



## Sunday, February 18, 2024



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, rest, 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.

### 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/>.

**Bible Study** is on Tuesdays, at 9:30am in the lounge. During Lent, we will be studying together, "Act Fast," by Alydia Smith. This week we are reflecting on Week One: Being Good, pages 2-10.

**St. Andrew's AGM** is on Sunday, February 25th at 11:30am. Physical copies of the annual report are available for pick-up in the Narthex!

**The Outreach Speaker series is back!** March 3, 2024, from 9am-10am in the lounge. With long-time member of St Andrews Kathy Knowles. Kathy will share her story from a modest beginning when she read to six children from a basket of books under a tree to a network of nine libraries receiving 350,000 visits annually.

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.

## Lent 1

GATHERING MUSIC: *Liturgical Prelude in G major*  
George Oldroyd

*My Faith looks up to Thee* (Olivet) arr. David Harris

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: (*Gathering Worship 2024, written by: Jessica Knoyle, Ottawa, Ontario*)  
Response: **Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **VU115** *Jesus, Tempted in the Desert*  
(tune: VU559)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (*The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*)

Merciful God, you know the worries and the doubts that fill our lives.

**Strengthen our faith and inspire our trust.  
Shower us with your mercy and grace,  
that we may embrace the fullness of life and love,  
through the power of your Holy Spirit and the mercy of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM: *Bread of the World* (text, Reginald Heber; music, Crawford R. Thoburn)

Bread of the world, in mercy broken,  
Wine of the soul in mercy shed,  
By whom the words of life were spoken,  
And in whose death our sins are dead:

Look on the heart by sorrow broken,  
Look on the tears by sinners shed;  
And be thy feast to us the token  
That by thy grace our souls are fed.  
Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Susanne Reimer

Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Gospel reading: Mark 1:9-15

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

TRIO: Loralie Friesen, Susanne Reimer, and Shea Carter - *Oh, Didn't it Rain* (Spiritual, arr. H.T. Burleigh)

Fo'ty day fo'ty nights when de rain kept a-fallin'  
De wicked clumb de tree, an' for help kept a-callin'  
For they heard the waters wailin'  
Didn' it rain, tell me Noah, didn' it rain!

Some clim'd de mountain, some clim'd de hill,  
Some started sailin' an' a-rowin' wid a will;  
Some tried swimmin' an' I guess they're swimmin' still,  
For they heard de waters roar in  
Didn't it rain, tell me Noah, didn' it rain!

SERMON

HYMN: **VU456** *Now to Your Table Spread*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:  
LENT

*Communion Setting A: VU932/933*

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God most holy.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God...

...we worship you, and bless your name:

**Holy, Holy, holy Lord God of power and of might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

In his last hours among us, Jesus and his friends...

...By what we do here, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

As we remember the death and resurrection...

...With the words Jesus taught us, we now pray to God,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Send, O God...

..., all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

**Amen, amen, amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Life-giving God,  
we give you thanks for the gift of our Saviour's  
presence  
in the simplicity and splendour of this holy  
meal.**

**Unite us with all who are fed by the life of  
Christ  
that we may faithfully proclaim the Good News  
of your love  
and that your church may be a rainbow of  
hope  
in an uncertain world;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: **VU113** *To the Desert  
Jesus Came vs. 3*

♪ **In the desert we may find  
the mystery of who we are,  
following a faithful God,  
so very close and yet so far.  
Together through the valley,  
we'll gather our dreams in prayer,  
together through the valley,  
and find God's presence there.** ♪

BLESSING

BENEDICTION: **VU962**

♪ **May the blessing of God go before you.  
May her grace and peace abound.  
May her Spirit live within you.  
May her love wrap you 'round.  
May her blessing remain with you always.  
May you walk on holy ground.** ♪

