



**Sunday, December 24, 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 there are red hearts** for anyone to take to remind us of God's unconditional love for us. God's gift of love to us at Christmas time was the Christ Child. Let us share that love with one another.

**Join us for our Christmas Eve Services!**

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm-Christmas Family Service (posted on YouTube)** –Pre-recorded and viewable online. This was performed by our youth.

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:15pm-9:30pm- Christmas Eve Communion** (in person)

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00pm – Lessons & Carols sung by the choir** (in person)

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 4– LOVE

GATHERING MUSIC: *Gesu Bambino* Pietro Yon

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

INVITATION TO WORSHIP:

God has done great things for us. **Glory to God in the highest!**

God is doing great things for us. **Glory to God in the highest!**

God will do great things for us. **Glory to God in the highest!**

PRAYER

HYMN: **VU2** *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

CHILDREN'S TIME: HIP HAPPENIN' NEWS

Anchor - Jocelyn Carlson, Reporter - Evan Demeduk, Manager-Katy Harmer, Person-Jan Demeduk,  
Jesus- Rev. Karen Lumley

CANDLE LIGHTING

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

**We light this candle for Love.**

**Await the new life within.**

**May our hearts now live each day,**

**So Love can find a way,**

**So Love can find a way.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *Adapted from Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*

**God of grace and God of glory,**

**Pour out your spirit on your people.**

**We long for the strength and the courage**

**To glorify your name in all that we say and in all that we do.**

**Open our eyes to the promise of your salvation.**

**Live in and through us this Christmas season.**

**That we might be messengers of your grace**

**And instruments of your peace. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN: **VU9** *People Look East*

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Colleen Watters

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

ANTHEM: *Love Came Down at Christmas* (text, Christina Rossetti; music, Mansel Thomas)

Love came down at Christmas,

Love all lovely, love divine;

Love was born at Christmas,

Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,

Love incarnate, Love divine;

Worship we our Jesus:

But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Gospel reading: Luke 1:46-55  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

HYMN: **VU42** *Down to Earth, as a Dove* vs. 1 & 2

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:  
We are amazed, O God, of your love.  
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 Love*  
**Jesus came bringing us love,**  
**Jesus came bringing us love,**  
**Jesus came bringing us love,**  
**hallelujah forever more!**

POSTLUDE: *Mary had a baby* arr. Noel Rawsthorne

**Announcements**  
**Worship at Westworth United Church on December 31<sup>st</sup>** 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)

**The church office** will be closed for Christmas break from Friday, December 22nd and returning Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024. If there are any pastoral care needs, call Rev. Karen Lumley at 204-250-5073.

**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 and our scripture reader, Colleen Watters.

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

**The children and youth recorded** their service last Sunday. Watch it online on Sunday, December 24th after 1:00pm.

**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.

**Reports** for the Annual Report are due Wednesday, January 3, 2024. A copy of last year's report can be found on the publications on our [website](#).

**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.

### Scripture Readings for next week:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

### Coming Up...

#### 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

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Worship @ Westworth 10:00am

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 1

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am  
Worship meeting (lounge) @ 1:30pm  
P&A meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

### 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?

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 1:30pm  
Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 7pm

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

Choir (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

Worship with Westworth @ 10:30am

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 8

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 1:30pm  
Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 7pm

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Handbell choir (lounge) @ 6pm  
Choir (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

