Sunday, November 17, 2024

Thanksgiving Sunday has come and gone. However, let us continue to live in gratitude for all God has given us. We are grateful for family, friends, church and a faith community that is there with us supporting us in our living. May we continue to count our many blessings and name them one by one.

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.

Thank you to every single volunteer and supporter involved in the Harvest Supper held last Sunday. It was a huge success from the conviviality of enjoying fine food to raising the profile of St. Andrew's in the community. The Stewardship group thanks everyone for their help in this fund-raising endeavour.

Bible Study is on Wednesday mornings from 9:30am-10:30am in the lounge, all are welcome to attend. We will study Psalms 79-89(82/84/89).

The ABC Group is having a Christmas Potluck Luncheon on Tuesday, November 26th at 12pm in the lounge.

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.*

Creation Sunday

GATHERING MUSIC*: We cannot own the sunlit sky* MV 143 (tune 'How can I keep from singing') arr. Mark Hayes
Let all things now living (tune 'Ash Grove') arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH
Iris McKay

CENTERING WORDS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Act Fast, written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, ed. by Alydia Smith, adapted.*
Whether we live near mountains, on the plains or in the prairies.
We are one in Christ.
Whether our winters are balmy or freezing cold or our summers are hot or cool.
We are one in Christ.
Whether we live in urban dwellings, nestled in the suburbs, or surrounded by a rural landscape. **We are one in Christ.**
In a spirit of unity, caring and loving for one another.
We are one in Christ.

HYMN: **VU260** *God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **MV143** *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky* (tune VU716)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *Act Fast, written by James Ravenscroft, ed. by Alydia Smith adapted*
Creating and recreating God,
We pause this day to remember Mother Earth,
all the creatures and God's wonderful creation.
We share the earth with them all and yet at times we take them all for granted.
Together we are part of one long Creation story,
All of us connected across time as well as space.
Help us to shift how we see our fellow creatures,
To honor their knowledge and experience.
May we grow each day in appreciation as we share this planet with others that we may live together in a common home. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM: *Credo and Sanctus* (excerpts, Missa Pro Terra; words and music by Paul Aitken)
We must face this all-together.
Hands intertwined; our fate addressed.
We must believe in one another.
Agree Earth's brink we must reject.
We must believe that all together.
Facing ahead and not behind.
Much more unites us than divides us.
This climate creed must now define.

Factorum caeli et terra.
Natum ante omnia saecula.
Genitum non factum.
Per quem omnia facta sunt.

[Maker of heaven and earth.
Born before all ages,
Begotten, not made.
By whom all things were made.]

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Domine Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis!

[Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and Earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest!]

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 4:26-34 read by Colleen Watters
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

SMALL ENSEMBLE: *Mother Earth, Beloved Garden* (words and music, Amanda Udis-Kessler)
Mother Earth, beloved garden,
Living treasure under foot,
All our days you ground our being:
Sage and thistle, grass and root.
Herbs to heal us, plants to feed us,
Land to till and tend and plow.
With the sky, as deep as midnight,
North we ask you: be here now.

Father Air, your inspiration
Holds together all that lives.
As we breathe, our minds see clearly,
Leading us to love and give.
Raging whirlwind, whispered breezes,
Violent gale and gentle cloud.
With the wind, as sharp as morning,
East, we ask you: be here now.

Brother Fire, great transformer,
Share the passion of the sun.
In our hearths, your warmth revives us,
Cooks our food and heats our homes.
Flaming candle, blood within us,
Blazing desert, will to grow.
With a flame, directing power,
South, we ask you: be here now.

Sister water, ever flowing,
Ocean, river, pond, and rain.
Drink we now and quench our thirsting;

Cleanse us, we begin again.
Mist and ice, a host of changes:
All that courage will allow.
With the cup, the holy chalice,
West, we ask you: be here now.

Loving Spirit, intuition
In the center of our souls.
In your love we find relation.
All connected, we are whole.
Timeless mystery, quiet conscience,
Deepest values, voice inside.
With the drum and with our voices,
This we ask you: be our guide.

