

# THE GIFT OF

# Grace

Sunday, March 10, 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 Good Learners, pages 43-58.

### Upcoming Services:

Sunday, March 17 - PIE Day and Guest Speaker, Alan Lai

### Remembering in Prayer:

- Rita Swan, our Lay Worship Leader, who is leading worship at Harrow United Church today.

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 4

GATHERING MUSIC: *Thou true Vine, that heals the nations (Pleading Saviour)* arr. Raymond Haan

### WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(posted in Gathering Worship, written by Wetaskiwin Writers of Grace Lutheran & First UC, Wetaskiwin, AB)*

Come away and be still.

**We come to worship God.**

Come find rest in your weariness.

**We come to worship God.**

Come with your joy and sorrow.

**We come to worship God.**

In this time, in this place, God waits for us!

**Let us worship together!**

HYMN: **VU356** *Seek Ye First the Kingdom*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

**Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.**

OPENING PRAYER

### Service of Confirmation

CONFIRMANTS: Andrew Carlson, Jocelyn Carlson, Ben Dyck, Jamie Mainprize & Elliot Ragot.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES: Ruth McKenzie, Chair of Worship

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

Response: **We will, God being our helper.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – A NEW CREED (VU918)

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus,**

**the Word made flesh,**

**to reconcile and make new,**

**who works in us and others**

**by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,**

**to live with respect in Creation,**

**to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**

**our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS

-Chair of Council, Rob Siddall

-Chair of Worship, Ruth McKenzie

PRAYER FOR THE CANDIDATES

**O God, you have called us each by name,  
and pledge to each of us your faithful love.**

**We pray today for your blessing**

**on those who have been confirmed.**

**Watch over them, guide as they continue to  
grow in faith.**

**Remind us of the promises of our own baptism  
and renew our trust in you.**

**Strengthen us to do your will, and to serve you,  
with joy, through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Bibles - Christian Education: Jan Demeduk

Certificate - Ruth McKenzie (Chair of Worship)

Candle - Rev. Karen Lumley

BLESSING

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **VU559** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE: *The Minister's Annual Manual 2011-2012*

**Patient and loving God, you have promised to  
never leave us or forsake us.**

**You have given us the gift of your presence in  
this time and beyond time.**

**Forgive us for the ways and times in which we  
sacrifice our trust in you, for easy answers or**

**quick fixes. Gracious God, help us to focus on  
things that are grounded in you. Give us confi-**

**dent trust in you, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.**

ANTHEM: *Lord for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake*

(words, Lidley's Prayers, 1566; music, Richard Far-  
rant)

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,

Lay not our sins to our charge,

But forgive that is past,

And give us grace to amend our sinful lives.

To decline from sin and incline to virtue,

That we may walk in a perfect heart before thee,

Now and evermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Jocelyn Carlson, Ben Dyck & Elliot Ragot  
Reading: Numbers 21:4-9  
Gospel reading: John 3:14-21  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO: Paul Forget - *God of Grace*, Keith Getty and Jonathan Rea  
God of grace, amazing wonder, irresistible and free;  
Oh, the miracle of mercy - Jesus reaches out to me.  
God of Grace, I stand in wonder as my God restores my soul,  
In a world of pain and sorrow, Found me lost and made me whole

God of grace, who loved and knew me long before the world began;  
walks beside me as I wander, gives me faith to understand.  
God of grace, I trust in Jesus; I'm accepted as his own.  
Every day new grace sustains me, as I lean on him alone.

God of grace, I stand astounded, cleansed, forgiven, and secure.  
All my fears are now confounded and my hope is ever sure.  
God of grace, now crowned in Glory, in your peace I'll live my days  
And forever I'll adore you, filled with ever-lasting praise.

#### SERMON

HYMN: **VU266** *Amazing Grace* vs. 1, 2, 3 & 4

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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**

#### ST. ANDREW'S CONTACT LIST

**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: *Chorale - Was Gott tut, das ist wohl getan!* (What God does is done aright) arr. Franz Liszt

#### A short Music Note

Today's anthem is composed by Richard Farrant (c.1525-1580). In his life, Farrant was a Chapel Royal musician, composer and choirmaster, and was a contemporary to other English composers such as Christopher Tye and William Byrd. Interestingly, Farrant was also a dramatist who wrote many plays and founded the first Blackfriars Theatre in London.

#### Announcements

The congregation is invited to join the Anna Blair Circle in the choir room for a presentation by two staff members of Velma's House on **Tuesday, March 12th at 1:00 p.m. Tea, coffee and snacks, too!** Velma's Place is a drop-in, low-barrier, safe place for women and diverse gender folks who are experiencing violence or who are unsheltered. Women often arrive tired, cold, lonely and scared to find a warm, safe, accepting place where staff can deliver trauma-informed and culturally safe programming. It is located in the former Ronald McDonald house on Bannatyne Avenue. Donations of clothing are gratefully accepted.

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, Paul Forget and our scripture readers, Jocelyn Carlson, Ben Dyck & Elliot Ragot.

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

## More Announcements

**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.

**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".

**Alan Lai** is the Principal of the Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg. He is an ordained United Church minister who was born and raised in Hong Kong. Alan came to Canada when he was 19. He holds a theological degree from Saskatoon Theological Union and a doctorate from Columbia University. He taught formerly at the Vancouver School of Theology and Wilfrid Laurier University. Alan is passionate about intercultural teaching and learning, and he publishes in the field of Jewish-Christian relations, Asian North American cultures, and religious education. In his spare time, Alan plays piano and enjoys doing photography.

**Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>,** St. Andrew's is facilitating worship at The Wellington. If someone musical can come and help lead the singing, please contact Rev. Karen Lumley.

**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.

## Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 24 at 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday at St. Andrew's with Westworth, March 28 at 6:15pm

Good Friday at Westworth, March 29 at 10:30am

Easter Sunday Communion, March 31 from 10:00am-10:15am

Easter Sunday Lessons & Carols, March 31 at 10:30 am

## Scripture Readings for next week:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

\*Hebrews 12:1-3

\* this reading is the preaching text

## 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?

## Coming Up...

### SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Worship @ 10:30am

*Rental—Pembina Trails Voices  
(sanctuary) @ 1pm*

### MONDAY, MARCH 11

*Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm*

### TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

*Organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am*

*Winnipeg Minister's gathering  
(lounge) @ 1pm*

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

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

*Rental—River City Sound (auditorium)  
@ 7pm*

### THURSDAY, MARCH 14

*RHS yoga (lounge) @ 10am*

Handbell choir (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

