

INDIGENOUS DAY OF PRAYER

Sunday, June 15, 2025



We are an Easter people. People who celebrate the Risen Christ! The Season of Easter begins on Easter Sunday and lasts until June 8th, which is Pentecost Sunday. The cross remains in the sanctuary with the white cloth on it until Pentecost. Easter is the most important and oldest festival of the Christian Church, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

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 Manitoba Wildfires Appeal

Over the past week or more, we have heard about the wildfires in northern Manitoba and in other areas across Canada, which have forced the evacuation of literally thousands of people. Many of the evacuees have left their homes, and fire threatened communities with not much more than the clothes on their backs. The need for these evacuees includes not only basic shelter and food but supplies like essential personal toiletries, medicines, and such.

The most expedient way for folks at St. Andrew's to respond to these needs is through monetary donations. Donations can be made through our Church Office by cheque or e-transfer payable to St. Andrew's River Heights United Church. Mark to the attention of our Treasurer, Bill Craddock, identified clearly as for Manitoba Wildfires Relief. All donations will be eligible for income tax deductibility. The donated funds will be funnelled to the 2025 Manitoba Wildfires Relief administered by the Canadian Red Cross. The Canadian and Manitoba Govts. combined will provide a 3 to 1 matching for any donations received by June 27.

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.

Indigenous Day of Prayer

The Sacred Drum: Celebrating Indigenous Spirituality and Strength

(Resource from The United Church of Canada, 2023, written by: Rev. Shane Goldie, an Indigenous Cree/Metis, 2 Spirited Minister of UCC)

GATHERING MUSIC: *Come Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire* - Sarum plainsong mode VIII, arranged by Wilbur Held

WELCOME

WORK OF THE CHURCH

CENTERING WORDS

RECOGNITION OF THE LAND AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

As we gather here today, let us take a moment to acknowledge the land upon which we stand and the Indigenous Peoples who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. We recognize that our worship space is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota peoples on the homeland of the Metis People and Inuit peoples. We extend our gratitude and respect to them for their enduring presence and care for this land.

In this moment of recognition, we honour the diverse cultures and spiritualities of the Indigenous Peoples who continue to shape and enrich our communities. We commit ourselves to the ongoing work of reconciliation, healing, and justice, walking alongside Indigenous Peoples with humility, empathy, and open hearts.

As we worship and celebrate together, let us be mindful of our shared responsibility to protect and nurture the land, to honour the wisdom and resilience of Indigenous Peoples, and to cultivate relationships rooted in respect, understanding, and unity. In doing so, we contribute to a more inclusive, equitable, and compassionate world for all.

PRAYER OF FOUR DIRECTIONS & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Yellow Candle: **We are grateful for these gifts of life, O Mighty Creator God.**

Black Candle: **We are grateful for these gifts, O Holy One.**

Red Candle: **We are grateful for Your gift of life, O Creator God.**

White Candle: **We are grateful for these gifts, O God of Presence.**

Christ Candle: **We are grateful for these gifts of hope, O Gracious One.**

HYMN: **VU308** *Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works*

INVITATION TO WORSHIP:

On this Indigenous Day of Prayer, we gather in solidarity with the First Peoples of this land.

We celebrate their wisdom, culture, and spirituality.

We honour the sacred drum, the heartbeat of Mother Earth, echoing the voice of our ancestors.

May our hearts beat in harmony with the rhythm of Creation.

Come, let us join in worship, embracing the beauty of Indigenous heritage and strength.

With open hearts, we seek to journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation.

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **MV53** *God Who Spread the Boundless Prairie*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Great Spirit, Creator of all, we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging our shortcomings and the ways in which we have failed to honour the wisdom and dignity of the Indigenous Peoples of these lands. We confess that we have too often remained silent in the face of injustice and have not always taken the necessary steps towards healing and reconciliation.

We admit that we have sometimes perpetuated harmful stereotypes, neglected to listen to the voices of Indigenous communities, and been slow to confront our own biases and prejudices. Forgive us, O God, for the times when our actions and inactions have contributed to the pain and suffering of Indigenous Peoples.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GOSPEL READING: Ephesians 2:14-22 read by Derek Morphy

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

SOLO: Loralie Friesen - *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* (words and music, Sebastian Temple; arr. Jane Holstein)

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,

And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

O Spirit grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Spirit grant...

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

SERMON

HYMN: **VU691** *Through Ancient Walls* vs. 1, 4 & 5

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:
Great Spirit, receive our prayer.

AN INDIGENOUS LORD'S PRAYER
**Great Spirit, our Creator, who is in all places,
Sacred is your name.
May your wisdom guide us,
Your will be done in our lives, as it is through-
out Creation.
Provide for us today the nourishment we need,
And forgive our us our wrongs, as we forgive
those who have wronged us.
Lead us on the path of understanding and re-
spect,
And protect us from ignorance and harm.
For you are the source of all power, beauty,
and love,
From generation to generation, forever and al-
ways.
Amen.**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *Prelude on DOWN
AMPNEY* (Come Down O Love Divine) - tune by
Ralph Vaughan Williams setting by John Beaver

OFFERING/OFFERTORY SUNG RESPONSE:

MV182 *Grateful* (refrain)
♪ **Grateful for the life you give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing
over all, O God of Love.
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing,
we will praise you.** ♪

OFFERTORY PRAYER

BLESSING

BENEDICTION: **MV214** *May God's Sheltering
Wings*

♪ **May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you
May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love.** ♪

POSTLUDE: *"I will pour out my Spirit upon all
flesh"* (from Trinitas) - Eleanor Daley

Announcements

A special thank you to all who were involved in the 100th Anniversary Celebration with Westworth United. Thanks to Westworth for hosting this, for the combined Westworth and St. Andrew's committee, Katy and the choir, The Fellowship Group, and the vignette players (Ruth McKenzie and Linda Paul) and scripture reader: Fred Cross and anyone else who was involved that I may have missed. Truly, it was a wonderful CELEBRATION for the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada.

Westworth gifted us with a beautiful communion table runner with the new United Church Crest on it. I was at a loss for words and sent a thank you to them. June 29th, the cloth will be on our table.

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, Loralie Friesen, and our scripture reader, Derek Morphy. 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

Announcements

Kathy Knowles is collecting round metal tops from frozen concentrated orange juice and lemonade containers. She will be using them to make concentration games for her children's libraries in Ghana. Linda Fearn has added a labelled bin at the back of the church with the others targeted for recycling.

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, JUNE 16

Rental—Judy Oatway (sanctuary) @ 5:15pm
Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Rental—Ivan Osaulenko (sanctuary) @ 7pm
Council meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

Rental—Joy Cooper (sanctuary) @ 6:15pm

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Rental—Joy Cooper (sanctuary) @ 6pm

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

Rental—Holly Harris (sanctuary) @ 5:45pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Rental—Charise Pohl (sanctuary) @ 5pm

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 2:30pm
Rental—Graeme Leaver (sanctuary) @ 6:30m

MONDAY, JUNE 23

Rental—Kelly Robinson (sanctuary) @ 6pm
Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

MONDAY, JUNE 30

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

SUNDAY, JULY 6

Rental—Elizabeth Goossen (sanctuary) @ 1pm

MONDAY, JULY 7

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

MONDAY, JULY 14

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

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

MONDAY, JULY 21

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

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

SUNDAY, JULY 27

Rental—Elizabeth Goossen (sanctuary) @ 1pm

MONDAY, JULY 28

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

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.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Rental—Charmaine Bacon (sanctuary) @ 5pm

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Wes organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4