

Sunday, April 6, 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 Fifth Sunday of Lent and we reflect on God's Covenant of Life.

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.

Our Mission

As we live out the VISION of the church we pledge to:

- a. Affirm all regardless of race, colour, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status, physical or mental ability, age
- b. Conduct same sex marriages
- c. Share sacraments and rites with all
- d. Give of ourselves, our talent, our time, our money, our commitment in the service of God by reaching out to the community and volunteering with those who need help
- e. Acknowledge that all we do we do in the name of Christ by witnessing to the work of God in our lives
- f. Share stories of personal transformation
- g. Learn to recognise and name injustice when we encounter it or observe it
- h. Educate/learn about issues of injustice
- i. Know the teachings of the Bible and share understanding of Scripture
- j. Discern how Jesus lived and would have us live in our day to day journey of life
- k. Demonstrate that we are serious about affirmation/inclusivity with our strategic plan
- l. Encourage communication with and participation in the broader church



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 5
10th Anniversary of Affirming

Resources from Courage to Love by Geoffrey Duncan, Pilgrim Press, 2002

GATHERING MUSIC: *Larghetto and Allegro moderato from Organ Concerto #6 in B flat* George Frideric Handel

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH
Report from Council - Rob Siddall

CENTERING LITURGY: *Written by Anne B. Day, adapted.*

We are part of the church universal- faithful people of every colour, gender, class, sexual orientation, age and ability, gathered to love and serve God.

We are an Open and Affirming Church.

Together, let us worship God, rejoicing in the good news which we celebrate this day!

There is a place in God's heart, there is a place at Christ's table, there is a place here for all people.

Christ who gathers us, bids us follow in the ways of love and justice.

May our hearts be open to Christ's leading in our worship and our living, this day and always.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT: *Adapted from Steinbach United Church, ED. Rita Swan*

St. Andrew's River Heights United is located on Treaty 1 territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, the homeland and heart of the Metis Nation. For thousands of years, they have walked gently on this land with deeply rooted gifts of spirituality, culture, and ways of knowing. We recognise the treaties that were made and acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and give thanks for the stewardship of this land - in times past and present. We are called to seek new relationships, ones based on creating friendships, building respect and producing peace, remembering we are all treaty people. So it doesn't matter who you are, where you are from, who you love or where you are on your faith journey; know that you are a beloved child of God. You are welcome here. You belong!

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Written by Ann B. Day, adapted. Read by Anne Grewar*

We are the hand clapping, the tapping, heart pumping, mouth tasting, arms embracing **Body of Christ!**

Justice-seeking, hymn-singing, love-making, bread-baking, risk-taking

Body of Christ!

Baptized by one Spirit, **we are members of one body.**

Many and varied in gender, color, sexuality, age, class and ability,

We are members of Christ's body.

None of us can say to another, "I have no need of you."

For only together can we find wholeness.

If one suffers, we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice!

Thanks be to God who in Christ has made us one.

Let us worship God!

HYMN: *Sing a New World Into Being* (tune: VU232 joyful, joyful)

♪ **Sing a new world into being!**

Sound a bold and hopeful theme.

Find a tune for silent yearnings.

Lend your voice and dare to dream:

Dream a church where all who worship

Find their lives and loves belong.

Sing a new world into being:

Sing as Christ inspires your song!

Sing a new world into being

Where each gender, class, and race

Brings its rainbow gifts and colours

To God's limitless embrace;

Where the lines that once divided

Form instead the ties that bind.

Sing a new world into being:

Risk transforming heart and mind!

Sing a new world into being

Where the homeless find a home,

Where no children ever hunger

But are filled in God's shalom;

Where all people work for justice,

Where all hate and vengeance cease.

Sing a new world into being:

Raise the harmonies of peace.

Sing a new world into being.

