



Sunday, February 19, 2023



Epiphany follows the Christmas story of the babe born in the manger. It is a season especially set apart for adoring the glory of Christ. It means manifestation of glory and leads us to the contemplation of Christ as King upon a throne leading us to the Season of Lent. The Epiphany Season is a happy time for us to keep the bright lights about our homes, and to remember the miraculous birth and guiding star of Bethlehem so long ago.

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/>.

ANNA BLAIR CIRCLE: Monthly functions that are social in nature and promote fellowship and camaraderie.

BIBLE STUDY: We meet Tuesday mornings at 9:30am 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](mailto:Ruth-mckenzieqrst@shaw.ca)

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 at j.demeduk@hotmail.com

ST. ANDREW'S MUSIC: Love to sing? Our senior choir meets Thursday evenings and welcomes new members!
Choir Director—music@standrewsriverheights.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are always looking for volunteers to help out with events, fundraising, outreach, Sunday morning coffee & tea. If you are interested, email the church office at office@standrewsriverheights.com.

Upcoming Services:

- Sunday, February 26 - Communion & AGM
 - Sunday, March 5 - Lent 2
- Sunday, March 12-Lent 3-PIE DAY (Public/Intentional/Explicit) Affirming Sunday



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: *Variations on a Spanish melody* Bernardo Pasquini

CENTERING WORDS

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: **VU330** *Jesus Shall Reign*

♪ **Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
and prisoners leap to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.**

**Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen! ♪**

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Gathering Worship Resources 2023, written by: Elaine Bidgood Sweet, North Dakota.*

This is the day that God has made!

Rejoice. Rejoice. Hallelujah!

This morning is God's morning!

It is the morning we praise God in worship.

It is the morning we pray, confess, and offer our gifts.

It is the morning we meet Jesus on the mountain-top.

It is the morning we notice Moses travelling up the mountain to experience a special closeness to God. This is God's Day and it is a day of renewal for the week ahead.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY: *(The Government of Canada) Unison*

We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 1 territory and that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene People's, and the homeland of the Metis Nation. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this land.

CANDLE LIGHTING

PRAYER

HYMN: **VU421** *Lead on O Cloud of Presence*

♪ **Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.**

In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.

Our slavery left behind us, new hopes within us grow.

We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.

**Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.**

**We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.**

**Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.**

**We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand. ♪**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SOLO: Paul Forget - *Transform Us as you, Transfigured Words* by Sylvia Dunstan, (The music is the PICARDY hymn setting, based on a 17th-century French carol.)

Transform us as you, transfigured, stood apart on Tabor's height.

Lead us up our sacred mountains, search us with revealing light.

Lift us from where we have fallen, full of questions, filled with fright.

Transform us as you, transfigured, once spoke with those holy ones.

We, surrounded by the witness of those saints whose work is done,

Live in this world as your Body, chosen daughters, chosen sons.

Transform us as you, transfigured, would not stay within a shrine.

Keep us from our great temptation—time and truth we quickly bind.

Lead us down those daily pathways where our love is not confined.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Bernard Boland

Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

Gospel reading: Matthew 17:1-9

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

ANTHEM: *Let the Heaven Light Shine on Me* (trad. spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan)

Let the light from heaven shine on me,
For low is the way to the upper bright world.
Let the heaven light shine on me!

SERMON

HYMN: **VU102** *Jesus on the Mountain Peak*
♪ **Jesus on the mountain peak**
stands alone in glory blazing;
let us, if we dare to speak,
join the saints and angels praising. Hallelujah!

Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the law
shout through them their joyful greeting: Hallelu-
jah!

Swift the cloud of glory came,
God proclaiming, in its thunder,
Jesus as the Son by name!
Nations, cry aloud in wonder: Hallelujah!

This is God's beloved son!
Law and prophets sing before him,
first and last and only One.
All creation shall adore him! Hallelujah! ♪

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

We yearn for transformation for ourselves, each other
and the church.

