



**Sunday, February 23, 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.

## Love Your Enemies/Judge Not

GATHERING MUSIC: *Vesper Voluntary* Edward Elgar

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

CENTERING WORDS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

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

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2025.*

Take delight in the Lord and receive the desires of your heart.

**We will bring a generosity of spirit and sing the harmony of mercy.**

The meek shall inherit the land and rejoice in God's love.

**We praise the Lord of mercy, pouring it out for all.**

Do good and trust the Lord.

Love first; forgive first; give first.

**We come to worship, to heed the Word, and to grow in faith and love.**

HYMN: **VU678** *For the Healing of the Nations*

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **MV169** *When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2025*

**God, we come to you as imperfect creatures.**

**Like Joseph's brothers, we are afraid of the past and we are wary of the future.**

**Yet, we yearn to feel your warm embrace.**

**We long to know your love and forgiveness, despite our shortcomings.**

**Help us in our journey toward mercy, as we grow in faith and love.**

**Help us bless those who curse us and to pray for those who mistreat us.**

**This is your direction for our lives and we will follow as we are able. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM: *Ubi Caritas et Amor* (text, antiphon for Maundy Thursday; music, Gregorian chant, arr. C. Dalitz)

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

*[Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.]*

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Simul ergo cum in unum congregamur:  
Ne nos mente dividamur, caveamus.  
Cessent iurgia maligna, cessent lites.  
Et in medio nostri sit Christus Deus.

*Where charity and love are, God is there.  
As we are gathered into one body,  
Beware, lest we be divided in mind.  
Let evil impulses stop, let controversy cease,  
And may Christ our God be in our midst.]*

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Simul quoque cum beatis videamus,  
Glorianter vultum tuum, Christe Deus:  
Gaudium quod est immensum, atque probum,  
Saecula per infinita saeculorum. Amen.

*Where charity and love are, God is there.  
And may we with the saints also,  
See Thy face in glory, O Christ our God:  
The joy that is immense and good,  
Unto the ages through infinite ages. Amen]*

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 6:27-38 read by George-Anthony Shariff  
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

HYMN: **VU594** *O Christian, Love*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: *Adapted from Rita Swan, Lay Worship Leader.*

Lord, help us to be merciful.

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

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *For the healing of the Nations (Westminster Abbey)* arr. by Andrew Gant

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: *Minuet* Noel Rawsthorne

### Music Note

Today's anthem is a setting of the familiar text, "Ubi Caritas et Amor." Originally (i.e. starting in the 8th century), this text would have been sung to Gregorian chant during the Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday. German composer Christoph Dalitz uses that Gregorian chant as source material for polyphonic sections. Polyphony is where each part's line moves independently of each other (as opposed to homophony when everyone moves together, like in a hymn). You may have heard the Maurice Durufle choral motet that uses the same Gregorian chant as its melodic base.

### 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 and our scripture reader, George-Anthony Shariff.

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

## Announcements

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

**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 Sapphira, found in Acts 4:32-35 & Acts 5:1-11.

## Remember in Prayer

Rita Swan is leading worship and preaching at Windsor Park United Church on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Rita Swan** will be celebrating her 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday today! Happy Birthday Rita!

**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.

## Upcoming Services

- Sunday, March 9 - First Sunday of Lent & Communion & PIE Day
- Sunday, March 16 - Lent 2
- Sunday, March 23 - Baptism

**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 bring a 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 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 315 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 23

**AGM @ 11:30am**

*Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 4:30pm*

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

*Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm*

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

*Wes Organ Lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am*

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

*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?

*Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6:15pm*

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Handbell choir practice (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

## SUNDAY, MARCH 2

*Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 2pm*

## MONDAY, MARCH 3

*Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm*

## TUESDAY, MARCH 4

*Wes Organ Lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am*

*Set-up for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (auditorium) @ 12pm*

**ABC meeting (lounge) @ 1:30pm**

**Worship meeting (board room) @ 1:30pm**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (auditorium) @ 5pm**

