

WE ARE CALLED

Sunday, February 2, 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.

Fourth after Epiphany

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

GATHERING MUSIC: *Variations on 'O for a world'* (Azmon) by Robert Hobby

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

CENTERING SONG: **MV97** *Listen, God Is Calling*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

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

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Jeremiah 4:1-10*

Listen - Do you hear the voice of the Holy One?

Inviting, daring, challenging, celebrating, creating - You and me.

I form you. **I know you.**

I consecrate you. **I appoint you.**

I send you. **Fear no one. I am with you.**

I will deliver you. **I have put my words in your mouth.**

God, may we have ears to hear and voices to speak this truth.

Let us worship with words, prayer, and song.

HYMN: **VU697** *O For a World*

PRAYER: (Written by the Worship Team of the Inaugural Meetings of Gundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and Region 15 Regional Council, May 20219.)

We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **VU578** *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Created.

Consecrated. Appointed. Sent. Confident. Faithful.

Great Spirit, you invite us to accept the richness and abundance in which every human being is delightfully made.

Forgive us when we limit the grace and wonder of which we are capable.

Forgive us when we put limits on your power in us, such as when we say, "But I am only...only one person...only so talented...only so much."

We are not only any single thing. We are yours.

And the Spirit that lives within each of us is blessed, beautiful, and capable of creating new and abundant life. That is your truth.

May our words and our actions as the church of Christ testify that it is also ours.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (words and music, Thomas A. Dorsey; arr. Jack Schrader)

Precious Lord, take my hand,

Lead me on, help me stand,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night,

Lead me on to the light.

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear,

Precious Lord, linger near,

When my life is almost gone;

Hear my cry, hear my call,

Hold my hand lest I fall:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Precious Lord, take my hand,

Lead me on, help me stand,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night,

Lead me on to the light.

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Rob Siddall

Reading: *Jeremiah 1:4-10*

SOLO: Kyler Humble - *Where'er You Walk*

(G.F Handel, from "Semele")

Where'er you walk,

Cool gales shall fan the glade;

Trees where you sit,

Shall crowd into a shade.

Where'er you tread,

The blushing flowers shall rise,

And all things flourish

Where'er you turn your eyes.

Gospel Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

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

SERMON

HYMN: **MV165** *There Is a Time*

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 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: *Canzonetta* Eric
Thiman

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: *Fantasia* Johann Krebs

Music Note

Today's anthem, Precious Lord, Take My Hand was composed by African-American composer Thomas A. Dorsey in 1932, following the death of his wife, Nettie, during childbirth, and their newborn son just days later. Out of this horrible tragedy, Dorsey, a composer, conductor, and jazz pianist, turned to Gospel music for comfort and strength. He went on to compose over 200 Gospel songs (out of nearly 1000 total compositions) and led the church choir at the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago for forty years.

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 Lot's Wife, found in Genesis 19.

The Anna Blair Circle will hold their annual Valentine Bake Sale on Sunday, February 9th, in the auditorium following the service. Tasty home-baked goodies, cookies, cakes, and more!

St. Andrew's AGM is on February 23rd at 11:30am. The annual report will be available soon.

We need 8 volunteers (4 for set-up and 4 for take-down) to assist with setting up and taking down for the AGM on Sunday, February 23rd. Please sign up at the back of the Church if you are interested. Thank you so much.

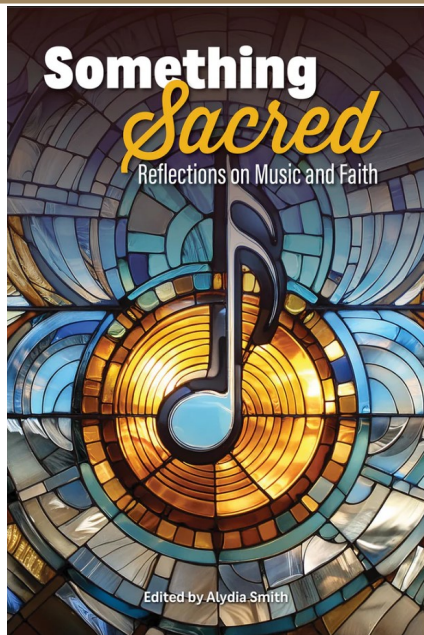
Sandra (Samm) Brown passed away last week. Let us keep her family in our prayers.

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, Kyler Humble, and our scripture reader, Rob Siddall.

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



There is a new Lenten devotional book this year, "**Something Sacred: Reflections on Music and Faith.**" If you'd like to order a copy for reading through the Lent season, please speak to Katy, or contact Charlotte in the office. The books will cost \$13-17, depending how many books we order (5+ gets a discount, and 8+ gets free shipping). **We will place the order on February 10, so let us know if you would like one before then.** From the United Church Bookstore website: "This Lenten devotional explores how the power of music can deepen our connection to God and form us as disciples of Christ. For many, music is a ubiquitous presence in our lives that affects us, sometimes despite us. The music we resonate with speaks to who we are, what we believe, and what we aspire to as people. Because of this, music is a powerful faith formation tool."

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.

Coming Up...

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

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—Katy Harmer (sanctuary) @ 10am

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

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

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

Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6:15pm

