



Sunday, December 7, 2025



Advent is a time of waiting, anticipation, peace, hope, joy, and love as we look forward to the long-awaited birth of the Christ Child. In Advent, we are anticipating the arrival of the baby Jesus, the Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Saviour, and Coming King. It is a time we are waiting for God, for the birth of hope, for the arrival of new life. As we wait, we prepare our hearts to receive the gifts of God. We ask God to shape us and to prepare our hearts for the long-awaited Prince of Peace. May we begin to understand God's vision of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love each week as we light the candles and decorate our Christmas tree.

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.

Traveling Youth Group- December 19th 7:00pm-9:00pm

Join us this December at St. Andrew's River Heights United Church as they host the 3rd annual Traveling Youth Group Christmas Extravaganza: Gingerbread House Edition. Come build gingerbread houses as we explore "Where is the Candy Cane in the Bible?"

What is a Traveling Youth Group? Traveling Youth Group is a 2-hour Youth Retreat hosted by a variety of United Churches across Winnipeg each month; consisting of worship, Theme, and snacks. Come and bring your friends and meet new ones too!

Who: Youth Grade 6-12

Where: St. Andrew's River Heights United Church, 255 Oak Street

When: Friday, December 19th 7:00pm -9:00pm

Register: <https://forms.gle/JNgbpF2XfChFYAP6>

Make sure to subscribe to our weekly eblast 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.

Advent 2 - God's Vision of Peace

Liturgy & Prayers from Advent Unwrapped 2025,
United Church of Canada

GATHERING MUSIC: *Grave & Allegro* from
'Christmas Concerto' Arcangelo Corelli

WELCOME

HIP HAPPENIN' NEWS: Ben Dyck & Ilsa Buchholz

WORK OF THE CHURCH

PASSING THE PEACE

INVITATION TO WORSHIP:

People of God, Christ has invited us here!

**We gather to praise God, who brings justice
and righteousness to all.**

We gather to give thanks to God for hope and
peace.

**Blessed be the Lord, who has made marvelous
things.**

Let us praise God together!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: **VU8** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

CHILDREN'S TIME & CANDLE LIGHTING: Read
by Fred Cross

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN: *We Light This Candle*
(Pat Mayberry, arr. David Kai)

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'We Light This Candle'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two measures: 'We light this can - dle for peace. A - wait the'. The second staff starts with a '3' above it, indicating a triplet, and contains the next two measures: 'new life with - in. May our hearts now live each'. The third staff starts with a '6' above it, indicating a sixteenth note, and contains the next two measures: 'day, so peace can find a way, so'. The fourth staff starts with a '9' above it, indicating a ninth note, and contains the final two measures: 'peace can find a way.' The music ends with a double bar line.

HYMN: *Child of Spirit* (See back page)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Merciful God, there are days when we lose our
way.**

**We forget, or simply don't trust, your vision of
peace.**

**We ignore the cries of those seeking justice.
We fail to bear good fruit in our lives, forgive
us.**

Remind us that we are yours.

**Teach us how to make peace with ourselves
and with our neighbors.**

**Help us proclaim your message of hope
and continue our journey to Bethlehem—a jour-
ney of faith to a cradle of love.**

In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM: *Songs of the Promise* (arr. Joseph Mar-
tin)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free.

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day.

From our fears and sins release us;

Let us find our rest in Thee.

I would my true love did so chance.

Israel's rest and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art.

To see the legend of my play.

To call my true love to the dance.

Dear desire of every nation,

Joy of every longing heart.

Sing, O my love, my love, my love.

This I have done for my true love.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 11:1-10 read by
Jocelyn Carlson

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

SOLO: Ian Olson - *Long the Days of
Waiting* (Dean Nadasdy, words; Mark
Shepperd, music) Flute – Rachel Tar-
rant

Long the days of waiting, longer still the
nights;

Dark, the dead of winter, yearning for
the light.

Watching for the sunrise, reaching for
the dawn,

Let us pray with eyes wide open, this
our Advent song:

Come, O come, Lord Jesus, like the morning sun!
Cast your light across our darkness;
Make our hearts your home.

Lost the word of wisdom, missing what is true,

Seeking after knowledge without knowing you.
Listening for a prophet, hearing only noise,
Loud the thoughts so deep within us silencing
your voice.

Harsh the guilt we carry, evils we have done,
Pleading for your presence, wounded and alone.
So we come believing, in the dark of night,
That your saving presence with us will bring life
and light.

Come, O come, Lord Jesus...

SERMON

HYMN: **VU680** *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: The Coventry Carol
arr. William Lloyd Webber

OFFERING/OFFERTORY SUNG RESPONSE:

VU55 *In the Bleak Midwinter vs. 4*

♪ **What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.** ♪

OFFERTORY PRAYER

BLESSING

BENEDICTION: **VU75** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks vs. 6*

♪ **“All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will to all from highest heaven
begin, and never cease.”** ♪

POSTLUDE: *Allegro (last movement) from 'Christmas Concerto'* Arcangelo Corelli

Announcements

Our greeters this month are members of the Council.
Be sure to say hello!