POSTLUDE: *Passacaille* George Frederic Handel

**Music Note**

Today's trio, sung by Loralie, Susanne, and Shea, is an arrangement by Harry Thacker Burleigh of the Spiritual "Didn't it Rain." Burleigh (1866-1949) was a singer, composer, and advocate for Black music and musicians. He came from a musical family, learning Spirituals and other songs from his grandfather, before pursuing musical studies at the National Conservatory of Music in New York. He composed many art songs, but his arrangements of Spirituals for voice and piano are what brought him the most acclaim. In addition, many Black singers received exposure and popularity for singing his arrangements on the concert stage. This song uses some vernacular language (e.g. "clumb de tree"); we have chosen to keep it, because it was an intentional choice by Burleigh, and is the appropriate performance practice.

**Announcements**

**Some of the youth from the Confirmation Class** will be serving communion. Parents, friends, and family feel free to go to the station where your youth is serving. Jocelyn Carlson, Ben Dyck, and Elliot Ragot will be serving. We offer a big thank you to them.

**Remembering in Prayer:**

- Remember Rita Swan, our Lay Worship Leader, who is leading worship and preaching at McClure United Church.
- Joan Stevenson is recuperating at home
- Jody Kerr will be in Deer Lodge for at least another month. Contact her by phone, which is in her room 204-897-0044. No visitors please, but do call or send a card to Deer Lodge Rehab Centre, 2109 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Mb., R3J 0L3. Room 206.

**We need 8 volunteers** (4 for set-up and 4 for take-down) to assist with setting up and taking down for the AGM on Sunday, February 25th. Please sign up at the back of the Church if you are interested, thank you so much.

**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, trio; Loralie Friesen, Susanne Reimer, and Shea Carter and our scripture reader, and our scripture reader, Susanne Reimer.

|                |                   |                                   |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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, FEBRUARY 18**

Worship @ 10:30am

Rental—*Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 2pm*

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

Rental—*AFG (lounge) @ 7pm*

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

*Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am*

**Council meeting (board room) @**

**7:30pm**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

*Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 1:30pm*

*Rental—River City Sound (auditorium)*

*@ 7pm*

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

Handbell choir (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

Piano tuner (sanctuary) @ 9:30am

*Rental—Women's Music Club*

*(sanctuary & lounge) @ 12pm*

*Rental—RHS Daycare family party*

*(auditorium) @ 4:15pm*

*Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @*

*7pm*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

*Rental—Bennet Charter (sanctuary)*

*@ 6pm*

*Rental—Women's Music Club*

*(sanctuary & lounge) @ 8am*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

Worship @ 10:30am

**AGM @ after worship service**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

*Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm*

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

*Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am*

*RHS yoga (lounge) @ 2:30pm*

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

*Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 1:30pm*

*Rental—River City Sound (auditorium)*

*@ 7pm*

*Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 7pm*

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29**

Handbell choir (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1**

*Rental—Virtuosi (sanctuary)*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2**

*Rental—Virtuosi (sanctuary)*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

**Speaker series (lounge) @ 9am**

Worship @ 10:30am

**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?

**More Announcements**

**Holly McHaffie** arrived in Ottawa on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. If you would like her updated address, or email, please reach out to the Church office.

**The Anna Blair Circle** wishes to thank all those who supported their Valentine's Bake Sale last Sunday. ABC earned over \$500. Thanks for your generosity! It is much appreciated.

**The last Confirmation Class** is on Sunday, March 3 after the service.

**Confirmation Sunday** is on Sunday, March 10th.

**Knitters** are needed for the baptismal blankets that we gift to children to be baptized. Contact the church office if you are willing to do this.

**Oak Table-1JustCity** is collecting individual tuna/meat cans, hearty soups, stews, beans etc. for individual use. Pull-top cans are useful. Warm jackets, sweaters, boots, etc. are appreciated. 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 17:1–7, 15–16

Psalms 22:23–31

Romans 4:13–25

\*Mark 8:31–38

Or Mark 9:2–9

\* this reading is the preaching text

