



Sunday, December 3, 2023



Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation, as we look forward to the long-awaited birth of the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Saviour, and Coming King. It is a time in which we wait 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 Christ Child. May we begin to understand God's vision of Hope, Peace, 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.

In the bulletin, there is a card with a star on it. If you did not get one, there are more on the table at the back of the church. You will see that the star can be cut out. When you get home, please cut out your star completely, being very careful to keep the negative of the star intact. Find a place where you can put the star and be reminded of Hope during this Advent Season. Between now and next Thursday, I would ask that you be on watch for places where hope is and where hope is lacking. You can use the card with the empty star space to pray for hope by writing down where you see hope and where you do not. Send those thoughts to Karen and they will be used in the service and E Blast next week. All names will be anonymous. This week, look for where you see hope and where you do not.

Meaning of Advent

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30th, and ends on Christmas Eve, December 24th. The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. It is a time of preparation, to prepare for the way of the Lord. Each year we await the rebirth of Christ when the world will be reconciled with God. The Anointed One, a Messiah, will bring peace, justice, and righteousness to the world.

In recent times, however, Advent has undergone a shift in emphasis, reflected in a change of colours used in many churches. Many Protestant churches now use blue to distinguish the Season of Advent from the Season of Lent. The candles are lit each Sunday symbolizing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The pink candle is the "Shepherd's Candle," symbolizing joy and pink is the liturgical colour for joy.



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.

ADVENT 1 - HOPE

GATHERING MUSIC: *O come, o come, Emmanuel* (Veni Emmanuel) arr. Raymond Haan
Comfort, comfort now my people (Genevan 42) arr. Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME

HIP HAPPENIN' NEWS

Anchor - Jocelyn Carlson, Reporter - Evan Demeduk, Person - Jan Demeduk, Jesus - Elliot Ragot

WORK OF THE CHURCH

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Gathering, Resources for Worship Leaders. 2023 written by Catherine Elsdon, Kingston United Church.*

Emmanuel, come to us in this Advent Season.

We rejoice, O God, that you are with us.

Come to us, O Holy Wisdom.

Show us the path of knowledge and teach us your ways.

Come to us, O Dayspring from on high.

Disperse the shadows of night and lead us into the light of dawn.

Come to us, Desire of Nations.

Bind us together, with one heart and mind.

O come, o come, Emmanuel.

HYMN: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (text from the Unitarian Universalist hymnbook, "Singing the Living Tradition")

♪ **O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and with your captive children dwell.
Give comfort to all exiles here,
and to the aching heart bid cheer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Love to dwell.**

**O come, you Splendor very bright,
as joy that never yields to might.
O come, and turn all hearts to peace,
that greed and war at last shall cease.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Truth to dwell.**

**O come, you Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your presence here.
And dawn in every broken soul
as vision that can see the whole.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Light to dwell.**

**O come, you Wisdom from on high,
from depths that hide within a sigh,
to temper knowledge with our care,**

**to render every act a prayer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Hope to dwell. ♪**

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME & CANDLE LIGHTING

HYMN: *We Light This Candle* (Pat Mayberry, arr. David Kai)

**We light this candle for Hope.
Await the new life within.
May our hearts now live each day,
So Hope can find a way,
So Hope can find a way.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Read by Allison Koots
Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

ANTHEM: *O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion* (from *Messiah*, G.F. Handel)

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
And shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us!

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
Get thee up into the high mountain;
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem,
Lift up thy voice with strength;
Lift it up, be not afraid;
Say unto the cities of Judah,
Behold your God!

O thou that tellest good tiding to Zion,
Arise, shine, for thy light is come;
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Gospel reading: Mark 13:24-37

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

SERMON

HYMN: **VU473** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Advent Communion, Written by Alydia Smith, Program Coordinator, General Council Office

As we come to this table...
...are welcome here.

God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift our hearts in prayer.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Let us pray ...
...new covenant; remember me."

Gracious God, Breath of peace,
Source of love,
we pray for your Spirit.
Make us, while many, one.
Make us, though broken, whole.
Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we pray:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP
The body of Christ,
the Bread of life.
The lifeblood of Christ,
the cup of blessing.
Let us eat and drink together
for our strengthening in the faith,
and for the sake of the world.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
We thank you, God,
for breaking into our world
and pouring into our lives and our experiences.
We thank you, God,
for this meal of thanksgiving
and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.

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: **MV33** *Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope*

Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
hallelujah forever more!

POSTLUDE: *Variations on 'Let all mortal flesh keep silence'* (Picardy) Albert Zabel

A note about O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Today, we are singing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," one of our traditional Advent hymns, but to different words. As Advent drew closer, and the war in Israel and Palestine has continued, the words, "...and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lowly exile..." that appear in verse 1 gave us pause.

In this instance, the word "Israel" refers to the historical and Biblical name for God's chosen people; it does not refer to the modern political state of Israel. However, at this time, when there are pleas for peace and freedom from captivity on both sides of the Israel and Palestine war, we thought that today's alternative text captures that wider call for help and healing, and speaks to our own Advent wishes of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

Announcements

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for the Advent season, it looks wonderful.

If you ordered cookies from the cookie walk for pick up today, don't forget to collect them after the service. Thank you to everyone who contributed, whether through baking, organising or even purchasing we thank you very much for your contribution in making this year's cookie walk a success!

Wreaths are for sale to help Just a Warm Sleep
All proceeds go to the 1JustCity program at Augustine Centre. You may purchase wreaths after church on Sunday or by contacting the church office. The cost is \$30 and cash, cheque and e-transfer are accepted. The wreaths make a great gift for neighbours, friends and family. Please consider supporting this outreach fundraiser.

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 Rita Swan our lay-worship leader, for co-leading in worship today.
Thank you to our singers and our scripture reader, Allison Koots.

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

More announcements

There will be a Celebration of Life for Rosemary Cawson (Jardine) on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1:00 pm with a reception to follow here at St. Andrew's.

Bible study meets Tuesdays at 9:30am in the lounge. The passages we are studying this week are Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8.

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.

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 this Tuesday, 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:

Isaiah 40:1-11 & *Mark 1:1-8

**this reading is the preaching text*

Coming Up...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Worship @ 10:30am

Cookie Walk @ 11:30am

Rental—Winnipeg Singers (sanctuary) @ 1pm

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?

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

Worship meeting (lounge) @ 1:30pm

Council meeting (lounge) @ 7:30pm

P&A meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Jardine Funeral (sanctuary) @ 1pm

Book club (lounge) @ 1:30pm

Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @

7:15pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

RHS Childrcare yoga (lounge) @ 10am

Handbell choir (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Rental—Pembina Trails Voices (sanctuary) @ 4:30pm



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