



Sunday, December 1, 2024



Advent is a time to WAIT! WATCH! WANT! WONDER!

Amidst the hustle and bustle of shopping, wrapping, decorating, baking, planning, parties, family gatherings, school celebrations, club wind-ups, Christmas

Concerts and eating, we “WAIT! WATCH! WANT! and WONDER!”

We WAIT for the mystery of the season & for the mystery of the Christmas story to unfold. Come Celebrate God’s gift of love to us all. Advent is here! A time for waiting! A time to reflect on the coming Christ Child.

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 107-119 (110,116,119).

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 order forms must be received by today to ensure the name/s is included in the Memory Book.

Martha Graham and Derek Morphy’s son-in-law, Bob Siemens passed away. Remember wife Celine, Derek, Martha and family in your prayers.

Make sure to subscribe to our weekly Online newsletter 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.

Advent 1 - Wait

GATHERING MUSIC: *Variations on "Let all mortal flesh keep silence"* (Picardy)
Albert Zabel

WELCOME

HIP HAPPENIN' NEWS

Reporter 1 - Andrew Dolinsky

Reporter 2 - George-Antony Shariff,

WORK OF THE CHURCH

Morna-June Morrow

Betty Jubinville

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2024, adapted.*

Wait for God. **We wait for the promise of new life.**

Wait for God. **We wait for the promise of hope.**

Wait for God. **We wait for God's love to be born anew.**

God's love is everlasting. **God's promises are true.**

CENTERING WORDS

PRAYER

HYMN: **VU1** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (text from the Unitarian Universalist hymnbook, "Singing the Living Tradition")

♪ **O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and with your captive children dwell.
Give comfort to all exiles here,
and to the aching heart bid cheer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Love to dwell.**

**O come, you Splendor very bright,
as joy that never yields to might.
O come, and turn all hearts to peace,
that greed and war at last shall cease.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Truth to dwell.**

**O come, you Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your presence here.
And dawn in every broken soul
as vision that can see the whole.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Light to dwell.**

**O come, you Wisdom from on high,
from depths that hide within a sigh,
to temper knowledge with our care,
to render every act a prayer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Hope to dwell. ♪**

CHILDREN'S TIME

CANDLE LIGHTING: Reader Evan Demeduk
(*Gathering Resources for Worship, 2019/20, written by Gordon Dunbar, adapted.*)

Today, is the first Sunday of Advent and we begin our Advent journey together.

In this season of expectant waiting, we watch, want and wonder.

**So many marvels. So much that confounds us.
So much that is unique.**

So much richness. So many things we can touch, taste, smell, see and hear.

We wait as hope rises within us.

Look at life, abundant in growing complexities and with bewildering intricacies.

Look at the variety!

Look how they work together connected.

In waiting hope bubbles to the surface.

We bask in wonder at God's creativity, at blessings showered abundantly - **while we wait, hope flames into promise.**

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN: **MV20** *God of Still Waiting*

♪ **God of still waiting, God of deep longing,
God of the heart's true rest:
hold us in fathomless peace,
guard us with unwaning love. ♪**

HYMN: **VU5** *All Earth is Waiting*

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Kelvin Koots

Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Gospel reading: Luke 21:25-36

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

ANTHEM: *A Shoot Shall Come Forth* (text based on Isaiah 11, 32:18; music, Richard Horn)

A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse,
And a bud shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of life shall be with him,
The spirit of wisdom and truth.

Refrain:

*Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard,
And the lion eat straw with the ox,
For the hand of a Child shall lead them
To the peaceable kingdom of God.*

From out of the wells of salvation

Will he draw us the water of life;

His waist shall be girdled with justice,

The heart of his heart shall be Love.

Refrain

He'll come from the end of his heaven,
And the earth shall be torn from its place;

Our lives shall be filled with his radiance
As floodwaters cover the sea.
Refrain

SERMON

HYMN: **VU472** *O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Advent Communion

Written by Alydia Smith, Program Coordinator, General Council Office

As we come to this table...
...are welcome here.

God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift our hearts in prayer.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Let us pray...
...we pray for your Spirit.
Make us, while many, one.
Make us, though broken, whole.
Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we pray:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP
The body of Christ,
the Bread of life.
The lifeblood of Christ,
the cup of blessing.
Let us eat and drink together
for our strengthening in the faith,
and for the sake of the world.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:
**As we prepare for the birth of the Christ Child,
we give thanks for all that births new life.
May we be the hands and feet of Christ,
bearing Christ's life into the world. Amen.**

ST. ANDREW'S CONTACT LIST

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: **VU74** *What Child Is This*
vs.3

♪ **So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings, salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son
of Mary! ♪**

BLESSING

BENEDICTION: **MV213** *Take Up His Song*
♪ **Take up his song of hope
and go into the world.
Take up his song of hope
in ev'ry moment.**

**In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives;
lay them down, in hope,
lay them down,
and take up his song. ♪**

POSTLUDE: *O come, O come, Emmanuel* arr.
Raymond Haan

Music Note

Last Sunday, we added Okâwîmâw Askîy (Mother Earth), by Sherryl Sewepagaham, sung by Jack, Kyler, Rachel and Katy, that wasn't printed in the bulletin. The Cree text is very simple, "Okâwîmâw askîy [Mother Earth], Niyanân kitawâsimsak [We are your children], Kisâkihîtinan [We love you]," and serves as a reminder that, as the composer writes, "we are in a reciprocal relationship with Mother Earth. She teaches us many things and our responsibility is to protect and care for her." If you'd like to hear it again, you can find it in the recording of last Sunday's service on YouTube, just search "St. Andrew's River Heights" to find our channel.

Announcements

Thank you to our reporters, George- Antony Shariff, Andrew Dolinsky and Evan Demeduk, our Candle lighting reader. Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for the Advent season, it looks wonderful.

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, Kelvin Koots. Thank you to Rita Swan who will be assisting with communion and thank you to our servers.

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 Confirmation Class from 1961 is at the back of the church and we are trying to identify the people in it. If you know who any of them are, please print their names on the sheet at the back of the church. We are trying to name them all for the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada, which is next year.

If anyone is available to help with the singing at the Wellington service on Wednesday, December 18th, at 11:00 am, please let Karen know.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

Upcoming Services

- Sunday, December 8th - Advent II - Memory Tree Service
- Sunday, December 15th - Advent III- Pre-Recording Family Christmas Eve Service after Church
- Sunday, December 22nd - Advent IV - Baptism
- Sunday, December 29th - Worship with Westworth

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?

- Sunday, January 5th - Worship with Westworth at St. Andrew's

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.

Coming Up...

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Stewardship meeting (board room) @ 11:30am

