



Sunday, December 10, 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.

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/>.

It's the last week for wreaths. Please consider purchasing one of the last 10 wreaths. The proceeds go to 1JustCity, Just A Warm Sleep for those who are homeless and need a warm place to sleep for the night. Wreaths are \$30. The wreaths make a great gift for neighbours, friends and family. Not interested in a wreath? You may also support this outreach fundraiser with a donation. Thank you for your support.

This week is Peace Sunday. The peace ribbons are at the back of the church for anyone who would like one. Wear it for the season as we pray and work for peace in our own lives, our world, and our faith community here at St. Andrew's. Wear the ribbon of Peace for the season remembering and reflecting on Peace that is so needed for our world .

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.

ADVENT 2 - PEACE

GATHERING MUSIC: *Medley: Of the Father's love begotten & Lo, how a rose e'er blooming* arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH
Minute for Church Council - Iris McKay

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023, adapted.*
Prepare the way of the Lord. **We prepare by waiting with patience.**
Prepare the way of the Lord. **We prepare by living with faith and love.**
Prepare the way of the Lord. **We prepare by pursuing justice and peace.**
Prepare the way of the Lord. **We prepare, we wait, and pray.**
May God bless with patience and passion. As we wait and pray.

PRAYER

HYMN: **VU18** *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

CHILDREN'S TIME: HIP HAPPENIN' NEWS
Anchor - Jocelyn Carlson, Reporter - Evan Demeduk, Elf-Andrew Dolensky, John the Baptist – George Antony Shariff

CANDLE LIGHTING

HYMN: *We Light This Candle* (Pat Mayberry, arr. David Kai)
We light this candle for Peace.
Await the new life within.
May our hearts now live each day,
So Peace can find a way,
So Peace can find a way.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *Adapted from The Minister's Annual Manual, 2008*
Almighty God, we prefer the quick-fix and Christmas cheer to this time of waiting and hoping. John the Baptist and his call for repentance seem out of place to the Christmas story, and we want to get to the point. Why must we wait? We confess our impatience to you. We are impatient with ourselves, with you, and with the world around us. Comfort us with words of encouragement, lead us to change, and to repent. We are thankful you are patient with us. Hear us, and forgive us, O God, in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN: **VU5** *All Earth is Waiting*

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Linda Paul
Isaiah 40:1-11

ANTHEM: *Arise the Advent is at Hand* (text, Johann Rist, altered; music, Dana Mengel)
Arise the Advent is at hand,
The Lord is drawing nigh;
Arise with joy, thou faithful band,
To meet our God most high!
Look up, ye souls weighed down with care,
The Saviour is not far;
Look up, faint hearts, from your despair,
Behold the Morning Star!

Look up, ye drooping hearts today,
The birth is very near;
O cast your griefs and fears away,
For, lo, your help is here!
Hope on, ye broken hearts, at last,
For Jesus comes with Love;
He loved us in the ages past,
When we lay wrapped in night.

Arise the Advent is at hand,
The Lord is drawing nigh;
Arise with joy, thou faithful band,
To meet our God most high!
Look up, ye souls weighed down with care,
The Saviour is not far;
Look up, faint hearts, from your despair,
Behold the Morning Star!

Gospel reading: Mark 1:1-8

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

SOLO: Judy Oatway - *The Woodcutter's Song from the Pilgrim's Progress*
Music R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, Text Paul Bunyan
He that is down need fear no fall;
He that is low, no pride;
He that is humble, ever shall
Have God to be his guide.

I am content with what I have,
Little bit or much;
And, Lord, contentment still I crave,
Because thou savest such.

Fullness to such a burden is,
That go on pilgrimage;
Here little, and hereafter bliss,
Is best from age to age.

SERMON

HYMN: **VU8** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:
In the struggle, there is a promise of peace.
Sung response: **VU22** *Wait for the Lord*
♪ **Wait for the Lord, God's day is near.**
Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart! ♪

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 Peace*
Jesus came bringing us peace,
Jesus came bringing us peace,
Jesus came bringing us peace,
hallelujah forever more!

POSTLUDE: *Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!* arr. Dale Wood

Announcements

A special thanks to Lorenz Sarrondo for leading the choir on Thursday and Sunday while Katy is away. **Thank you to everyone** who stayed after church last Sunday and put up the outdoor creche.

Our last Bible study for the Season will meet on Tuesday at 9:30am in the lounge. The passages we are studying this week are Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 & John 1:6-8, 15-28.

Join us tonight for our Memory Tree service
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.

Scripture Readings for next week:
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
John 1:6-8, 15-28

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, Judy Oatway and our scripture reader, Linda Paul.

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

Coming Up...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Worship @ 10:30am

Memory Tree service @ 4:45pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Rental—AFG potluck (lounge) @ 6pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 1:30pm

Book club (lounge) @ 1:30pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Handbell choir (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

Book club (lounge) @ 1:30pm

Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 6:15pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Rental—Momoko Matsumura

(sanctuary) @ 10am

Rental—Holly Harris (sanctuary) @ 3:15pm

Rental—Bennet Charter (sanctuary) @ 6pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Worship @ 10:30am

Recording family service (sanctuary) @ 11:30am

Rental—Claudette Caron (sanctuary) @ 1:30pm

Rental—Charmaine Bacon (sanctuary) @ 5:30pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Oak St. Nursery Christmas Party (auditorium) @ 8am

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

RHS Yoga (lounge) @ 2pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 1:30pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Handbell choir (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Worship @ 10:30am

(Pre-recorded & posted on Youtube)

Christmas Eve Family service @ 1pm

Christmas Eve communion service @ 9:15pm

Lessons & Carols @ 10pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

Book club (lounge) @ 1:30pm

Rental—Women's Music Club (sanctuary) @ 6pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Worship @ Westworth 10:45am

More Announcements

Sunday, December 17th is Confirmation Sunday.

Then, immediately following worship, the children will be recording their Christmas Eve Service. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, as another rental needs the space at 1pm. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cookie walk this year! Whether it was through baking, organising or even purchasing we thank you very much for your contribution in making this year's cookie walk a success! We raised \$1850.

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?

Upcoming Services:

- Sunday, December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent (Children/ Youth recording Christmas Eve Service)
- Sunday, December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Oak Table-1JustCity is collecting individual tuna/meat cans, hearty soups, stews, beans etc. for individual use. Pull-top cans are useful. Baking goods such as sweetened condensed milk, pecans and walnuts, maraschino cherries (red and green) and sweetened coconut are requested. Please bring your donations to the church and we can drop them off for you. We thank you for your generosity.

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.



St. Andrew's River Heights United Church | 255 Oak Street, Winnipeg, MB R3M 3P7 | Sunday Services @ 10:30am
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Office Hours: Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm | Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!