



Sunday, November 24, 2024



Today is the Reign of Christ Sunday or Christ the King Sunday. It refers to a feast in the liturgical year which emphasizes the true Kingship of Christ. The color white is used during seasons of celebration such as Christmas/Epiphany and Easter and on special Sundays like Transfiguration Sunday, Trinity Sunday, All Saint's Day, and Reign of Christ Sunday. This Sunday is the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

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 Wednesday mornings from 9:30am-10:30am in the lounge, all are welcome to attend. We will study Psalm 90-106(90/98).

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

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.

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.

Reign of Christ Sunday

GATHERING MUSIC: *Let all together praise our God* (Lobt Gott, ihr Christen allzugleich)
arrangements by Dietrich Buxtehude and Paul Manz

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH
Leigh Carlson – Council Member

CENTERING WORDS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Gathering Resources for Worship Planners, 2024, written by Beth W Johnston, Nipawin, Sask.*

We have come to the end of a journey.

A whole year has passed since we first began to wait in hope for God's reign.

We searched for baby Jesus in a place, **but Jesus was not there.**

We searched for Jesus in all the respectable places, **but Jesus often was not there.**

We searched for Jesus in the tomb, **but Jesus was not there. He had been raised.**

We continue to search for Jesus, **and we find him, in the midst of our daily lives and often in unexpected places.**

Let us open ourselves to the presence of the Holy as we mark the last day of the Christian calendar.

HYMN: *Rejoice the Lord is King* (Tune VU213)

♪ **Rejoice the Lord is King,
a most unlikely kind,
who softens hardened hearts
and opens up closed minds.**

Chorus:

**Lift up your heart,
lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Behold the servant king,
who kneels to lift the weak.
Forsaking privilege,
he is the one we seek.**

**He came to set us free
from selfishness and pride,
break down the walls of hate
with love that reaches wide.**

**Come people of the earth,
with courage let us stand
and follow such a king
in each and every land. ♪**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **VU330** *Jesus Shall Reign*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Gathering Resources for Worship Planners, 2024, written by Aaron Palmer, New Liskeard, Ontario, adapted.

God, we come before you on this Reign of Christ Sunday to celebrate the end of one liturgical year and the dawning of the next one. We admit we have disregarded "end times" that lie ahead in our own lives and in this world.

Sometimes we limit our focus on the things of this world rather than on the things of your world.

Often times we see success from our earthly view and not from your Godly view.

Help us to shift our priorities and consider the "end times" in all their mystery and uncertainty. Forgive us for not recognizing your reign here on earth. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM: *Praise, Praise!* (text and arrangement, Patrick Liebergen; music from the oratorio "Solomon," G.F. Handel)

Praise, praise!

Let every nation give praise to the Lord.

Rejoice and be glad for the Lord comes to all!

Praise, praise!

Let every nation give thanks to our God,
Resound joyful praise!

Rejoice and be glad for the Lord comes to all,
O rejoice, praise the Lord and give thanks.

Thy glory and power of God we proclaim,
And sing with a loud voice the Lord's holy name.

Praise, praise!

Let every nation give praise to the Lord.

Rejoice and be glad for the Lord comes to all!
O give praise, give the Lord joyful praise!

SCRIPTURE READING: John 18:33-37 read by Ruth McKenzie

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

SERMON

HYMN: **VU264** *Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Your steadfast love endures forever.

Sung response: **VU732** *Psalm 8*

♪ **O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!** ♪

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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: *Gathering Resources for Worship Planners, 2024, written by David Sparks, B.C.*

The Realm of God is coming; **we will prepare faithfully.**

The Realm of God is coming; **we will work for peace and justice.**

The Realm of God is coming; **we will work to end prejudice.**

The Realm of God is coming; **we will share grace and compassion.**

The Realm of God is coming; **we will have hope at last.**

The Realm of God is coming; **the Reign-maker. Amen.**

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: *Rejoice, the Lord is King* (Marion) arr. Robert Hobby

Announcements

Sunday School Children & Youth are preparing for Advent, the Advent Tree, and the Christmas Eve Service. If you have children or youth and want to be involved, see Jan Demeduk the Sunday School Superintendent.

The Memory Tree Service will be a part of the Sunday morning service on Sunday, December 8th with a reception to follow. The tree will be lit immediately following the service and will remain lit until the New Year.

The Outreach group is collecting socks to donate to 1Just City. Please bring new warm adult socks for the sock drive from November 24 - December 15. There will be a box located at the back of the church.

Sunday, December 15th the Family Service will be pre-recorded immediately following the morning service. Coffee will be served outside the Narthex doors instead of in the sanctuary.

Deck the Halls

Each year the church is decorated for Advent and Christmas. It's a job where lots of helpers are needed. This year, we plan to do the decorating on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29, 9:30 until 3:30. The first day, we bring all the decorations out of their various storage locations and start assembling trees and hanging wreaths and garlands. The next day, we hang the decorations on the various trees and tidy up. That covers the inside work.

Outside, we have a wooden nativity set. As it is very large, we need a full complement of helpers to set it up. This year, we are asking adults and children to stay for about one-half hour after church on December 1st, to put the display together. Many hands make light work.

If you can help with the decorating for an hour or two or three or more, please let Ruth know. (email: mckenziegrst@shaw.ca or leave a message on her phone: 204-489-1537). Many thanks.

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.

ST. ANDREW'S CONTACT LIST

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

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 and our scripture reader, Ruth McKenzie.

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.

For those of you who purchased lights on the Memory Tree, your Memory cards are available to pick up in the Narthex on Sunday mornings - they are in individual envelopes in a basket. Please call or email the office if you are not going to be at the church in person and we will mail your cards out to you.

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.

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?

Upcoming Services

- Sunday, December 1st - Advent I - Communion
- Sunday, December 8th - Advent II - Memory Tree Service
- Sunday, December 15th - Advent III - Pre-Recording Family Christmas Eve Service after Church
- Sunday, December 22st - Advent IV - Baptism
- Sunday, December 29th - Worship with Westworth
- Sunday, January 5th - Worship with Westworth at St. Andrew's

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.

Coming Up...

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