Join the ancient prophets' cry

For a time of health and plenty

When all tears have been wiped dry;

When compassion flows like waters,

Pouring balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world into being:

Live the promise you believe! ♪

HISTORY OF OUR AFFIRMING JOURNEY: Linda Paul

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

God of rainbows, of diversity, and of inclusivity, **we thank you for guiding us to this moment; for challenging us to deepen our understanding; for calling us to grow; for inviting us to care for all who feel marginalized.**

Bless us in what we do this day, strengthen our commitment to justice for all.

Help us to live out our promises with faithfulness and joy.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM: *We Are a Rainbow* (text and music, David Kai)

We're the light of all the world,
We're a city on a hill,
We're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,
We will not hide our lamp
Beneath a bushel anymore,
We shine a ray of hope that's burning bright!

We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow,
Splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.

We're a coat of many colours,
Sewn from many different threads,
Covering all in warmth, in welcome and in grace.
God said, "Let there be light,"
Created every varied shade,
In the rainbow each of us can find a place.

We are a rainbow...

We are hope to still believe
In tomorrow's better day,
We are peace within a world that's torn apart,
We are joy that will last
In all the struggles that we face
We are love that blooms and grows in every heart.

We are a rainbow...

When we face the storms of life,
We will never be alone,
For our God will be with us on the way,
Hand in hand, side by side,
We won't be frightened anymore,
As the mourning night of tears breaks into day.

We are a rainbow...

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

Read by George-Anthony Shariff

PRAYER:

Life-Giving God, as we draw closer to Jerusalem, knowing what lies ahead for Jesus, we are reminded of the life that you give to each and every one of us. Receive our thanks for your reminder that you are doing something new, something life giving. Receive our joy in the life we have lived and the influence that Jesus' ministry has had on our lives. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: *All the Colours of the Rainbow* (Abbots Leigh) Songs for the Holy Other

vs. 1, 2 & 4 (text by Carl P. Daw, tune Abbot's Leigh, VU104)

**♪ All the colours of the rainbow live unseen in daily light,
But their splendors find expression when released to human sight;
So the church reveals most beauty where diversity is real:
Breadth of race and class and gender, room for doubt and space to heal.**

**All the body's parts are wanted, nor can one despise the rest:
Head and hand must work together, as must eye and ear and chest;
So the church needs all its members for a range of ministries:
Varied gifts with one great mission, "Do this for the least of these."**

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, Diane Bewell. Thank you to our candle reader, George-Anthony Shariff. Thank you to everyone who participated in the service 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

**Teach us, God, our need of others; through them help us fully live.
Wean us from our selfish habits; let us listen, learn, forgive.
May we see your longed-for image in each human heart and face,
And behold how those around us can be channels of your grace. ♪**

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 43:16-21 read by Diane Bewell
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

REFLECTIONS: What does it mean to be a part of an affirming ministry?
MV145 *Draw the Circle* refrain between speakers
Peter Brehaut, Deanne Bennett, Rita Swan, Katy Harmer, Rev. Karen Lumley

RE-AFFIRMING OUR CONGREGATIONAL PLEDGE:
**We pledge to affirm and offer sacraments and rites of the church to all people.
We pledge to learn about issues of injustice so we might recognize, name and take action when we encounter or observe it.
We pledge to give our time, talent, and money, reaching out into the community in the name of Christ.
We pledge through a shared knowledge and understanding of scripture to discern how Jesus lived and would have us live into the future.
We pledge to continue our journey of being an Affirming and Inclusive church, growing into a future plan led by the work of the Holy Spirit.**

HYMN: **MV138** *My Love Colours Outside the Lines*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Vinny Ashton
For all God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

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, forgive 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: *A Trumpet Choral* Van Denman Thompson

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: *Voluntary on 'Hymn to Joy'* (based on music of Beethoven and John Stanley) arr. by Michael Burkhardt

Music Note

We Are a Rainbow, Sing a New World Into Being, and All the Colours of the Rainbow come from a collection of music called "Songs for the Holy Other: Hymns Affirming the LGBTQIA2S+ Community." The name of the collection "is a self-conscious claiming of otherness as holy and beloved of God. We who have been labelled 'wholly other' are claiming our holiness, and reclaiming our otherness as a prophetic witness to the church."

