



Sunday, December 22, 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 WONDER 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 wondering!! 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) – Pre-recorded and viewable online. This was 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 4 - Wonder

GATHERING MUSIC: *My soul cries out (Canticle of the Turning)* arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

HIP HAPPENIN' NEWS

Reporter 1 – Jamie Mainprize

Reporter 2 – Julia Mainprize

WORK OF THE CHURCH

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *The Abingdon Preaching Annual, 2021.*

We look to the angels, faithfully wondering.

We look to the angels and wonder.

We look to the angels, courageously wondering.

We look to the angels and wonder.

HYMN: **VU30** *Hail to God's Own Anointed*

CENTERING WORDS

PRAYER

HYMN: **VU445** *A Little Child, the Saviour Came*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (see booklet)

Hebrew Benediction **VU965**

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:

the Lord make his face shine up on thee,

and be gracious unto thee:

the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee,

and give thee peace. Amen

CHILDREN'S TIME

CANDLE LIGHTING: Read by Evan Demeduk
Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we begin our Advent journey together.

In this season of expectant waiting, watching, wanting and wondering.

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 wonder 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 wondering hope bubbles to the surface.

We bask in wonder at God's creativity, at blessings showered abundantly -

while we wait, watch, want and wonder, hope flames into promise.

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

**God of still wondering, God of deep longing,
God of the heart's true rest:**

hold us in fathomless peace,

guard us with unwaning love.

SOLO: Loralie Friessen – *Mary's Lullaby* (Max Re-ger)

Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus-child,

While amid the treetops sighs the breeze so warm and mild.

And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon the bough:

Ah! Baby, sleep, dear one, slumber now!

Happy is thy laughter, holy is thy silent rest,

Lay thy head in slumber fondly on thy mother's breast!

Ah! Baby, sleep, dear one, slumber now

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Rita Swan

Responsive Psalm: VU898 (Luke 1:47-55) refrain 1

ANTHEM: *Feel the Spirit* (words, Richard Leach; music, Michael Larkin)

Feel the Spirit in the kicking of

Elizabeth's unborn son,

When she heard the voice of Mary,

pregnant with the Chosen One.

Leap for joy at Jesus' coming,

Long before you see his face!

Spirit of that joy be with us;

Lead us in a dance of praise.

Sing the song that Mary taught us:

God has turned things upside down,

Made the high and low change places,

Toppled thrones, given slaves a crown;

Fed the hungry with a banquet,

Sent the empty rich away!

God of Mary, God of Jesus,

Hear our song of praise today.

Leap for joy at Jesus' coming,

Long before you see his face,

Spirit of that joy, be with us,

Lead us in a dance of praise!

Gospel reading: Luke 1:39-45
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

HYMN: **MV120** *My Soul Cries Out*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:
We are called to be **God's love in action.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell* arr. Noel Rawsthorne

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!** ♪

PRAYER

BLESSING

BENEDICTION: **MV213** *Take Up His Song*

♪ **Take up his song of love
and go into the world.
Take up his song of love,
in ev'ry moment.**

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

POSTLUDE: *Variations on 'Unto us a boy is born'*
David Johnson

Announcements

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. Inara Verena Itangishaka is being baptized.

Her parents are Ciara Oliver-Travers & Enoch Itangishaka.

A special thanks to all the children and youth who participated in the recording of "*A Real Canadian Christmas Pageant.*" A special thanks to Jan, our Sunday School Superintendent who directed the play, Wes Elias who was the pianist, Katy Harmer who is our Music Director who sang, Fred Cross our recorder and Tyler Craddock on the soundboard.

Remember Diane Bewell, and her family in your prayers at this time. Don Bewell passed away Tuesday evening, December 17th. A service will be held on Saturday, December 28th, at 2:00pm at St. Andrew's with a reception to follow.

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.

St. Andrew's Stewardship Pledge Campaign

The St. Andrew's annual Stewardship Campaign is well underway and the Pledge packages have been prepared with individually addressed envelopes. As a result of the Postal disruption, we had asked folks to pick up their packages from the narthex when attending services over the past few Sundays. Many have done so and we thank you for your attention. With the Postal Service just starting to get back in operation, the balance of the packages will be put in the mail this week. Please watch for them in your mailbox. The annual Pledge Campaign is an essential component in seeking 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, soloist, Loralie Friessen, and our scripture reader, Rita Swan. Thank you to our reporters, Jamie & Julia Mainprize 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

The church office will be closed for Christmas break from Tuesday, December 24th, and returning Thursday, January 2nd, 2025. If there are any pastoral care needs, call Rev. Karen Lumley at 204-250-5073.

Sunday, January 5th there will be no Sunday School classes. Sunday School will resume the following week.

Reports for the Annual report are due January 8th, 2025. A copy of last year's report can be found on our website under [publications](#).

The Outreach group is collecting socks to donate to 1Just City. Please bring new warm adult socks. 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 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.

Coming Up...

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

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

Westworth joins us for worship @ 10:30am

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

Wes Organ Lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

Worship meeting (board room) @ 1:30pm

P&A meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 5:15pm

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?

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

Rental—Katy Harmer (sanctuary) @ 10am

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

Rental—Virtuosi (sanctuary)

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

Wes Organ Lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

ABC (lounge) @ 1:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

Service at the Wellington @ 11am

Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 5:15pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

