

Lent.

a season of renewal

Sunday, March 30, 2025



Lent is a time of reflection, contemplation, and preparation for what is to come. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5 and lasts until Easter, April 20. This year we are looking at Lent through the eyes of The Covenants God made. This is the Fourth Sunday of Lent and we reflect on God's Covenant of Grace.

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.

Upcoming Services

- Sunday, April 6 - Lent 5/10th Anniversary of Affirming

Holy Week Services

- Palm Sunday, April 13 at 10:30 am
- Maundy Thursday at Westworth, April 17 at 6:15pm
- Good Friday at St. Andrew's with Westworth, April 18 at 10:30am
- Easter Sunday Communion, April 20 from 10:00am-10:15am
- Easter Sunday Lessons & Carols, April 20 at 10:30 am

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.

Lent 4

GATHERING MUSIC: *Choral #1 in E major* Cesar Franck

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH
A note from Council – Rob Siddall

CENTERING WORDS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

HYMN: **VU333** *Love Divine All Love Excelling*

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY: *Gathering Resource for Worship, 2025, written by Christine Jerrett, Inwood, Ontario*
Read by Jocelyn Carlson

PRAYER:

Covenant God, your grace infuses our lives each day. As we extinguish this fourth candle of Lent, may we be reminded of all the grace-filled times in our lives. May your grace enliven us today, and may we find grace in all that we offer and do. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **MV20** *God of Still Waiting*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

We confess that we have lost our way as individuals and sometimes we are in a fog or it feels like we are in a far-off country.

We need your help and guidance to bring us back.

We confess that sometimes in families or with friends, we have lost our way and yearn to heal broken relationships.

We need your help and guidance to find the right path.

We confess that as communities of faith, as people of good will, as folks who want to do the right thing, that sometimes we have lost our compass and need your North Star to guide us.

We need your guidance, like a compass, in order to go in a straight line.

We confess that sometimes as a nation our values are off kilter and we are rudderless.

Be our captain and guide the ship of state we know as Canada.

In moments of silence, we confess the areas in our life where we have missed the mark. (*Silence*)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Like a father or mother welcoming home a beloved child, we know that your love seeks us out, finds us, forgives us and welcomes us home. This welcome home began centuries ago with Hosea, who said God loved his wayward people back and with Jesus, for whom forgiveness was a central theme. We were lost, and we have been found, for we are part of your family. Amen.

ANTHEM: *Ispiciwin - Journey* (Cree text, Andrew Balfour; music, Orlando Gibbons, arr. Andrew Balfour)

Ispiciwin [Journey]

Ispiciwin tapwe [Journey of truth]

Ispiciwin pawatamawin [Journey of dreams]

Kiyanaw [Us]

Wekimakasikan [Smudge]

Kihewataniy [Eagle feather]

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 15:11-32 read by Leigh Carlson

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

SOLO: Fred Cross - *The Disciples' Lenten Journey*

Music: Franz Schubert Lenten Text: I. Vorandhannahsson

(The disciples struggle to comprehend what will happen when they reach Jerusalem with Jesus)

We follow Jesus willingly,

Along the road, from Galilee.

He speaks of things he says must be.

To us it seems a mystery.

Our master surely will rule as king.

Jerusalem his triumph; hosannas all sing.

But Jesus says his life is soon to end.

We cannot listen nor comprehend.

This can't be! This can't be! Our success is near.

The crowds, they follow. No need to fear.

This man, our Jesus kind and wise, so kind and wise.

Our hopes and dreams will realize.

His strength in Galilee recall.

The miracles performed for all.

We march along, our heads held high.

How could our Jesus die?

He leads us ever nearer to his fate.

Jerusalem! He cannot wait.

His destiny we now must face.

Life sacrificed. Given to us with grace.

SERMON

HYMN: **MV82** *Bathe Me in Your Light*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *Siciliano from Sonata #6* Gaetano Valeri

OFFERING/OFFERTORY SUNG RESPONSE: **VU116** *Giver of the Perfect Gift* vs. 4

♪ **Oh, may these our Lenten days,
blest by thee, with thee be passed,
that with purer, nobler praise
we may keep thy feast at last.** ♪

OFFERTORY PRAYER

BLESSING

BENEDICTION: **VU113** *To the Desert Jesus Came* vs. 4

♪ **From the ashes to the hill,
we'll travel on our Lenten road.
Hand in hand we'll cross this sand,
and share each other's heavy load.
Together through the valley,
we'll watch the changing sky.
Together through the valley,
as Easter's dawn draws nigh.** ♪

POSTLUDE: *Love divine, all loves excelling* (Hyfrydol) arr. Robert Hobby

Music Note

Today's anthem by Andrew Balfour is the same we sang during our Orange Shirt Day service in September, when we spoke about the journey of Truth and Reconciliation. Balfour wrote these Cree words and placed them with Orlando Gibbons' music as a 'powerful step in reconciliation and healing.' When thinking about God's covenant of grace and the prodigal returning to their family, I thought that this piece with Andrew's words might also speak to other narratives of reconciliation. We are all on different journeys of truth, journeys of dreams, and journeys of reconciliation.

Announcements

Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 9:30am and Sundays after Church in the lounge. We will be studying Sacred Reflections on Music and Faith Week 3, Pages 28-41.

On Sunday, April 6th please wear Rainbow Colours and Pride Wear as we celebrate our 10 Year Anniversary of Being An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada.

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, Fred Cross, and our scripture reader, Leigh Carlson. Thank you to our candle reader, Jocelyn Carlson. Thank you to our guest preacher, Rev. Doug Martindale.

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

If you would like to subscribe or renew your subscription to the Broadview Magazine, please contact the church office by Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Please make your cheque for \$30.00 payable to St. Andrew's River Heights United Church. You are also welcome to pay via e-Transfer. *Broadview* is an independent Canadian magazine featuring award-winning coverage.

1JustCityOak Table Tour, located at 444 River Avenue in Osborne Village, on Friday, April 4th at 9:00 am. Meet at the church at 8:20 am and leave at 8:30 am to carpool. Please sign up to attend. If you can drive how many people can you take in your car? St. Andrew's helped to pilot this Breakfast Program and financially donated money for this. Come and see it in action.

Memorial Flowers: What is the Memorial Flowers Fund? Every year during Lent, St. Andrew's raises money for the St. Andrew's Flower Fund in memory of loved ones. Donations can be made in amounts of your choosing and you can name as many people as you wish. All loved ones named will be listed in an 'In Memoriam' section in our order of service on Easter Sunday. This fund is used to purchase flowers/plants to decorate the church during special times of the year. If you would like your 'In Memoriam' to be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please forward the form and your donation to the church office **no later than Monday, April 14th, 2025**. Any donation to the Memorial Flowers Fund will be included in your yearly income tax receipt. Forms can be found in the narthex.

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.

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, MARCH 31

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Wes organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

Worship meeting (board room) @ 1:30pm

P&A meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 5:15pm

Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6:15pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Handbell choir practice (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Wes organ lessons (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?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 5:15pm

Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6:15pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Handbell choir practice (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Rental—Katy (sanctuary) @ 10am

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Palm Sunday Service @ 10:30am

Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 2:30pm

MONDAY, APRIL 14

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

