as a Dove*

♪ **Down to earth, as a dove,**

**come to dwell holy love:**

**Jesus Christ from above**

**bringing great salvation**

**meant for every nation.**

(Refrain) **Let us sing, sing, sing  
dance and spring, spring, spring.**

**Christ is here, ever near!**

**Gloria in excelsis.**

**This is love come to light,**

**now is fear put to flight.**

**God defeats darkest night,**

**giving for our sorrows**

**hope of new tomorrows. R**

**Christ the Lord comes to feed  
hungry souls in their need;  
in the house there is bread:  
Jesus in a stable,  
in the church a table. R ♪**

#### CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM: *There was a Beauty Once* (words, Graham K.A. Walker; music, Andrew Carter)  
There was a beauty once among the morning stars,  
And there was music once among the heavenly  
choirs,  
There was starlight once announcing a baby's birth,  
There was a blessing once that covered all the  
earth.

There was a journey once for shepherds and for  
kings,  
There was a hoping once that all these things would  
bring  
Forgiveness for us all and Love, to cause our hearts  
to sing!

Though two thousand years have folded all the  
times between,  
God's beauty, music, blessing,  
God's hope, forgiveness, Love,  
Still flow in ceaseless stream.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 7:10–16 read by  
Khal Shariff

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

SOLO: Nicki LeGrand - *Mary's Song* (Underneath  
Cathedral Skies) (words, Valerie Kingsbury; music,  
Christopher Bowman)  
Through the city streets we walked and knocked on  
every door.  
Each time the answer was the same: "We haven't  
room for anymore."  
At the city's edge we stopped, the last Inn came into  
view.  
If we could not find respite here, I didn't know what  
we would do.

With each step the pains grew stronger, I longed for  
a place to lay my head.  
I cried out in anguish to my

God: "Where am I being led?"  
Underneath cathedral skies...

The inn-keeper shook his head, but pity filled his  
eyes.  
He offered us a stable rude; a bed of hay where cat-  
tle lie.

With each step the pains grew stronger, I longed for  
a place to lay my head.  
I cried out in anguish to my God: "Where am I being  
led?"

It was better than a palace!  
The stars were shining bright, and underneath ca-  
thedral skies,  
Our baby boy was born that night.

#### SERMON

HYMN: **VU17** *O Ancient Love*

♪ **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.**

**O homeless love, that dwells among the  
stranger;  
O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;  
O hungry love, that lay within a manger:  
O living Love, within our hearts be born.  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.**

**O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;  
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn,  
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow:  
O living Love, within our hearts be born.  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.**

**O suffering love, that bears our human weak-  
ness;  
O boundless love, that rises with the morn;  
O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness:  
O living Love, within our hearts be born.  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne. ♪**

#### 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!

A thank you today to our singers, soloist,  
Nicki LeGrand and our scripture reader,  
Khal Shariff.

Clergy	Rev. Karen Lumley	klumley@standrewsriverheights.com
Choir Director	Katy Harmer	music@standrewsriverheights.com
Organist	Wes Elias	weselias@mymts.net
Sunday School	Jan Demeduk	j.demeduk@hotmail.com
Council Chair	Rob Siddall	rgs123@mymts.net
Treasurer	Bill Craddock	wjcdlc@mymts.net
Church Office	Charlotte Lindsay	office@standrewsriverheights.com

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**  
We live in Advent love, O God.  
Sung response: **VU900** *Song of Zechariah*  
**God shall fulfill the promise and bring the people love.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY:** *Each of Us Has Treasures* (Valerie Kingsbury and Christopher Bowman)  
**Each of us has treasures, off'rings we can share. Arms to hold and comfort, words to show we care. Gifts of time and talent at the manger lay. All we have to give, we offer on this day.**

#### BLESSING

**BENEDICTION:** **VU10** *Prepare the Way of the Lord*  
**Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord! Make a straight path for him make a straight path; Prepare the way of the Lord!**

**POSTLUDE:** Handbells - *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* (Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Douglas E. Wagner)

#### Announcements

**A special thank you** to our handbell choir, for their wonderful music today.

**A thank you to the youth,** George -Anthony Shariff & Andrew Dolinsky, who participated in the Breaking News this morning.

**Thank you** to everyone who bought wreaths, we raised almost \$800.00 for Just A Warm Sleep!

**Iris McKay** has returned home from Deer Lodge Re-hab Centre to recuperate from her broken leg.

**Remember in prayer:**  
Omar Fraguera is in the Concordia Hospital, Room 111.

Colleen Watters has been moved to Misericordia Hospital.

**Sunday School children and youth** will be recording the Christmas play immediately following church on Sunday, December 18th. Please visit and enjoy coffee in the entranceway as we must be out of the church by 1:30pm for a concert. Thanks.

#### **Santa Explains The True Meaning of Christmas**

*This play was written by 11-year-old Lindsay Kiesman for her church in Wawanesa, Manitoba. With a sense of humour and astonishing clarity, Lindsay shares her insight in the telling of the Christmas story and her passion for writing. This is the play the children and youth of St. Andrew's are presenting for Christmas Eve.*

#### **Characters**

Narrator: Izzy Dyck  
Kelly: Jocelyn Carlson  
Santa: Evan Dyck  
Elf 1-Jamie Mainprize  
Elf 2-Quinn Ledlow  
Mary: Abigail Regier  
Joseph: Elliot Ragot  
Angel 1: Maggie Ragot  
Angel 2: Quinn Ledlow  
Shepherd 1: George-Anthony Shariff  
Shepherd 2: Andrew Dolinsky  
Wise One 1 :Daphne Regier

#### **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?

Wise One 2: Blake Regier  
Wise One 3: Ira Moore  
Director: Jan Demeduk

We want to thank everyone for their participation in this play!

**You will have recently received** your pledge card for the 2023 year. Please prayerfully consider your gift to the church for the new year. Every commitment is welcomed and appreciated! As we continue to move through Covid-19 we are reminded of the gifts that we have received and how our lives have been impacted.

**Got any loose change?** The Coin Canister is at the back of the church. Drop-in spare coins for Oak Table-1JustCity for their needs for food for their breakfast program.

**Scripture Readings for next week**  
\*Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)



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