



Sunday, January 7, 2024



Epiphany

Epiphany follows the Christmas story of the babe born in the manger. It is a season especially set apart for adoring the glory of Christ. It means manifestation of glory, revelation, leads us to the contemplation of

Christ as King, and leads us to the Season of Lent. The Epiphany Season is a happy time for us to keep the bright lights about our homes, and to remember the miraculous birth and guiding star of Bethlehem so long ago.

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/>.

Youth, sign up for Confirmation Classes that will begin soon. If you are interested let Rev Karen Lumley know, email klumley@standrewsriverheights.com or call @ 204-250-5073 or the church line @ 204-488-11340.

Best wishes to everyone in the Anna Blair Circle for the New Year!

Let's start off 2024 with an enthusiastic response to the program that Carol and Iris have put together on Metis culture. We will meet on **Tuesday, January 9th, at 1:00 p.m. in the church lounge**. Expect to enjoy a speaker and a display, coffee and goodies, not to mention the conviviality of one another's company! Guests, of course, are welcome. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

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.

Epiphany

GATHERING MUSIC: *Variations on 'Sussex Carol'* (When heaven's bright with mystery) Raymond Haan

We three Kings of Orient arr. Alfred Fedak

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY: *Adapted from Gathering Worship Resource 2023-2024, written by Bill Perry, Consecon Pastoral Charge, Carrying Place, Ontario.*

Since time memorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land, the country many call Canada. As settlers here on this land, we acknowledge this area as the traditional home of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Inuit peoples in the heart of the Metis nation. We gather on treaty 1 land and commit to seek to rebuild right relations with all peoples and to learn from them, and to live on this land, together with respect and gratitude for our Creator, all of creation and all the creatures.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *From Worship for all Seasons II, Gathering Year B, written by: Bill Steadman.*

The journey of the Magi led them to a house. There they found a young child, God's special gift to the world.

They gave thanks and worshipped him, and their lives were transformed from that point onward.

Today we journey to seek Jesus again, to celebrate, to sense our lives uniquely touched, to find ourselves transformed for a future in God's presence.

Come, let us worship God.

HYMN: **VU36** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **VU93** *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *Gathering Resource, written by Bill Steadman, Goulais River U.C, Ontario.*

This day, Wise and Loving God, we hold close to us our dreams for the future and hopes for each new day. Be with us as we confront our own pains and fears, our own uncertainties and

challenges, the places in our lives here we need to heal and grow as we move into the year now before us. Receive now all the confessions of our hearts and lives. (A time of silent prayer.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM: *Good King Wenceslas* (text, J.M. Neale; arr. Reginald Jacques)

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,

When the snow lay round about, deep, and crisp, and even:

Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,

When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.

"Hither, Page, and stand by me, if thou know'st it, telling,

Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"

"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,

Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me meat, and bring me wine, bring me pinelogs hither:

Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither!"

Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together;

Through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.

"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger;

Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."

"Mark my footsteps, good my page; tread thou in them boldly:

Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly."

In the monarch's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;

Heat was in the very sod which the Saint had printed.

Therefore, Christians all, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,

Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 2:1-12 read by Ruth McKenzie
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: **VU96** *Will You Come and See the Light* vs. 1 & 2

SERMON: Part One

HYMN: **VU96** *Will You Come and See the Light* vs. 4 & 5

SERMON: Part Two

HYMN: **VU96** *Will You Come and See the Light* vs. 1

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:
The light of Christ will guide us.
Sung response: **VU41** *Christ is Born*
♪ **Christ is born; give him glory!**
Christ is born; give him glory! ♪

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: **VU84** *O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word* vs. 4
♪ **O light of Nations, fill the earth;**
our faith and hope and love renew.
Come, lead the peoples to your peace,
as stars once led the way to you. ♪

POSTLUDE: *How bright appears the morning star* (Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern) arr. Johann Kuhnau

ST. ANDREW’S CONTACT LIST

Music Note:
Today’s anthem is the well-known carol, Good King Wenceslas. The carol tells the story of King Wenceslas venturing to take food and supplies to those in need on the Feast of Stephen (St. Stephen’s Day, December 26). Wenceslas takes a Page with him, and they struggle with the snow and the cold until Wenceslas encourages the Page to follow in his footsteps and find warmth.

King Wenceslas was a real person, living in Bohemia (present-day Czech Republic) in the 900s. He was actually a Duke, but was made a King posthumously by the Holy Roman Emperor Otto I after being sainted for his acts of charity. This carol was written in 1853, and serves as a reminder that we can help those in need, and be blessed for doing so, throughout the year, and not just at Christmas.

Westworth News
Our condolences to the family and friends of Dorothy McLeod, who passed on December 26, 2023.

Our condolences to Andrea, Jamie, Nicholas, extended family and friends of Will Firth who passed on December 30, 2023.

Will’s funeral will be at noon at Westworth United Church on Thursday, January 11, 2024.

Announcements
We want to welcome into the world Carter, the grandson of Martha Graham and Derek Morphy. Congrats! To the proud parents & grandparents.

Bible study resumes Tuesday, January 16th at 9:30am in the lounge. We will be following the lectionary readings until Lent.

Book Club: You are invited to join the St. Andrew’s Book Club. We use the library book club kits, so no one needs to purchase the book. We meet approximately every six weeks on a Wednesday at 1:30 pm. Our next meeting is on January 31 and we will be discussing In the Midst of Winter by Isable Allende. If you would like to join and need a copy of the book, contact Ruth at 204-489-1537.

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, Ruth McKenzie. Welcome to Westworth congregants!

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, JANUARY 7

Worship with Westworth @ 10:30am

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

ABC meeting (lounge) @ 1pm

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

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Rental—Virtuosi (sanctuary) @ 12pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Rental—Katy (sanctuary) @ 10am

Rental—Eleanor Lwiwski (sanctuary) @ 6pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

Baptism of Christ worship @ 10:30am

Rental—Virtuosi (sanctuary) @ 1pm

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

Council meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 1:30pm

Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 7pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

Handbell choir (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

Choir AGM (lounge) after practice

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

Rental—Bennet Charter (sanctuary)

@ 6pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Epiphany 3 worship @ 10:30am

Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 1pm

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

Rental—RCM Exams (sanctuary) @ 8am

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

Rental—RCM Exams (sanctuary) @ 8am

Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 7pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

Handbell choir (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

Rental—RCM Exams (sanctuary) @ 8am

Rental—RHS Daycare party (auditorium) @ 4pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

Rental—Judy Oatway (sanctuary) @ 3pm

More Announcements

We still have a few containers left in the kitchenette from those who baked cookies for our cookie walk. Please collect your containers :)

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?

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:

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

*Mark 1:4-11 * this reading is the preaching text



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