Sung response: **MV101** *Jesus You Fill Our Hearts*
Jesus, you fill our hearts with your love,
our minds with your peace,
and our lives with your joy

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 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.

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,
Paul Forget and our scripture reader,
Bernard Boland .

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: **VU518** *As Those of Old vs.* **3**

With gratitude and humble trust,
we bring our best to you,
not just to serve your cause,
but share your love with neighbours too.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

BLESSING: *Gathering Resource for Worship Leaders,* *2023, written by: Robin Wardlaw.*

The light of Love has come to you this day.

We will let it shine in our lives.

The voice of Love has been experienced here this day.

We will open our lives to receive it each day.

Christ has been present on this mountain.

We will travel with Christ wherever our journeys
may lead.

BENEDICTION: **903** *Song of Simeon*

Lord, God, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as promised in your word;
my eyes have seen the Saviour, Christ the Lord,
prepared by you for all the world to see,
to shine on nations trapped in darkest night,
the glory of your people and their light.

POSTLUDE: *Jesus shall reign (Duke Street)* arr. Robert Hobby

Music Notes

This week's anthem is an arrangement of the traditional Spiritual, "Let De Heaven Light Shine On Me." February is Black History Month, a month to recognize and celebrate the history and contributions of Black people across North America.

The tradition of Spirituals that we enjoy singing now, comes from the songs sung by those enslaved in the Southern United States. Many enslaved people were taught Christianity as a method of control, and the songs that came out of the enforced religion served a double-edged purpose: to mollify their overseers, and to give strength and unity among themselves. Often, Spirituals include phrases about freedom, Heaven, or the promised land. .

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Coming Up...

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Worship @ 10:30am

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Bible study @ 9:30am

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper @ 5pm

Council (board room) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 2pm

Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6:15pm

Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 7pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Choir @ 7:30pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Rental—Katherine Mayba (sanctuary) @ 2pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Rental—Katy (sanctuary) @ 10am

Perhaps you've learned that these phrases were code words for the free states in the Northern United States, and for Canada beyond. And while this is true, they are also reassurances about what happens in death. Death was a constant threat and a reality for enslaved people, and perhaps these songs served as comfort for those who endured unimaginable hardships. It is important to sing these songs because they are part of our history (we, as Canadians are not as blameless as we sometimes believe; racism has played, and continues to play, a role in our country), but we should also remember the context in which they were originally written and sung

Announcements

Good News! Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is back! We are holding this event in the auditorium on Tuesday February 21, 2023 from 5 to 6:30 PM. Dinner consists of pancakes, sausages and fruit and is only \$5.00 per person, children under 3 eat free. We have modified this event slightly to support social distancing. Bring your family and friends! Everyone welcome!

St. Andrew's AGM is Sunday, February 26th. Physical copies of the annual report are available for pick-up in the Narthex, it is also available to view online

A special thanks to all who gave Gifts of Love for Valentine's. The hats, mitts, scarfs, coats, boots, blankets etc. were greatly appreciated, given graciously and received gratefully.

The Sunday School Children will be creating symbols for the Lenten Tree, which will be hung every Sunday during Lent and Easter Sunday. Also, a special play will be shared on Palm Sunday by the children and youth for the congregation during the service.

Remember in prayer:

Bonnie Cross has been moved to Seven Oaks Hospital.

Omar Fraguera is in the Concordia Hospital, Room 316B.

Sunday, March 12 is PIE Day! PIE is Public, Intention and Explicit in our sharing of our being an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada. Our service will reflect this and then after church, we will eat PIE! If anyone is willing to bake a pie for that Sunday please sign up at the back of the church.

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?

Bible Study is on Tuesdays, at 9:30 am. This week we are studying The Temptation of Jesus, Matthew 4:1-11.

Coffee time after church begins again. The Fellowship Group will be hosting it most Sundays but will need some volunteers from time to time. On the first Sunday of every month, a volunteer is needed to do coffee, please sign up.

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

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12–19
*Matthew 4:1–11



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