

THE BEATITUDES

Sunday, February 16, 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 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. There are two vacancies to be filled, and we are hoping to find a new Council Chair and a new Chair of the Ministry & Personnel Group. 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.

The Beatitudes

GATHERING MUSIC: *Prelude on RHOSYMEDRE*
- R. Vaughan Williams

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

CENTERING WORDS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUR COMMITMENT
TO TRUTH & RECONCILIATION:

Long ago settlers journeyed to this land, the land
where Indigenous people lived.

We shared our understanding of creation and of
the Mystery of our God with them and when they
shared their vision, we as settlers did not hear. We
tried to make the Indigenous people to be like us,
and, in doing so we did not honor and respect who
they were.

**Today, we are in the midst of a long and painful
journey as we reflect on the past, and how we
behaved as a church. As we travel this difficult
road of repentance, reconciliation, and healing,
we commit ourselves to work toward ensuring
that we will never again do this. We are com-
mitted to doing things differently and to jour-
ney together.**

We pray that all Indigenous people will hear the
sincerity of our words today and that they will wit-
ness the living out of our apology in our actions in
the present and future days as we journey together
on this path.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

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

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Adapted from The
Minister's Annual Manual, 2007*

We are the people of God gathered together, but
why are we here?

Lord, you know our hearts.

**We want to be here so that we might glorify
you and receive your blessing.**

We want to be here so that we can support one
another in our pilgrimage.

**We want to be here because the church is your
gift to enable us to grow in our faith.**

We are here because we desire to know you more
fully.

HYMN: **VU344** *How Sweet the Name of Jesus
Sounds*

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **VU354** *In Old Galilee, When Sweet Breezes
Blew*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *Adapted, The Minis-
ter's Annual Manual, 2007*

**Merciful God, at times we have acted to please
others rather than acting to please you.**

**At times we have thought of ourselves first and
foremost, then others, then you.**

We ask for your forgiveness for those times.

**We ask for your help, your grace, your
strength, and your wisdom to sustain and
guide us.**

**We turn to you to teach us how to live and how
to love with all our hearts, minds, souls, and
strength.**

In Jesus, we pray. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM: *The Beatitudes* (text, Matthew 5:3-11;
music, Bob Chilcott)

Blessed are the poor in spirit:

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn:

For they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek:

For they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after
righteousness:

For they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful:

For they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart:

For they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers:

For they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for right-
eousness' sake:

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when they revile you and perse-
cute you,

And shall say all manner of evil against you falsely,
for my sake.

Blessed are ye. Blessed.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Jocelyn Carl-
son

Responsive Psalm: **VU724** *Psalm 1*

SOLO: Rachel Tarrant - *Hospitality* - Text - An old
Scottish tune, Music - W. H. Anderson

I saw a stranger yestreen;

I put food in the eating place,

Drink in the drinking place,
Music in the list'ning place,
And in the sacred name of the Triune,
He blessed myself and my house,
My cattle and my dear ones.

And the lark sang in her song,
"Often, goes the Christ in the stranger's guise."

Reading: Luke 6:17-26
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

HYMN: *Blest Are the Poor in Spirit* (tune, **VU333**;
words, Amanda Udis-Kessler)
♪ **Blest are you, the poor in spirit. Heaven's joy
invites you in.
Blest are you who weep in mourning. Comfort
will be yours again.
Blest are you, the self-effacing. Love awaits
the kind and meek.
Blest are you who work for justice. You will
find the world you seek.**

**Blest are you who offer mercy. Mercy you'll
receive in kind.
Blest are you, the pure of heart. As God you
seek, so God you'll find.
Blest are you whose lives are peaceful, true
descendants of God's peace.
Blest are you who face injustice. God will
grant you hearts of ease.**

**Even as the prophets labored, living into
God's demands
In the face of royal evil, now the choice is in
our hands.
Lies and hatred, greed and cruelty: we re-
spond in faith and trust.
Blest are we who live God's vision. Now God's
heaven lives in us. ♪**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:
Accept our prayers, Loving God.
Sung response: **VU400** *Lord, Listen to Your Chil-
dren 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: *Prelude on ST. PE-
TER* - Malcolm Archer

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

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, Rachel Tarrant, and our scripture reader, Jocelyn Carlson. Thank you to our guest organist, Linda Fearn.

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

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: Prelude on HYFRYDOL

A music note

Today's solo, "Hospitality," offered by Rachel and Linda, is composed by William Henry Anderson. This is a familiar name to the St. Andrew's community because he served as music director at this church from 1934-1954. Born in England in 1882, Anderson settled in Winnipeg in 1910 and quickly made a name for himself as a composer, voice teacher, and conductor. One of his notable students was Herb Belyea, another familiar name to this community (we have a very rich musical history here!). Anderson's composing style has been described as having "no pretensions beyond usefulness, a natural lyricism...a happy turn of melody and sensitivity to words." (*Canadian Encyclopedia*, "William Henry Anderson")

Announcements

The Anna Blair Circle thanks all those who supported the Valentine Bake Sale last Sunday, Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, the group raised over \$480. We very much appreciate your support.

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 Delilah, found in Judges 16:1-25.

Rita Swan will be celebrating her 70th Birthday on February 23.

If anyone is interested in an evening Study Group for the Lenten devotional book "Something Sacred: Reflections on Music and Faith", sign up at the back of the church.

If anyone is interested in transferring their membership, let the office know. A celebration of the new transfers will be a service in March or April.

The Fellowship Group hosts coffee time after church most Sundays but needs assistance. On the first Sunday of every month, a volunteer is needed to prepare the coffee time. If you are available, please sign up. Thank you very much.

St. Andrew's AGM is on February 23rd at 11:30am. The annual reports are at the back of the church and can also be printed on request.

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.

Tuesday, March 4th is our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in the auditorium! It will run from 5pm - 6:30pm, the price is \$5 per person and children under 3 years are free. All are welcome!

Sunday, March 9 is PIE Day! PIE is Public, Intentional and Explicit in our sharing of our being an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada. Our service will reflect this and then after church, we will eat PIE! If anyone is willing to bake a homemade pie for that Sunday, please sign up at the back of the church.

PAR cards are available at the back of the church for anyone who wants to

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?

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. We have collected 306 pairs of socks!! Can we do 350?

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, FEBRUARY 16
Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 2pm