READING: Read by Evan Demeduk & Izzy Dyck

HYMN: **MV39** *Mother Earth, Our Mother Birthing*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:
God of Creation
Sung response: **VU732** *Psalm 8*
♪ O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth! ♪

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, forgive 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: **VU538** *For the Gift of Creation*
♪ for the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give. ♪

BLESSING

BENEDICTION: **VU298** *When You Walk from Here*
♪ When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care. ♪

POSTLUDE: *The heavens declare the glory of God* (Psalm 19) Benedetto Marcello arr. Theodore Dubois

Music Note
Today, the choir is singing two excerpts from the Missa Pro Terra (Mass for the Earth) that forms the framework for the choir's concert this Friday, November 22. Using the traditional Latin Mass as a base for the full work (Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus/Benedictus, Agnus Dei), composer Paul Aitken has written a piece that at points asks for mercy from our Creator, celebrates the creation around us, and is hopeful for a better future. I hope you will join us on Friday to hear the rest of this brand-new work, and the whole concert with soloists, readings, and handbells.

Announcements
Save the Date: "For the Earth" November 22, 7:00pm How can we be better stewards of this Earth? How can we move forward in hope that humanity can create a better future for our earth? How can we celebrate our home, while also acknowledging the harm we have created? Please join the St. Andrew's Choir and Handbells at **For the Earth**, a climate-themed concert on Friday, November 22, 7:00pm as we consider these questions through music and readings. The concert features the Western Canada premiere of Canadian composer Paul Aitken's new work "Missa Pro Terra," a poignant re-imagining of the traditional mass setting for choir and soloists. Entry is by donation ($20 suggested), and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to climate initiatives.

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, readers, Evan Demeduk & Izzy Dyck, and our scripture reader, Colleen Watters.

Clergy	Rev. Karen Lumley	klumley@standrewsriverheights.com
Choir Director	Katy Harmer	music@standrewsriverheights.com
Organist	Wes Elias	weselias.mail@gmail.com
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

The next Outreach speaker series with long-time member Tara Brousseau Snider; Let's Talk Mental Health and the Bible" on December 1st from 9:00 am -10:00 am in the lounge. Coffee/tea and muffins will be provided.

Wreaths are for sale! Pre-order yours today! All proceeds go to the 1JustCity program at Augustine Centre. Order forms are at the back of the church or you can also contact the church office if you would like to pre-order. Wreaths are $35; cash, cheque and e-Transfer are accepted. The wreaths make a great gift for neighbours, friends and family. The wreaths are expected to arrive later November or early in December. Please consider supporting this outreach fundraiser.

Cookie Walk December 7 & 8, 2024
The Cookie Walk will continue in the modified format.
Boxes will be pre-packaged and each box will contain 3 dozen homemade cookies consisting of shortbread and an assortment of cookies. The price per box is $20.00.
To order cookies, please complete the order form available at the back of the church or contact Charlotte in the church office.
Cookies will be available for pick up on Saturday, December 7th from 9:00 to 10:00am or Sunday, December 8th after the service.
Order early as quantities are limited. All orders must be prepaid before pick up.
Note to all Council and Interest group members:
We require your support to make this a successful event.
Please sign up to make 10 dozen cookies.
To the congregation: We need your continued support to help to make this event a success. All donations are welcome. **Please deliver the cookies to the church upstairs kitchen on Thursday, December 5th.** Please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

Memory Tree December 8, 2024
Be part of the Memory Tree Tradition at St. Andrew's this Advent season. This year the Memory Tree Service will be a part of the Sunday morning service on December 8th. The lights will be lit after the morning service. A reception will be held after church upstairs. Come and join us for this special Memory Tree Service and Reception.
This is a marvelous way for the community to dedicate lights in memory of deceased family members and friends.

Memory Tree lights can be purchased by contacting Charlotte in the church office, by completing the order form available at the back of the church. Each light is $10.00 and represents the person that you wish to remember. You will also receive a beautiful keepsake card for each light you purchase.

Their name will be permanently displayed in the Memory Book in the Narthex. The order forms must be received by December 1 to ensure the name/s is included in the Memory Book.
All proceeds go to Jocelyn House Hospice. Tax receipts will also be mailed out.
We look forward to seeing everyone.

Walks on Tuesdays with Westworth continue every week at 1pm. If you would like to be informed about the routes of these walks and would like to have your email provided to the organizers, please let the church office know.

Suggestion Box - How can we enhance worship? At the back of the church is a suggestion box with cards for you to write on what you like about worship, suggestions, speakers you might like to have, and ideas as to what might enhance our Sunday morning worship experience.

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.

Stewardship Seconds

In a generous act of hospitality, God invites us into ministry. How shall we then respond?

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church │255 Oak Street, Winnipeg, MB R3M 3P7│Sunday Services @ 10:30am
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Office Email: office@standrewsriverheights.com │Website: www.standrewriverheights.com
Office Hours: Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm │Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!