



## Sunday, March 5, 2023



Lent is defined as the period of 40 days that Christians observe from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It is often marked with giving up something one really likes. It is a reflective time of penitence in preparation for Easter. It is a time of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert of 40 days. Let us ponder these things in our hearts as we begin our Lenten journey as a faith community.

### 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 at <http://standrewsriverheights.com/life-work/church-groups/>.

**ANNA BLAIR CIRCLE:** Monthly functions that are social in nature and promote fellowship and camaraderie.

**BIBLE STUDY:** We meet Tuesday mornings at 9:30am in the Lounge. Drop in anytime! Contact [klumley@standrewsriverheights.com](mailto:klumley@standrewsriverheights.com)

**BOOK CLUB:** We are a group of book lovers who meet Wednesday afternoons, every 5-7 weeks. Anyone is welcome! [Ruth - mckenzieqrst@shaw.ca](mailto:Ruth-mckenzieqrst@shaw.ca)

**OUTREACH:** Social justice in our community and beyond. We meet on an 'as needs basis'.

**PRAYER/BAPTISM SHAWLS:** Do you love to knit? If so, we could use your talents.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Teachers are always needed. Contact Jan Demeduk to volunteer at [j.demeduk@hotmail.com](mailto:j.demeduk@hotmail.com)

**ST. ANDREW'S MUSIC:** Love to sing? Our senior choir meets Thursday evenings and welcomes new members! *Choir Director—[music@standrewsriverheights.com](mailto:music@standrewsriverheights.com)*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are always looking for volunteers to help out with events, fundraising, outreach, Sunday morning coffee & tea. If you are interested, email the church office at [office@standrewsriverheights.com](mailto:office@standrewsriverheights.com).

### Upcoming Services:

- Sunday, March 12-Lent 3-PIE DAY (Public/Intentional/Explicit) Affirming Sunday PIE after church



**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.

## Order of Service

GATHERING: *Meditation on "Pleading Saviour"*  
Hymn tune John Leavitt, arranged Raymond Haan  
*The living God be praised* (Leoni) arr. Edward  
Broughton

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/ WELCOME

INTROIT: *Psalm 121, verse 1* (E. Thiman)  
I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,  
from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh even from the Lord,  
who hath made heaven and earth.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Called to be the Church, 2020*

Blessed and blessing, loving and loved.  
We are God's people here at St. Andrew's River  
Heights United Church,  
and we have come to this place ready to be a  
blessing. **We are ready!**  
From times of work, from times of play, from times  
of busyness,  
from times away, we have come. **We are ready!**  
We have come to speak and to receive, to sing  
and to pray.  
We have come. **We are ready!**  
**We are here! We are here! We are here to wor-  
ship our God!**  
The Christ Candle shows us the light and shows  
us the way.

## OPENING PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY: *Prairie Spirit United Church*

**For thousands of years, Indigenous people  
have walked on this land.  
The relationship with the land is at the center  
of our lives. We acknowledge  
the first peoples and their stewardship of this  
land throughout the ages.  
The land we worship and live on is part of Trea-  
ty 1. Our water comes from  
Treaty 3 and our hydro from Treaty 5 territo-  
ries.  
We acknowledge errors made in the past by  
those arriving from other lands and we pledge  
to work towards the right relationships with all  
First Nations people.**

HYMN: **VU634** *To Abraham and Sarah*  
♪ **To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was  
clear:  
"Go forth and I will show you a country rich  
and fair.**

**You need not fear the journey for I have  
pledged my word:  
that you shall be my people and I will be your  
God."**

**From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,  
dependent for their journey on God's abundant  
grace;  
and in their heart was written by God this sav-  
ing word:  
that you shall be my people and you will be  
your God."  
We of this generation on whom God's hand is  
laid,  
can journey to the future secure and unafraid,  
rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in  
this word:  
"that you shall be my people and I will be your  
God." ♪**

CHILDREN'S TIME: *The Lenten Tree*

SOLO: Sarah Witiuk - "*A Simple Song*" from Mass  
Music: Leonard Bernstein, Text: Stephen Schwartz  
Sing God a simple song  
Laude laudé  
Make it up as you go along  
Laude laudé  
Sing like you'd like to sing  
God loves all simple things  
For God is the simplest of all.

I will sing the Lord a new song  
To praise Him to bless Him to bless the Lord.  
I will sing His praises while I live all of my days.

