



Sunday, January 12, 2025

Epiphany



Epiphany follows the Christmas story of the babe born in the manger. It is a season especially set apart for adoring the glory of Christ. It means manifestation of glory, revelation, leads us to the contemplation of

Christ as King, and leads us to the Season of Lent. The Epiphany Season is a happy time for us to keep the bright lights about our homes, and to remember the miraculous birth and guiding star of Bethlehem so long ago.

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.

A new Sunday School year begins today!

The **ABC group** have arranged for Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, Jaime Grasby, to speak to us on Indigenous Spirituality. She comes highly recommended by friends who have heard her. Any members of the congregation who would like to hear her to join us at **1:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 14, in the lounge.**

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.

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.

Baptism of Jesus

(Resources adapted from 2021 UCC Resources on Worship)

GATHERING MUSIC: *I was there to hear your burning cry* (Waterlife) arr. Robert Hobby

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

CENTERING WORDS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP:

Come to the waters.

We gather at the river.

Come to the waters.

The waters of grace flow over us.

Come to the waters.

We are washed in God's love.

Come to the waters.

We are God's beloved children.

HYMN: **VU644** *I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

We light this candle, honoring the One who said, "I am the Light."

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM: *Gather by the River to Pray* (arr. Pepper Choplin)

As I went down to the river to pray,

Studyin' about that good ole way;

And who shall wear the starry crown?

Good Lord, show me the way.

O brother, let's go down, come on down.

O sister, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver
And provide a robe and crown.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

So let's go down to the river to pray,

Studyin' about that good ole way
That we shall wear the starry crown,
Good Lord, show us the way.

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Holy One, on this day when we bear witness to the baptism of Jesus, we hear a story of blessing, of love, of transformation. But over time, this story may have caused us to see ourselves as separated, as special, as those who are better than others. Instead of being inclusive and celebrating who we are and whose we are, baptism has sometimes led us to believe that we are "more special" and "more favored" than others. For all of these beliefs we are sorry. May we see the power of transformation that baptism holds and be transformed to see your grace, offered to all of us. Forgive and inspire us, reminding all of us that we are yours. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Litany Reading for Isaiah 43

HYMN: **VU660** *How Firm a Foundation*

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-17 read by Colleen Watters

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

SOLO: Jack Hanson - *The Manger is Stranger* (words and music, Amanda Udis-Kessler)
It wasn't a mansion that welcomed the shepherds.
The path in the desert was not lined with gold.
It wasn't the hope of great fortune that beckoned,
But only a story that begged to be told.
The manger is stranger than we can imagine.
It's small and it's dirty, it's messy and rough,
But there at its heart lies the hope of compassion,
A baby in swaddling, a prophet of love.

The star that the Magi were seeking to follow
Led not to a palace and not to a throne,
But offered a blessing to those touched by sorrow.
To those facing hatred, it offered a home.
The manger is stranger than we can envision.

It's not how we think of what holiness does.
If we who have ears choose to use them to listen
The grace in its strangeness is more than enough.

The song that was sung by the heavenly choir
Was not about money or status or fame
But captured instead our hearts' deep desire
To love and be loved, to be known by our names.
The manger is stranger than we can conceive of
Which makes it a place for the strangest of us.
Our shame and our fear we can now take our
leave of
And come to the manger in wonder and trust.

SERMON: A Meditation for the Baptism of Jesus
read by Fred Cross

HYMN: **MV161** *I Have Called You by Your Name*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Lord, we need your help.

Sung response: **VU400** *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

♪ **Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord let your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!** ♪

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, for-
give 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: *Adagio from Sonata #1*
Felix Mendelssohn

OFFERING/OFFERTORY SUNG RESPONSE:

VU540 *Grant Us, God, the Grace*
♪ **Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.** ♪

OFFERTORY PRAYER

BLESSING

BENEDICTION: **VU407** *O Joy of God vs. 3*
♪ **O peace of God, you pass our understanding
safe through each moment keep us every day:
with joy divine and mercy never ending,
direct our path and prosper all our way.** ♪

POSTLUDE: Allegro Johann Walther

Announcements

Service at the Wellington Retirement Home on
Wednesday, January 15th at 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study resumes on Wednesday, January
22nd, 2025 at 9:30am in the lounge. We will be
studying "Bad Girls of the Bible".

Walks on Tuesdays with Westworth continue eve-
ry 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.

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 Jack
Hanson, and our scripture reader, Col-
leen Watters.

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|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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 |

Coming Up...

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) @ 5pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

Rental—Bennet Charter (sanctuary) @ 6pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 2pm

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Rental—RCM Exams (sanctuary) @ 8am
Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Rental—RCM Exams (sanctuary) @ 8am
Council meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 6:30pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Rental—RCM Exams (sanctuary) @ 8am

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 2pm

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Wes Organ Lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 6:30pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Rental—Raymond Ding (sanctuary) @ 6:30pm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Wes Organ Lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am
Worship meeting (board room) @ 1:30pm
P&A meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 6:30pm
Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6:15pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Rental—Katy Harmer (sanctuary) @ 10am

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?

Rental—Bennet Charter (sanctuary) @ 6pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

ABC Valentine's Bake Sale (auditorium)
Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 2pm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Wes Organ Lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 6:30pm
Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6:15pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

