

God's Promises



Sunday, November 12, 2023



Last month was World Communion, Thanksgiving, and All Saint's Day. This past week, we celebrated Remembrance Day and now for the next few weeks until Advent, we rest in the Hope of God's presence in our faith journey knowing that God is at work in our world. We wait for the coming of the Christ Child even now, for He is the Hope of the World.

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 on our website at <http://standrewsriverheights.com/life-work/church-groups/>.

Time for Fellowship and great food! We are holding a perogy lunch in the auditorium on Sunday, November 19, 2023, immediately after the service. Lunch will consist of perogies, ham, coleslaw, and dessert. There will be a collection. This is a great opportunity to get together. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Wreaths are for sale:

The wreaths are \$30 and the proceeds are for Just a Warm Sleep, which is part of Augustine Centre, 1JustCity. To pre-order, complete an order form at the back of the church or contact the church office. Cash or cheque accepted. The wreaths will arrive later in November.

Make sure to subscribe to our weekly eblast to know what is happening in the Church community!

<https://standrewsriverheights.com/news-4/newsletter/>



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 MUSIC: *Trio in A major* Josef Rheinberger
Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah arr. Alan Vin-
er

WELCOME/LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Long before those of us who are settlers and those who are descendants of settlers came to this land to live, there were people here. We acknowledge that many Nations of Indigenous peoples have lived on this land. We give thanks for this land, the territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Inuit peoples in the heart of the Métis Nation. We gather on Treaty 1 land and commit to the stewardship of this land and to right relationships.

HYMN: **VU651** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *The Abingdon Wor-
ship Annual 2023*

God is from everlasting to everlasting.

**The Holy One inhabits all eternity and every-
thing that is, or was, or ever will be.**

God is the source, guide, and goal of our lives.

**We acknowledge God as the center of our lives
and our world, not ourselves.**

We come today to worship God.

We come with thanks and praise.

Let us humble ourselves before God's holy pres-
ence.

May God teach us the ways of life as we pray.

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

MINUTE FOR MISSION – Linda Paul

ANTHEM: *Witness* (traditional Spiritual, arr. Jack Halloran)

Who'll be a witness for my Lord?

Oh, I'll be a witness for my Lord!

There was a man of the Pharisees,
His name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe.
The same came to Christ by night,
Wanted to be taught out of human sight.
Nicodemus was a man who desired to know
How a man can be born when he is old.
Christ told Nicodemus as a friend,
"Man, you must be born again.
Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise,

Repent, believe and be baptized."

Then you'll be a witness for my Lord,
Soul is a witness for my Lord.

You read about Samson, from his birth
He was the strongest man that ever lived on earth.
Way back yonder in ancient times
He killed ten thousand of the Philistines.
Then old Samson went a-wandering about.
Samson's strength was never found out.
'Til his wife sat upon his knee. She said,
"Tell me where your strength lies, if you please!"
Well, old Samson's wife, she talk so fair,
Samson said, "Cut off-a my hair!
Shave my head just as clean as your hand,
And my strength will come like a natural man."

Samson was a witness for my Lord,
Soul is a witness for my Lord.
There's another witness for my Lord!
My soul is a witness for my Lord!

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *Prayers to Share: Year A by David Sparks.*

O God, we confess that the spirit of wonder has not always inspired our community.

**Open our eyes, O God, to appreciate your mys-
tery at the heart of creation.**

The spirit of service has not always empowered our community.

**Teach us, O God, to be sensitive to the needs
of others.**

The spirit of support has not always motivated our community.

**Fill us, O God, with the desire to strengthen
and uphold one another.**

The spirit of sacrifice has not always marked our community.

**Turn our faces to the cross, O God, that we
may understand what it means to follow you.**
(Time of Silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN: **VU299** *Teach Me God to Wonder*

SCRIPTURE READING: Read by Fred Cross
Deuteronomic reading: Joshua 24:1-3a & 14-25
Gospel reading: Matthew 25:1-13

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

SOLO: Paul Forget - *Glory be to thee, O Lord* by A.R. Gaul, from Ruth (Op. 34)
 Glory be to Thee, O Lord, and praises never ceasing;
 O may Thy glory day by day forever be increasing;
 On Thy servant Thou has looked, from Thy great throne in heaven,
 And to his most unworthy hand a helpmate sweet hast given.
 Grant, that from Thy holy ways my feet may wander never,
 But that to Thee my soul may cleave forever and forever.

