



Sunday, December 17, 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/>.

Today's service is going to be full of music. Music is one way to express and feel joy. This week take the note home and be reminded of the joy of music. We are thankful for our ministry of music here with our music team and choir who share the Good News through song and instrument.

As we prepare for the baby Jesus' birth,
Let your Spirit sing in your hearts and
your Song of Joy fill our world.

This week think about where do you find Joy?

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 3 - JOY

GATHERING MUSIC: *Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding: "Christ is nigh" (Merton)* arr. Malcolm Archer

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

HIP HAPPEN' NEWS:
Anchor-Jocelyn Carlson
Reporter-Evan Demeduk
Isaiah-Katy Harmer

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

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

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Adapted from Responsive Prayers - David Sparks Year B, Advent 3*

Come to this service with joy! **There is Good News for the poor.**

Come to this service with joy! **There is Good News for the broken-hearted.**

Come to this service with joy! **There is Good News for those who lack freedom.**

Come to this service with joy! **There is Good News for those who suffered loss.**

Come to this service with joy!

We come to this service with joy. We come ready to hear the Good News.

We come to this service with joy!

PRAYER & A TIME OF SILENCE

HYMN: **VU232** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*

Service of Confirmation

CONFIRMANDS: Robbie Belton, Rhonda Kennedy-Rogers & Cynthia Worsley

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES: Ruth McKenzie, Chair of Worship

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

Response: **We will, God being our helper.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – A NEW CREED (VU918)

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS

-Chair of Council, Rob Siddall

-Chair of Worship, Ruth McKenzie

PRAYER FOR THE CANDIDATES

**O God, you have called us each by name,
and pledge to each of us your faithful love.
We pray today for your blessing
on those who have been confirmed.
Watch over them, guide as they continue to
grow in faith.
Remind us of the promises of our own baptism
and renew our trust in you.
Strengthen us to do your will, and to serve you,
with joy, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF CANDLE AND CERTIFICATE

BLESSING

SOLO: Loralie Friesen - *Mein gläubiges Herze* -
from "Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt, Bach (BWV 68)"

Mein gläubiges Herze,
Frohlocke, sing, scherze,
Dein Jesus ist da!
Weg Jammer, weg Klagen,
Ich will euch nur sagen:
Mein Jesus ist nah.

My Christ-faithful heart,
Exult, sing, make merry,
Your Jesus is there (in you, my heart!)
Away, lament; away, torments;
To you (torments and lament) I wish only to say:
My Jesus is near!

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Robbie Belton
Isaiah 61:1-4

ANTHEM: *Morning of Promise, Veni Emmanuel*
(text, based on Isaiah 9:2; music, Joseph M. Martin, incorporating the hymntune 'Morning Song')
The people who in darkness walked will see a wondrous light.
For morning gilds the sky with gold and shines away the night.

For many years the stars were dim, the candles burning low.
See now the time is drawing near, and hearts are filled with hope.

Veni, veni, come, o come, Emmanuel.

Let joyful music awake the dawn, let alleluias soar.
Proclaim to the world a joyful song, the coming of the Lord.

Veni, veni, come, o come, Emmanuel

Gospel reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

HYMN: **VU20** *On Jordan's Bank*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:
Christian friends, rejoice, with heart, soul and voice!
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: **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!

ST. ANDREW'S CONTACT LIST

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: *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 Joy*
Jesus came bringing us joy,
Jesus came bringing us joy,
Jesus came bringing us joy,
hallelujah forever more!

POSTLUDE: *Noel: A la Venue de Noel* Nicolas Sejan

Announcements

Welcome to our confirmands:
Robbie Belton
Rhonda Kennedy-Rodgers
Cynthia Worsley

Scripture Readings for next week:
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
*Luke 1:26-38
* this reading is the preaching text

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, Loralie Friesen and our scripture reader, Robbie Belton.

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 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

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

More announcements

Today is Confirmation Sunday.

Immediately following worship today, 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.

Remember in prayer Margaret Leslie Carr's daughter, Beth, on her journey with cancer. Margaret Carr is Pearl Leslie's daughter, who now lives in Alberta.

Thanks to all who participated and helped with the Memory Tree Service.

Thanks to all who sold and bought wreaths, about \$600.00 was raised for JUST A WARM SLEEP. A place where the homeless can sleep for a night at Augustine United Church

Thanks to all the choir members who hauled up the creche from the basement and those who put it up outside

Upcoming Services:

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

Sunday, December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 31 - Worship with Westworth at Westworth

Sunday, January 7 - Worship with Westworth at St. Andrew's

Worship at Westworth United

Church on December 31st will be a potluck (organised) breakfast worship that starts at 10am.

Heather Robbins will be the worship leader for the day. Please sign up if you are attending and list what you will be bringing to share.

The sign-up sheet is at the back of the church, or you can email the church office to let us know you are coming and what you are bringing. (Charlotte will add your name to the sign-up sheet)

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?

There is a movie called "The Iron Claw" opening in theatres everywhere Dec 22nd - Grant Park theatre in Winnipeg.

It is a drama/biography based on a true story of the famous Von Erich wrestling family of four sons in '70s USA. St. Andrew's choir can be heard singing in a funeral scene in the movie. It's called a tear-jerker with lots of action & an Academy Awards screening panel

suggests it may compete for an Oscar in at least 3 categories.

The movie stars Zac Efron & Jeremy Allen White. It is edited by Matthew Hannam.

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.

