



Sunday, December 24, 2023



Joy to the world, the Lord is come! We join with Mary and Joseph, the Angels, the Shepherds, and the Wise Ones to celebrate the arrival of the Christ Child. After four weeks of waiting and preparation in Advent, Jesus is born and we rejoice! We rejoice with God, and with each other, that God's promise of new life has been fulfilled in the Christ Child. Merry Christmas!

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

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

Sunday, December 24th at 9:15pm-9:30pm- Christmas Eve Communion

Sunday, December 24th at 10:00pm - Lessons & Carols sung by the choir

The evening services will be recorded and edited and will be available as soon as possible after Christmas

Upcoming services

Sunday, December 31 - Worship with Westworth at Westworth (sign-up if attending)

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

We hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year

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.

Lessons and Carols— 10pm

Please join in singing the Hymns, found in the red
Voices United hymn book, standing as you are
able.

GATHERING: *O come all ye faithful* arr. Noel
Rawsthorne
Angels we have heard on high arr. Dale
Wood

WELCOME: Rev. Karen Lumley

HYMN 1: VU62 *Once in Royal David's City*

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CAROL 1: *Come to Christmas* (text and music,
Craig Cassils)

Come to Christmas, with peace in your heart,
With joy in your song, with love in your living.
Come to Christmas with thanksgiving.

One small flicker of one small flame,
One small candle so bright,
Preparing to celebrate Christ among us;
Its warmth is our delight.

One small baby is born for us,
One small Saviour of light,
Let everyone gather in joy and wonder;
The Christ Child born this night.

Come to Christmas, with peace in your heart,
With joy in your song, with love in your living.
Come to Christmas with thanksgiving.

LESSON 1: Isaiah 9:2–7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah
Reader: Rhonda Kennedy

HYMN 2: VU59 *Joy to the World*

LESSON 2: Isaiah 11:1-9

Isaiah speaks of the peace that Christ will bring
Reader: Rob Siddall

CAROL 2: *If Ye Would Hear the Angels* (text, Do-
ra Greenwell; music, Mark Sirett)

If ye would hear the angels sing,
"Peace on earth and mercy mild,"
Think of him who was once a child.

If ye would hear the angels sing,
Rise and spread your bounteous fare;

'Tis merrier still the more to share.

Welcome him!

Rise and light your Yuletide fire.
Christians rise! The world is old.
Time is weary and worn and cold,
Yet Christ comes.

If ye would hear the angels sing,
Christians, see ye let each door
Stand wider still than it ever stood before.
Think of him.

Rise and open wide the door.
Christians rise! The world is wide,
And many stand outside.
Think of him, for Christ comes.

If ye would hear the angels sing,
Christians, see ye let each door
Stand wider still than it ever stood before.
Think of him.

Rise and open wide the door.
Christians rise! The world is wide,
And many stand outside.
Think of him, for Christ comes.

LESSON 3: Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary
Reader: Diane Wreford

HYMN 3: VU44 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

LESSON 4: Luke 2: 1-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus
Reader: Iris McKay

CAROL 3: *Glory Hallelu!* (text and music, Don Be-
sig)

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelu!
And there were angels singin'
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelu!

On a night so very long ago
Was born a child in a manger low.
Angels sang in the heaven above,
Telling news of this gift of love,
But he seemed like such a tiny baby
To be sent to save us all!

People travelled from near and far,
Let by the light of a bright new star.
Precious gifts they came to bring,
Seeking to find a little newborn king,

But he seemed like such a tiny baby
To be sent to save us all!
Now we know him and the Love he brought us.
Now we try to live the way he taught us

Sing out loud and sing out clear,
Sing out the story so the world can hear
About this very special tiny baby
Who was sent to save us all!

LESSON 5: Luke 2: 8-14
The angels appear to the shepherds
Reader: Leigh Carlson

HYMN 4: VU64 O Little Town of Bethlehem (Forest Green)

CAROL 4: *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* (text and music, John Rutter)
Going through the hills on a night all starry on the way to Bethlehem,
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping on the way to Bethlehem.

Refrain: Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King
Is come to bring us peace on earth,
And he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."

"Tell me shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily on the way to Bethlehem,
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem?"
Refrain

"None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely, on the way to Bethlehem;
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies when I get to Bethlehem."

Angels in the sky came down from on high,
Hovered over the manger where the babe was lying
Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary, sleeping now at Bethlehem.

"Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily, is he there at Bethlehem?"
"I will find him soon by the star shining brightly in the sky o'er Bethlehem."
Refrain

"May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily, come with you to Bethlehem?
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle, is it far to Bethlehem?"

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King
Is born this night in lowly stable yonder, born for you at Bethlehem."

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

Clergy	Rev. Karen Lumley	klumley@standrewsriverheights.com
Choir Director	Katy Harmer	music@standrewsriverheights.com
Organist	Wes Elias	weselias@mymts.net
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Church Office	Charlotte Lindsay	office@standrewsriverheights.com

LESSON 6: Luke 2: 15-20
The shepherds go to Bethlehem
Reader: Jocelyn Carlson

OFFERTORY

HYMN 5: VU48 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

CAROL 5: *Lord of All: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (arr. Chris Jones)
Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new.
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Infant holy, infant lowly, Christ the babe is Lord of all.

LESSON 7: John 1: 1-14
John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation
Reader: Melinda Sellwood

BLESSING

HYMN 6: VU67 *Silent Night*

POSTLUDE: *Sing we now of Christmas* (Noel nouvelet) arr. Wilbur Held

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service to-night!

To our Singers, thank you for raising your voices in song!

To our Organist Wes Elias, it is such a pleasure to have you play in our church. You are so talented!

To our readers: Thank you so much for gifting your time and talents in reading for this special evening.

The flowers near the pulpit are in loving memory of Geoffrey C. Morrow, from his family.

And thank you to everyone working behind the scenes whether it is during or before the services, you ensure everything runs well and we appreciate your efforts!

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?



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