SERMON

HYMN: **VU670** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:
 With a spirit of urgency, we will serve our God.
 Sung response: **VU810** *Psalm 92 refrain*
**It is good to sing your praises
 and to thank you, O Most High.**

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: **MV136** *When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace* vs. 5
**Your Spirit gives us differing ways
 to serve you well and offer praise.
 When all are joined as one, we'll be
 your able, strong community.**

BLESSING

BENEDICTION: **VU481** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* vs. 2 shortened
**With praise and thanksgiving
 to God ever living,
 the tasks of our everyday
 life we will face.
 Then may all the living
 with praise and thanksgiving
 give honour to Christ
 and the name that we bear.**

POSTLUDE: *O God, Thou Faithful God* arr. Johannes Brahms

Announcements

There seems to be from time-to-time issues with the microphones and people are unable to hear. There are hearing aid devices that are available from the back of the church; just ask an usher. If you cannot hear, put your hand up and I will then know to adjust the mic or send a note up to the minister and I will try to deal with it. We want you to be able to hear. We try to have people test the microphones before reading in church to ensure they are heard. If there is any way we can help with this matter, please let us know.

If anyone would like to transfer their church membership from another church to St. Andrew's, please contact the church office. We will be having an Adult Confirmation and Transfer of Membership Sunday in December.

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
 Thank you to our singers, soloist, Paul Forget and our scripture reader, Fred Cross.

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

Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 9:30am in the lounge. The passage we are studying this week is Judges 4:1-7.

Sunday School Children are needed for our Christmas Eve Family Service which will be pre-recorded, not in person. Also, there is a skit each Sunday for Advent and Candle Lighting so there are lots of opportunities for children and youth to be involved. See Jan for more details and sign up.

Cookie Walk December 2 & 3, 2023: The Cookie Walk will continue in the modified format. Boxes will be pre-packaged and each box will contain 3 dozen homemade cookies consisting of shortbread and an assortment of cookies. The price per box is \$20.00. To order cookies, please complete the order form available at the back of the church or contact Charlotte in the church office. Cookies will be available for pick up on Saturday, December 2nd from 9:00 to 10:00am or Sunday, December 3rd after the service. Order early as quantities are limited. All orders must be prepaid before pick up. **Note to all Council and Interest group members:** We require your support to make this a successful event. Please sign up to make 10 dozen cookies. **To the congregation:** We need your continued support to help to make this event a success. All donations are welcome.

Memory Tree December 10, 2023

Be part of the Memory Tree Tradition at St. Andrew's this Advent season. We will gather in the sanctuary at 4:45pm on December 10 for a short celebratory service, followed by the lighting of the memory tree promptly at 5pm. Dress warmly. This is a marvelous way for the community to dedicate lights in memory of deceased family members and friends. Memory Tree lights can be purchased by contacting Charlotte in the church office, by completing the order form available at the back of the church. Each light is \$10.00 and represents the person that you wish to remember. You will also receive a beautiful keepsake card for each light you purchase. Their name will be permanently displayed in the Memory Book in the Narthex. The order forms must be received by December 5 to ensure the name/s is included in the Memory Book. All proceeds go to Jocelyn House Hospice. Tax receipts will also be mailed out. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Thank you for your continuing financial support of St. Andrew's!

We are returning to a new sense of normalcy at the Church, which is great. The choir sings an anthem each Sunday, people are signing up for adult confirmation and other events are starting to re-appear. There, as always, has been death among major givers and filling that gap is challenging. We would urge you to assess your situation and, if possible, increase your givings. The Church continues to support 1JustCity and other social justice causes. It is refreshing to have people like Josh Ward return and explain how meaningful our support is to the organization. We also continue to support Mission and Service so that the broader work of the Church can continue. There is a Sunday School program available and the Anna Blair Unit is functioning again. There are concerts, like the recent 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian College of Organists which saw many individuals attend. So, if you have not been at worship for a while, come and join us! We would love to see you!

Scripture Readings for next week: *Judges 4:1-7, Matthew 25:14-30. ** this reading is the preaching text*

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?



St. Andrew's River Heights United Church | 255 Oak Street, Winnipeg, MB R3M 3P7 | Sunday Services @ 10:30am
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