If you ordered cookies from the cookie walk for pick up today, don't forget to collect them after the service. Thank you to everyone who contributed, whether through baking, organising or even purchasing we thank you very much for your contribution in making this year's cookie walk a success!

A special thanks to the decorating teams, Ruth McKenzie, Judy Bourcier, and others who helped to decorate the church for the Advent season; Gord Shawcross, John Swan, and Peter Brehault for setting up the manger scene outside; Gord and Murray Cameron for setting up the trees in the church. The church looks gorgeous. Thanks.

Come and help us decorate our Christmas Tree! A special thanks to the children and youth who are decorating with their made decorations each week. Adults may put on ornaments before or after church begins; there are some ornaments here provided at the church. But if you have an ornament that you would like on our Church tree for the season, bring it to church. Ornaments you brought can be picked up from the Narthex after Epiphany, when the tree is taken down.

Remember in prayer, Anne Grewar, who was in the hospital for surgery this past Monday.

Remember in prayer Lesley Rempel, who is in the hospital after a fall.

For those of you who purchased lights on the Memory Tree, your Memory cards are available to pick up in the Narthex on Sunday mornings - they are in individual envelopes in a basket. Please call or email the office if you are not going to be at the church in person and we will mail your cards out to you.

The last Bible Study for the season is on Wednesday, December 10th at 9:30am-10:30am in the lounge. We will be studying Isaiah 35:1-10. All are welcome to attend.

Board Game Night, Sunday, December 7th at 7:00pm in the Lounge. Everyone in their 20s-40s is welcome! Bring a game to share. Contact Katy for more information.

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 Ian Purves, flautist Rachel Tarrant, Hip Happenin' News Reporters Ben Dyck & Ilsa Buchholz, Candlelight reader, Fred Cross and our scripture reader, Jocelyn Carlson.

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

St. Andrew's Pledge Campaign for 2026

It is the past generosity of our congregation, both in financial and volunteer support, that has allowed St. Andrew's to proudly serve as a Christian presence in our community. And we thank you for that support. On Sunday, November 23rd, we announced the kick-off of the St. Andrew's Pledge Campaign for financial support, now for the coming year 2026. A total of 241 Pledge Packages were mailed out to families on our active mailing list. Those should now be in your possession. The cover letter in this material highlighted the ongoing financial needs here at St. Andrew's and the longer-term viability to be able to continue as a thriving Church. We have received some responses so far and we thank you for your prompt attention to this important

matter. But many more have yet to respond. We would ask you to review this material and prayerfully consider how you can continue to help our Church provide a Christian presence so needed in our community.

Stewardship Team – Greg Fearn, Iris McKay, Glenn Neufeld, Bill Craddock

Upcoming Services

- Sunday, December 14th - Advent III - Memory Tree Service & Pre-Recording Family Christmas Eve Service after Church
- Sunday, December 21st - Advent IV

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church will be conducting the worship service for the Wellington on Wednesday, December 17th at 11:00 a.m.

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.

TLUS 131 Child of spirit, child of light



1 Child of spir - it, child of light, warm-ing hearts in cold - est
 2 with the fright - ened re - fu - gee, lit - tle one, a - mong the
 ♦ 3 for the chil - dren of the world, you come cra - dled, you come
 4 Come and teach us what is peace: to our love - less-ness and
 5 In our time and in our place, one more year un - wrap - ping



plac - es, bring - ing joy to cheer-less fac - es, born to
 name - less you have joined the hurt and home - less in the
 ♦ cry - ing where the hawks of war are fly - ing, where earth's
 vio - lence to the voice of ter - ror's ty - rants, to each
 Christ - mas, be the hope that God is with us, that each



love this Christ-mas night, child of spir - it, child of light:
 tent of pov - er - ty, with the fright - ened re - fu - gee:
 ♦ mis - er - ies un - fold for the chil - dren of the world.
 home and ev - ery race, come and teach us what is peace!
 one of us know peace in our time and in our place.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray
 Music: Carlton R. Young

SITZ IM LEBEN
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Wreaths are for sale! All proceeds go to the 1JustCity program at Augustine Centre. You may purchase wreaths after church on Sunday or by contacting the church office. Wreaths are \$35 and cash, cheque and e-Transfer are accepted. The wreaths make a great gift for neighbours, friends and family. Please consider supporting this outreach fundraiser.

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.

Community Announcement

The Ring Out! Handbell Quartet invites you to attend their annual fund-raising concert for the Christmas Cheer Board this afternoon, December 7th at 2 pm at Chapel Lawn, 4000 Portage Avenue. Admission by silent donation and/or a tin for the bin.



St. Andrew's River Heights United Church | 255 Oak Street, Winnipeg, MB R3M 3P7 | Sunday Services @ 10:30am
 Phone: 204-488-1130 ~ Fax: 204-488-1132 | Rev. Karen Lumley Cell: 204-250-5073 Email: klumley@standrewsriverheights.com
 Office Email: office@standrewsriverheights.com | Website: www.standrewsriverheights.com
 Office Hours: Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm | Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!