



Sunday, January 26, 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.

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

The 2025 Annual General Meeting is fast approaching (Sunday, February 23, 2025) at which time the Congregation will elect the members of the Church Council for the upcoming year. Council generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month (other than the months of July and August) and deals with a variety of issues that affect the ongoing life and work of our Church. It is important that the Council membership rotates regularly to ensure that fresh ideas and perspectives are presented and discussed at Council meetings, and in that regard, we are seeking candidates for this year's Council.

Serving on Council is a good way to better understand how the Church functions and is a great way to give back to our faith community. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining the Church Council (with a general expectation of serving a two-year term), would you please advise one of the members of this year's Nominating Group (Rob Siddall [rgs123@mymts.net], Bill Craddock [wjcdlc@mymts.net] or Glenn Neufeld [gwneufeld@hotmail.com]).

Thanks very much.

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.

Third after Epiphany

(Resources adapted from 2021 *The United Church of Canada*)

GATHERING MUSIC: *Intermezzo* Healey Willan

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH:
Report from Council – Bill Craddock

CENTERING WORDS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP:

Jesus embraced his friends with love.

Let us witness to God with our arms.

Jesus wept when his friend's experienced grief.

Let us witness to God with our hearts

Jesus healed people with his touch.

Let us witness to God with our hands.

Jesus taught in the synagogues.

Let us witness to God with our ears.

Jesus walked alongside the oppressed.

Let us witness to God with our feet.

Jesus taught us that to experience life to its fullest requires our entire selves.

Let us worship God with all of ourselves: mind, body, soul and spirit.

HYMN: **VU389** *God is Here*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

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

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **VU588** *Many Are the Lightbeams*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Loving God, you have asked us to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, and to let the oppressed go free. Yet there are times that we have been unable or unwilling to see those among us who didn't have enough who felt trapped, and who were treated as "Lesser than." For the times that our own thoughts and actions have caused us or others to stumble, we ask for your forgiveness."

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM: *O Peace of Christ* (text, John Parker; music, David Lantz III)

O peace of Christ, come flood my soul.

Like streams of water, over me roll,

Filling my heart and making me whole.

O peace of Christ, flood my soul.

O peace of Christ, come soothe my mind.

With quiet ease my thoughts unbind

Until Your calm relief I find.

O peace of Christ, soothe my mind.

O peace of Christ, come fill my heart.

Dispense Your love into each empty part.

Pour in Your mercy, your grace impart.

O peace of Christ, fill my heart.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Susanne Reimer

Reading: 1Corinthians 12:12-31a

QUINTET: *There is a Balm in Gilead* (text, Jeremiah 8:22; music, arr. William L. Dawson)

There is a Balm in Gilead,

To make the wounded whole,

There is a Balm in Gilead,

To heal the sinsick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,

And think my work's in vain,

But then the Holy Spirit

Revives my soul again.

If you cannot sing like angels,

If you cannot preach like Paul,

You can tell the love of Jesus,

And say, "He died for all."

There is a Balm in Gilead,

To make the wounded whole,

There is a Balm in Gilead,

To heal the sinsick soul.

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:14-21

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

SERMON

HYMN: **MV154** *Deep in Our Hearts*

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, send 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 Translation*

**Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,
May your name be made holy,
May your dominion come,
May your will be done,
On Earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today the bread we need;
And forgive us our debts,
As we have forgiven our debtors;
And do not put us to the test,
But rescue us from evil.**

**For yours is the dominion, and the power,
And the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *God is here*
(Blaenwern) arr. Stanley Vann

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: *Fanfare* Jacques Nicolas Lemmens

Music Note

Today's quintet is the traditional spiritual "There is a Balm in Gilead," arranged by African-American composer, choir director, and musicologist, William L. Dawson (1899-1990). Dawson's musical career was centred around the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University), one of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States. During his tenure teaching at Tuskegee from 1931-1956, he developed and expanded the choir, touring with them across the United States and Europe. His arrangements of spirituals for solo voice, choir, and orchestra are still widely performed.

Announcements

Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 9:30am in the lounge. We will be studying "Bad Girls of the Bible". The Bad Girl of the Bible this week is Potiphar's wife, found in Genesis 39.

Book Study: *"Truth Telling: Seven Conversations about Indigenous Life in Canada"* by Michelle Good

Facilitator: Patricia Baker (Minister in Association with St. Andrew's)

Saturdays, February 1 – April 19, 3:30pm – 5:00pm, on Zoom, attend as you are able.

This book study is for those "looking to acknowledge the past and understand the way forward." Through personal experience and knowledge, Michelle Good examines racism, broken treaties, "cultural pillaging," the value of Indigenous lives, the importance of Indigenous literature, exposing myths underlying Canadian history and the human cost of colonialism, and how these continue today. A new theme will be explored each week; no matter how much you have read, you can participate. The book is available at CommonWord (<https://www.commonword.ca/Home>) or from the Winnipeg Public Library. Email Patricia Baker for more information and/or for the Zoom link: pbaker@shaw.ca

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, quintet, Loralie Friesen, Rachel Tarrant, Sarah Schellenberg, Katy Harmer, and Susanne Reimer; who is also our scripture reader today.

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

PAR cards are available at the back of the church for anyone who wants to place them on the offering plate when it is passed.

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.

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.

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.

Coming Up...

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

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am
Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 6:30pm
Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6:15pm

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

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am
Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 5pm
Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6:15pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Rental—Katy Harmer (sanctuary) @ 10am
Rental—Bennet Charter (sanctuary) @ 6pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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



In a generous act of hospitality, God invites us into ministry. How shall we then respond?

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Wes Organ Lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am
Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 6:30pm
Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6:15pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 2pm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

