



Sunday, February 25, 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.

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 on our website.

FIND YOUR PLACE

WASHROOMS: A wheelchair-accessible and gender-neutral bathroom is located in the hallway North of the lower auditorium. It can be accessed by the elevator near the office or any of the stairways and is available to all 24 / 7. The Childcare and Nursery have full and exclusive use of the washrooms in the lower hallway Monday to Friday 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The use of the lower Narthex washrooms is for church use 24 / 7 plus the lower hallway washrooms may be used by all on evenings and weekends when the childcare and nursery are closed.

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 Two, Good Friends, pages 11-26.

St. Andrew's AGM is today 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 2

GATHERING MUSIC: *Allegretto from Organ Sonata #4* Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY:
(*Gathering, Worship Resources, 2022, written by: Peter Chynoweth, Cochrane, Alberta*)

This land on which we gather is the Traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Inuit and Dakota peoples, in the heart of the Metis Nation. We worship Creator on this land and acknowledge with respect the thousands of years of ceremony, faithfulness and relationship that are etched in footprint and fire on the soil and rock that surrounds us.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Gathering 2023-2024, written by; Joy Cowan, Heritage U.C., Regina, Sask!*)

- 1: **Come!**
- 2: **Come!**
- 3: **Come as you are**
- 1: **to this sacred space,**
- 2: **to our time together,**
- 3: **as we weave our prayers, songs, and stories into worship.**
- 1: **So, pull up a chair, roll on in,**
- 2: **gather all the parts of yourself,**
- 3: **and bring them to the altar.**
- 1: **Be here.**
- 2: **Be present.**
- 3: **Be open.**
- 1: **Just be you, a child of God,**
- 2: **a blessing,**
- 3: **a seeker,**
- 1: **a disciple, growing in grace.**
- 2: **Come!**
- 3: **Let us worship God!**

HYMN: **VU288** *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **VU121** *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*
vs.1, 2, 3 + Lent 2nd Sunday Verse

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024, adapted.*

Faithful One, we want to believe.

Help our unbelief.

We desire to follow faithfully.

Forgive our hesitant, stumbling steps.

Hold us by the hand, guide us with your love, and cover us with mercy and grace.

Help us answer your call, trust your promises, And walk in your ways, all the days of our lives. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM: *Prayer* (words, Psalm 25; music, Robert Lau)

To you, O Lord above, do I lift up my prayer,
For you are my God; I put my trust in you.

To you, O Lord above, do I lift up my prayer,
For you are my guide in all that I say and do.

Forgive my sins, O Father,
And teach me to live by your truth.
O hear my cry, forgive my sins, O my Lord.

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
Lead me in paths of righteousness.
Lord, hear my cry, O Lord, hear my prayer.

To you, O Lord above, do I lift up my prayer,
For you are my God; I put my trust in you.
Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Leigh Carlson
Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Gospel reading: Mark 8:31-38
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO: Loralie Friesen - *Hear My Prayer, O Lord*
Antonín Dvořák

Hear my prayer, o Lord, my God!
O hide not Thy face from my petition.
Bow Thine ear to me, and hearken unto the voice of my mourning,
to the voice of my mourning.
Pained sore is my heart within, and trembling hath fallen upon me.
The fear of death overwhelms me.
Hear my sighing!
O had I but eagles pinions!
Had I wings like the silver dove!
Far away would I wander; I would hide me in the wilderness.
On wings I would hasten to hide from the storm;
the storm, and fearful tempest!

SERMON

HYMN: **VU561** *Take Up Your Cross*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER: **VU916** *A Paraphrase*

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, for-
give us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is
love,
now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: **VU113** *To the Desert*

Jesus Came vs. 4
♪ **From the ashes to the hill,
we’ll travel on our Lenten road.
Hand in hand we’ll cross this sand,
and share each other’s heavy load.
Together through the valley,
we’ll watch the changing sky.
Together through the valley,
as Easter’s dawn draws nigh. ♪**

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: *Jesu, meine Freude* (Jesus, price-
less treasure VU 667) J. S. Bach

Music Note

Our solo today, sung by Loralie Friesen, is one of Antonin Dvořák's *Biblical Songs*, composed in 1894. Originally written in Czech, the 10 move-
ments of the *Biblical Songs* take their texts from the Psalms. "Hear My Prayer" (or in Czech, "Slyš, ó Bože, slyš modlitbu mou") is the third of the set, and the text is from Psalm 55.

Announcements

Remembering in Prayer:

- Margaret Rae Deally’s family - she passed away on February 12, 2024
- Paul & Bonnie Cadieux - passing of Claire Cadieux(mother/grandmother)
- Joan Stevenson is recuperating at home
- Jody Kerr is in Deer Lodge. Contact her by phone, which is in her room 204-897-0044.

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

Confirmation Sunday is on Sunday, March 10th.

Sunday, March 17 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 homemade pie for that Sunday, please sign up at the back of the church.

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, soloist, Loralie Friesen, and our scripture reader, Leigh Carlson.

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 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

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Speaker series (lounge) @ 9am
Worship @ 10:30am
Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @
3pm

MONDAY, MARCH 4

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm
Rental—Prairie Voices (sanctuary) @
6:30pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am
Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am
Worship meeting (lounge) @ 10:45am
Rental—Prairie Voices (sanctuary) @
6:30pm
P&A meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

RHS yoga (lounge) @ 10am
Handbell choir (lounge) @ 6pm
Choir (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Rental—Prairie Voices (sanctuary) @
6:30pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Rental—Katy (sanctuary) @ 10am
Rental—Prairie Voices (sanctuary) @
5pm

More Announcements

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, March 25th, 2024**. 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".

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.

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. 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:

Exodus 20:1–17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18–25
* John 2:13–22
* this reading is the preaching text

