



Sunday, December 15, 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 WANT 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 wanting!! 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.

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24th 2024 at 1pm-Christmas Family Service (posted on YouTube at 1pm) – Will be Pre-recorded and viewable online. This will be performed by our youth.

Tuesday, December 24th 2024 at 9:15pm-9:30pm- Christmas Eve Communion

Tuesday, December 24th 2024 at 10:00pm – Lessons & Carols sung by the choir

The evening services will be recorded and edited and will be available as soon as possible after Christmas

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 3 - Want

GATHERING MUSIC: *O come, o come Emmanuel*
arr. Mark Hayes
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (arr. Martha
Lynn Thompson)

WELCOME

HIP HAPPENIN' NEWS

Reporter 1 - Andrew Dolinsky
Reporter 2 - George-Antony Shariff

WORK OF THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S TIME

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

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we continue our Advent journey together.

In this season of expectant waiting, anxiously watching, always wanting, we 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 want as hope rises within us.

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

Look at the variety!

Look how they work together connected.

In wanting hope bubbles to the surface.

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

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

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

HYMN: **VU2** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *The Abingdon Preaching Annual, 2021, written by Tanya Linn Bennett*

We lift our hands toward the springs of salvation, faithfully wanting.

We lift our hands and want.

We lift our hands toward springs of salvation, desperately wanting.

We lift our hands and want.

We lift our hands, hopefully wanting.

We lift our hands and want.

CENTERING WORDS

PRAYER

HYMN: **VU29** *Hark the Glad Sound* vs. 1, 3 & 4

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Katy Hedalen
Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

HANDBELL CHOIR: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (arr. William Ringham)

Gospel reading: Luke 3:7-18

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

ANTHEM: *A Cradle Waits* (words and music, Jean Anne Shafferman)

See, amid the winter snow,
In humble manger low,
A cradle waiting for the tiny Child,
Tender meek and mild, the Saviour.
Soon He'll come, the Promised One,
God's incarnate Son, Messiah.
See, amid the winter snow,
In humble manger low,
A cradle waits.

See, upon a lonely hill,
A shepherd standing still is keeping
Watch o'er silent flocks by night, in the starry light.
But soon the angel host in heav'n will sing,
("Gloria!")
Joyous news they bring: The Saviour!
See, upon a lonely hill, in the twilight still,
A shepherd waits.

See, in distant Eastern land,
A noble wise one stands and gazes
Far into the Eastern sky, looking for a sign:
A blazing star! It will be a sign.
Soon its light will shine to guide them:
Guide them to the tiny Child, tender meek and mild,
The Saviour.

See, amid the winter snow,
In humble manger low,
A cradle waits.

SERMON

HYMN: **VU23** *Joy Shall Come*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Lord, hear our prayer.

We want and work for your kingdom here on earth.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *Variations on “Greensleeves”* Vivien Harvey Slater

OFFERING/OFFERTORY SUNG RESPONSE :

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 joy and go into the world.**

Take up his song of joy, in ev’ry moment.

In ev’ry moment of the journey, we’re laying down our lives;

lay them down, in joy, lay them down,

and take up his song. ♪

POSTLUDE: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (arr. Susan E. Geschke)

Music Note

Today the handbells are playing in the service. You'll see some different techniques in the postlude song, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*: playing the bells with mallets, pad touches (to create an echo sound), martellato lifts (where the bell is struck on the pad, then lifted to make a "thunk-ping" sound), shakes, and a final martellato (the bell is struck on the pad, but not lifted and it

makes a distinct "thunk" sound). Enjoy!

Announcements

Today the passing of the offering plate will once again be part of our response as a congregation. The plates will be passed throughout the pews by the ushers. A plate will also be available at the back of the church with PAR cards for people to use. Thank you for your generous donation to the life, work and ministry of this church through your time, talents and financial resources.

Today 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 last Bible Study for the year is on Tuesday, December 17th not on Wednesday this week. We will study Psalms 135-150 (studying 137/139/150). We will return sometime in January.

Don Bewell is in Palliative Care at Health Sciences. Remember him, Diane and their family in your prayers at this time.

St. Andrew’s Stewardship Pledge Campaign

St. Andrew’s is in the midst of its annual Stewardship Campaign. The Pledge packages have been prepared with individually addressed envelopes. However, the Postal disruption has thrown a bit of a wrinkle in our plans for distribution. We thank those who have already picked up their packages from the narthex over the past two Sundays. But there are still many to be distributed. Look for Iris or Bill in the narthex over the next few Sundays to receive your Pledge package.

The annual Pledge Campaign is an essential component asking for your financial support for 2025 to allow St. Andrew’s to continue as a viable and thriving 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, handbell choir and our scripture reader, Katy Hedalen. Thank you to our reporters, George-Antony Shariff & Andrew Dolinsky and thank you to our reader, Evan Demeduk.

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cookie walk, whether through baking, organising or even purchasing we thank you very much for your contribution in making this year's cookie walk a success! We raised \$1900.

Thank you to everyone who supported the wreath fundraiser we raised \$750 for the 1JustCity program at Augustine Centre.

Sunday, December 29th St. Andrew's is worshipping at Westworth. The service starts at 10:45am. After the service, cookies and cider will be served. If anyone would like to bring their leftover Christmas Cookies (nut-free please!) feel free to do so.

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. We will continue to collect socks throughout the winter. This is one of the greatest needs for those who experience poverty or homelessness. Thank you for supporting our relatives who are less fortunate and need our help.

Knitters are needed for the baby baptismal shawls. Contact Ruth McKenzie or the church office for the pattern and instructions.

Upcoming Services

- Sunday, December 22nd - Advent IV-Baptism
- Sunday, December 29th - Worship at Westworth
- 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.

Congratulations to Charlotte Lindsay who officially becomes a Canadian citizen on Monday, December 16th. The office will be closed that day as Charlotte will be taking her oath and celebrating afterward.

Coming Up...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Pre-recording Christmas Eve Family service (sanctuary) after worship service

Rental—Claudette Caron (sanctuary) @ 2pm

Rental—Charmaine Bacon (sanctuary) @ 5:30pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Bible Study (lounge) @ 9:30am

Wes Organ Lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

Stan Piano Tuner (sanctuary) @ 10:30am

Council meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Rental—Holly Harris (sanctuary) @ 3:15pm

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, DECEMBER 22

Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 1:30pm

Rental—Joy Cooper (sanctuary) @ 6pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Communion @ 9:15pm

Lessons & Carols @ 10pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

Rental—Women's Music Club (sanctuary) @ 6pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Worship at Westworth United @ 10:45am

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