Blessed is the one who loves the Lord  
Blessed is the one who praises Him  
Laude, laude, laudé  
and walks in His ways

I will lift up my eyes  
To the hills from whence comes my help  
I will lift up my voice to the Lord  
Singing Laude laudé  
For the Lord is my shade upon my right hand  
And the sun shall not smite me by day  
nor the moon by night  
Blessed is the one who loves the Lord  
Laude Laude laudé  
and walks in His ways.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *The Abingdon Wor-  
ship Annual, 2023 (unison)*  
**Faithful One, you know our fears and our  
doubts.**

**You know our hopes and our dreams.  
 You know our blessings and our curses.  
 Hold us closely with your love.  
 Breathe into our lives with your mercy.  
 For we yearn for the courage  
 to accept your grace and love.  
 We long to know your presence  
 and to trust your grace.  
 In faith and hope, we pray. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**HYMN: VU255 *The Living God Be Praised*  
 ♪ The living God be praise, who reigns en-  
 throned above,  
 ancient of everlasting days, and God of love.  
 Jehovah, great I Am! By earth and heaven con-  
 fessed,  
 we bow before your holy name, forever blest.**

**Your spirit still flows free, high surging where  
 it will;  
 in prophet's words you spoke of old and you  
 speak still.  
 Established is your law, and changeless it  
 shall stand,  
 inscribed upon the human heart, on sea, or  
 land.**

**You have eternal life implanted in the soul;  
 your love shall be our strength and sky, while  
 ages roll.  
 We praise you, living God! We praise your holy  
 name;  
 the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still  
 the same. ♪**

**SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 12:1-4a read by  
 Anne Grewar  
 This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God**

**ANTHEM: *God So Loved the World* (Words, John  
 3:16; music, Bob Chilcott)  
 God so loved the world, so loved the world,  
 That he gave his only begotten son  
 That whoso believeth in him,  
 Should not perish but have**

**ST. ANDREW'S CONTACT LIST**

everlasting life.

**SERMON**

**HYMN: VU337 *Blessed Assurance*  
 ♪ blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
 O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
 born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.**

**(Refrain) This is my story, this is my song,  
 praising my Saviour all the day long;  
 this is my story, this is my song,  
 praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
 Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
 angels descending, bring from above  
 echoes of mercy, whispers of love. R**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
 I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;  
 watching and waiting, looking above,  
 filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's  
 love. R ♪**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

Blessed and blessing, these are our prayers, God of all.

Sung response: **MV100 *Lord God, You Love Us*  
 Lord God, you love us,  
 source of compassion.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY: VU539 *God of All  
 Good vs. 1***

**God of all good, our gifts we bring to you,  
 use them your holy purpose to fulfil;  
 tokens of love and pledges brought anew  
 that our whole life is offered to your will.**

**BLESSING**

Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who helped with today's service—we couldn't have pulled it off without you!

A thank you today to our singers, soloist, Sarah Witiuk and our scripture reader, Anne Grewar.

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

BENEDICTION: **VU121** *Tree of Life* Lenten vs. 2

**In our call to be a blessing, may we be a blessing true; may we live and die confessing Christ as Lord of all we do, Christ as Lord of all we do.**

POSTLUDE: Prelude in E minor BWV 900 *J. S. Bach*

**Coming Up...**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5**

Worship @ 10:30am  
*Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 5:30pm*

**MONDAY, MARCH 6**

*Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 7**

Bible study @ 9:30am  
*Worship (lounge) @ 1:30pm*

**Announcements**

**The Sunday School Children** will be creating symbols for the Lenten Tree, which will be hung every Sunday during Lent and Easter Sunday. Also, a special play will be shared on Palm Sunday by the children and youth for the congregation during the service. Children will be returning to participate with us in the communion service.

**A special thanks to our actors last week:**

- Greg Fearne was Jesus.
  - Jim Duval was the Tempter, and
- The Nagging Voices were: Sarah Witiuk, Fred Cross, Linda Fearn and Linda Paul.
- Thanks to all of you for bringing alive the story of the Temptation of Jesus.

**A special thanks** to the Anna Blair UCW, who prepared the lunch for the AGM. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the setup and clean-up.

**Remember in prayer:**

- Doreen Adamson is in Grace Hospital.
- Bonnie Cross is in Seven Oaks Hospital.
- Omar Fraguela is in the Poseidon.

**Sunday, March 12 is PIE Day!**

PIE is Public, Intentional and Explicit in our sharing of our being an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada. Our service will reflect this and then after church, we will eat PIE! If anyone is willing to bake a pie for that Sunday please sign up at the back of the church.

**Memorial Flowers:** What is the Memorial Flowers Fund? Every year during Lent, St. Andrew's raises money for the St. Andrew's Flower Fund in memory of loved ones. Donations can be made in amounts of your choosing and you can name as many people as you wish. All loved ones named will be listed in an 'In Memoriam' section in our order of service on Easter Sunday. This fund is used to purchase flowers/plants to decorate the church during special times of the year. If you would like your 'In Memoriam' to be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please forward the form and your donation to the church office by mailing it in or dropping it off in the mailbox **no later than Monday, April 3rd, 2023**. Any donation to the Memorial Flowers Fund will be included in your yearly income tax receipt. Forms are located in the narthex or can be found on our website under "publications/forms".

**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?

**Bible Study** is on Tuesdays, at 9:30 am. This week we are studying Psalm 95.

**One of our youth,** Evan Demeduk, is in the play *Foot-loose* and he is playing the minister. The play runs from March 14th -16th at 7:00 p.m at Tech Voc, 155 Wall Street. Contact Evan or Jan for information about tickets.

**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**

- Exodus 17:1–7
- \*Psalm 95
- Romans 5:1–11
- John 4:5–42

