



We are an Easter people. People who celebrate the Risen Christ! The Season of Easter begins on Easter Sunday and lasts until May 28th which is Pentecost Sunday. The cross remains in the sanctuary with the

white cloth on it until Pentecost. Easter is the most important and oldest festival of the Christian Church, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

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 - mckenziegrst@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.





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: For the beauty of the earth (Dix) arr. Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY: Prairie Spirit United Church

For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples 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 peoples.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Sonja Lundstrom-Outreach

INVITATION TO WORSHIP:

R: In worship, we affirm God's gift of creation proclaiming our call to care for all creation.

HYMN: VU177 This Joyful Eastertide

♪ This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the crucified,
has sprung to life this morrow.

(Refrain) Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison, our faith had been in vain: but now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber, till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number. R

Death's flood has lost its chill, since Jesus crossed the river: lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver. R J

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM: For the Beauty of the Earth (text F.S. Pierpoint; music, John Rutter)
For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth,
over and around us lies,
God of all to you we raise

this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light, God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise. For each perfect gift sublime to our race so freely given, graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven, God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SOLO: Ian Olson - *If With All Your Hearts* (Felix Mendelssohn, from Elijah)
"If with all your hearts ye truly seek Me,
Ye shall ever surely find Me,"
Thus saith our God.
Oh! That I knew where I might find him,
That I might even come before his presence!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Written by Gill LeFevre, Celebrate God's Presence

We thank you, O god, that you have created a world of abundance.

Yet, in this world, we yearn for polluted waters restored, depleted soil made fertile again, and smoggy air made clear and clean. We confess that is through our abuse of your creation that such transformations are needed. We confess that we continue to misuse the wonders of the World. As we celebrate the beauty of the season and the gift of this planet Earth, keep us mindful of the trust you have placed in us to care for and sustain this world and all that lives on it. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN: VU186 Now the Green Blade Rises

♪ Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been: love is come again, like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never wake again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen; love is come again, like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; love is come again, like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; love is come again, like wheat arising green. ♪

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Responsive Psalm VU732 Psalm 8

Responsive Psalm: **VU740** Psalm 19:1-4 refrain 2 This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

SERMON: *Liturgy of Creation*, by Alyson Huntly. Read by: Fred Cross & Rev. Karen Lumley

HYMN: VU297 All Praise to You

\$\int\$ All praise to you, O God of all creation:
you made the world, and it is yours alone.
The planet earth you spun in its location
amid the stars adorning heaven's dome.
We lease the earth but for a life's duration,
yet for this life it is our cherished home.

With wondrous grace you clothed the earth in splendour:

With teeming life you filled the sea and land. Instill in us a sense of awe and wonder when we behold the bounty of your hand. Then when we hear the voice of bird or thunder, we hear the voice our faith can understand.

To tend the earth is our entrusted duty, for earth is outs to use and not abuse.
O gracious God, true source of all resources, forgive our greed that wields destruction's sword. Then let us serve as wise and faithful stewards while earth gives glory to creation's Lord. ♪

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Help us to be partners with you in mending and tending to creation.

Sung response: **VU179** *Hallelujah*, *Hallelujah* refrain only

Hallelujah, hallelujah, Give thanks to the risen Christ;

hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

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

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: VU538 For the Gift of Creation

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love, and the gift of the Spirit by which we live, we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands. May the grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

BLESSING

BENEDICTION: VU586 We Shall Go Out vs.1
We shall go out with hope of resurrection,
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted:

we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;

we'll weave a cloth of all the world united within the vision of new life in Christ.

POSTLUDE: Thine is the glory (Judas Maccabaeus) arr. Alexandre Guilmant

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 to our singers, soloist, lan Olson , and our scripture reader.

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

Announcements

A special thanks to all who participated in the Holy Week Services, the choir, actors for the Maundy Thursday Service, Rita Swan for co-leading Easter Communion, Tyler Craddock on the sound system, Fred Cross for recording and editing all of the services and all the staff who worked so hard to make it happen.

Thank you to all who delivered the Easter Flowers.

A special thanks to the children who created symbols for the Season of Lent and for Easter for our Lenten Tree. The symbols are at the back of the church if children want to pick up their creations to take home.

We would like to welcome Cecilia (CeCe) as our new part-time caretaker and to announce that she is taking over the position from Jeff Kremer's cleaning company.

Remember in Prayer:

Remember Westworth in your prayers as they are meeting to suggest a name of someone to extend a call to, for their new minister, on April 16th.

Remember in prayer Cheryl Duffy (daughter of Meaghan MacAngus) who is in the Women's Hospital in Hospice Care.

Upcoming services:

- Wednesday, April 19 St. Andrew's is at the Wellington for service at 11am.
- Sunday, April 23 Guest Preacher Irene Greenwood.
- Sunday, April 30 is Outreach Sunday and our Guest Preacher - Glynis Quinn, The Executive Director of 1JustCity.
- Sunday, May 7th is our Indoor/ Outdoor Picnic depending on the weather.

The Church Picnic is at 10:30 at the school across the street, W. H. Smith

with hotdogs, chips, drinks and ice cream sundaes weather permitting. If the weather does not permit us to be outside, then we will be in the Church auditorium for our service and picnic. Dress casually.

Irene Greenwood is a retired United Church minister serving for 38 years in both rural and city ministry in the three prairie provinces. Now retired, Irene lives in Winnipeg with her partner, Joan and enjoys spending time with their five grandchildren. On a volunteer basis. Irene continues her work for the church as a support person for ministry personnel and through social justice work. In addition, she occasionally offers leadership for study groups in her own congregation. Since retiring, Irene has renewed her interest in music by learning a new instrument - the ukulele. She and Joan participate in jam sessions, playing along with other ukulele players.

The St. Andrew's Senior Choir is pleased to announce the return of its annual Choir Show: "A Crazy Little Thing Called Love" on April 22, 2023. There will be a 7:30pm performance, as well as a 1:30pm matinee. (sold out) Tickets are \$20 (12 and under: \$10) with reserved cabaret seating; snacks and punch are provided. Wine and beer by the glass will also be available for purchase. Tickets are available for purchase through the office Mon-Fri 8:30am-2:30pm. If you would like to pick up your tickets on Sunday mornings in the Narthex, please email or call the church office to order your tickets ahead of time. Tickets are also available online through Eventbrite. Seating is limited, so please get your tickets early!

Speaker Series #3, April 30th 9am-10am in the lounge. Our speaker this month will be on Reconciliation

YOUR GIFTS MATTER.

Get the benefits of a Tax Receipt for your Donation! Let us know who you are and sign up for PAR. Preauthorized 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 Etransfer 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?

and the impact employment has on Indigenous Peoples. 1JustCity is on its own journey of reconciliation and will share the triumphs and challenges of being on this journey. You will hear from our Indigenous staff what impact a stable job has to an inter-generational survivor of colonization. You will hear the challenges of becoming a workplace with fair representation of Indigenous Peoples.

Bible Study is on Tuesdays, at 9:30 am. This week we are studying Luke 24:13-35.

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

Acts 2:14a,36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 *Luke 24:13-35

