



**Sunday, March 12, 2023**



Lent is defined as the period of 40 days that Christians observe from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It is often marked with giving up something one really likes. It is a reflective time of penitence in preparation for Easter. It is a time of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert of 40 days. Let us ponder these things in our hearts as we begin our Lenten journey as a faith community.

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@standrewsriverheights.com).

**Today is PIE Day!** PIE is Public, Intentional 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!



**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: *Prelude* (from *Prelude, Fugue and Variation*) Cesar Franck

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY: *Prairie Spirit United Church*

**For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land.**

**The relationship with the land is at the center of our lives.**

**We acknowledge the first peoples and their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. The land we worship and live on is part of Treaty 1. Our water comes from Treaty 3 and our hydro from Treaty 5 territories.**

**We acknowledge errors made in the past by those arriving from other lands and we pledge to work towards the right relationships with all First Nations people.**

INTROIT: *Psalms 84:4* (E. Thiman)  
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house;  
They will be always praising thee!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR PIE: Ruth McKenzie

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Called to Be the Church, 2020*

It is in God that we live, move, and have our being.

**We gather, as a community of faith,**  
to help one another become open to the presence of God.

**We gather, as a community of faith,**  
to help one another be intentional in our relationships.

**We gather, as a community of faith,**  
to help one another, and in helping one another  
**we worship God.**

OPENING PRAYER: *Called to Be the Church, 2020*  
Creator, touch our minds - **that we may worship with understanding.**

Christ, touch our eyes - **that we may recognize each other.**

Holy Spirit, touch our voices - **that our words would always praise you.**

Love Divine, touch our hearts - **that your compassion would overflow.**

*(Placing one hand on top of the other, palms up)*

**That all we touch would be blessed,  
that all we touch would be transformed,  
that all we touch would be made new, by your love.**

HYMN: **VU395** *Come In, Come In and Sit Down*  
♪ *(Refrain)* **Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.**

**You know the reason why you came,  
yet no reason can explain;  
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,  
for we are a part of the family. R**

**God is with us in this place,  
like a mother's warm embrace.  
We're all forgiven by God's grace,  
for we are a part of the family. R**

**There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;  
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.  
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,  
but we are a part of the family. R**

**There's rest for the weary and health for us all;  
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.  
So come in and worship and answer the call,  
for we are a part of the family. R ♪**

CHILDREN'S TIME: *The Lenten Tree*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *Adapted from, The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2023*

**O God of mercy and forgiveness, you accepted the complaints of the Israelites in the desert. Be understanding when we question, doubt, or test your patience. We confess that we forget your many gifts and graces to us when we feel alone and in need. We acknowledge that we complain and grumble about many different things. Help us to see beyond our own individual needs and to see the common good. Help us to learn how to be of service to those who are in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN: *All the Colours of the Rainbow* (Abbots Leigh) Songs for the Holy Other  
vs. 1, 2 & 4 (text by Carl P. Daw, tune Abbot's Leigh, VU104)

♪ **All the colours of the rainbow live unseen in daily light,  
But their splendors find expression when released to human sight;  
So the church reveals most beauty where diversity is real:**

**Breadth of race and class and gender, room for doubt and space to heal.**

**All the body's parts are wanted, nor can one despise the rest:**

**Head and hand must work together, as must eye and ear and chest;**

**So the church needs all its members for a range of ministries:**

**Varied gifts with one great mission, "Do this for the least of these."**

**Teach us, God, our need of others; through them help us fully live.**

**Wean us from our selfish habits; let us listen, learn, forgive.**

**May we see your longed-for image in each human heart and face,**

**And behold how those around us can be channels of your grace. ♪**

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Iris McKay  
Hebrew Scripture Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Responsive Psalm: **VU814** Psalm 95:1-7 Part 1

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

ANTHEM: *We Are a Rainbow* (Words and music David Kai)

We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,  
We're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,  
We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel anymore,  
We will shine a ray of hope that burning bright.

*Refrain:*

We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,  
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,  
Come shine your rainbow,  
Splash your hues across the sky,  
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.

We're a coat of many colours, sewn from many different threads,  
Covering all in warmth, in welcome and in grace.  
God said, "Let there be light," created every varied shade,  
In the rainbow each of us can find a place

*Refrain*

We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,  
We are peace within a world that's torn apart,  
We are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face,  
We are love that blooms and grows in every heart.

*Refrain*

When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,  
For our God will be with us on the way,  
Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened anymore  
As the mourning night of tears breaks into day.

*Refrain*

SERMON

HYMN: **MV159** In Star and Crescent  
♪ **In star and crescent, wheel and flame,  
in rugged cross and empty tomb,  
we image forth one matchless name,  
one holy matrix, fount, and womb.  
Though different cultures tribes, and lands  
use lenses ground to a differing sight,  
each colour of the prism's bands  
refracts from one all dazzling light.**

**In burning incense, tithing gifts,  
in breaking bread and pouring wine,  
each act of ardent worship lifts  
our human hearts to Love Divine.  
In Buddhist chant and Muslim prayer,  
in shofar, drum, and sacred song,  
the music thankful spirit's share  
give praise in voices millions strong.**

**With varied hopes and dreams and creeds,  
all tiles in one mosaic whole,  
we serve our God in faithful deeds  
on pathways to one common goal.  
No Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free,  
no male and female set apart,  
but all are one, as family  
held close within our Maker's heart. ♪**

#### 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 and our scripture reader, Iris McKay.

**A special thank you** to the Fellowship Group who set up the PIEs for today and all who brought pies.

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:

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving.  
Sung response: **MV100** *Lord God, You Love Us*  
**Lord God, you love us,  
source of compassion.**

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.**

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

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: **VU539** *God of All Good* vs. 1  
**God of all good, our gifts we bring to you,  
use them your holy purpose to fulfil;  
tokens of love and pledges brought anew  
that our whole life is offered to your will.**

### BLESSING

BENEDICTION: **VU121** *Tree of Life* Lenten vs. 3  
**Living Water of salvation,  
be the fountain of each soul;  
springing up in new creation,  
flow in us and make us whole,  
flow in us and make us whole.**

POSTLUDE: *Caprice sur les Grands Jeux* Louis Nicolas Clerambault

### 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 Psalm 23.

**One of our youth**, Evan Demeduk, is in the play *Foot-loose* and he is playing the minister. The play runs from March 14th -16th at 7:00 p.m at Tech Voc, 155 Wall Street. Contact Evan or Jan for information about tickets.

**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

1 Samuel 16:1–13  
\*Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8–14  
John 9:1–41



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