



Sunday, December 14, 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.

Christmas Eve Services

- **Wednesday, December 24th 2025 at 1pm** - Christmas Family Service (posted on YouTube at 1pm) – Will be Pre-recorded and viewable online. This will be performed by our youth.
- **Wednesday, December 24th 2025 at 9:15pm-9:30pm** - Christmas Eve Communion
- **Wednesday, December 24th 2025 at 10:00pm** - Lessons & Carols sung by the choir

The evening services will be recorded and edited and will be available as soon as possible after Christmas

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 3 - God's Vision of Joy

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


GATHERING MUSIC: *See amid the winter's snow* settings by Noel Rawsthorne and Malcolm Archer

WELCOME

HIP HAPPENIN' NEWS: Andrew Dolinsky & George Anthony-Shariff

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

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



We light this can - dle for joy. A - wait the
new life with - in. May our hearts now live each
day, so joy can find a way, so
joy can find a way.

WORK OF THE CHURCH

INVITATION TO WORSHIP:

Praise be to God,

Who has made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

Praise be to God,

Who is watching over the strangers and the upholding the downtrodden.

Praise be to God,

Who will transform our deserts to lush lands blooming with joy and singing.

Praise be to God,

Praise be to God, oh my soul.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: **VU2** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Beloved God,

Forgive us when we fail to be patient....

Forgive us when our hearts weaken....

Forgive us when we grumble against one another and against you...

Remind us of James' teaching to be patient, to strengthen our hearts, not to grumble, and to remember the lives of the prophets and saints who came before us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN: **VU899** *Song of Mary*

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 35:1-10 read by Linda Paul

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

SOLO: Susanne Reimer – *Mary, Did You Know?* by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

Mary, did you know
that your baby boy would one day
walk on water?

Mary, did you know
that your baby boy would save our
sons and daughters?

Did you know
that your baby boy has come to
make you new;
this Child that you delivered
will soon deliver you?

Mary, did you know
that your baby boy will give sight to
the blind man?

Mary, did you know
that your baby boy would calm a
storm with His hand?

Did you know
that your baby boy has walked

where angels trod,
and when you kiss your little baby
you've kissed the face of God?

Oh, Mary, did you know?

Oh, Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear,
the dead will live again,
the lame will leap, the dumb will speak,
the praises of the Lamb?

Mary, did you know
that your baby boy is Lord of all creation,
Mary, did you know
that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know
that your baby boy was Heaven's perfect Lamb,
and the sleeping Child you're holding
is the Great I am?

SERMON

HYMN: **VU23** *Joy Shall Come*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes* (Richmond) arr. Alan Viner

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

Memory Tree Service

INTRODUCTION

CANDLE LIGHTING: *In Life, in Death*

In life, in death, in life be - yond death, God is
with us. We are not a - lone.

Words: A New Creed, The United Church of Canada

Music: Bruce Harding, 2009

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Music © 2009 Bruce Harding. All rights reserved. Evensong Worship Resources, www.evensong.ca.

PRAYER

ANTHEM: *There's Still My Joy* (Melissa Manchester, words and music; arr. Audrey Snyder)
I brought my tree down to the shore,
The garland and the silver star,
To find my peace and grieve no more,
To heal this place inside my heart.

On every branch, I laid some bread,
Hungry birds filled up the sky.
They rang like bells around my head,
They sang my spirit back to life.

One tiny child can change the **ST. ANDREW'S CONTACT LIST**

world;
One shining light can show the way,
Through all my tears for what I've lost,
There's still my joy for Christmas Day.

The snow comes down on empty sand,
There's tinsel moonlight on the waves.
My soul was lost, but here I am,
So this must be amazing grace.

One tiny child can change the world...

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: *My soul gives glory to my God (Morning Song)* arr. Michael Burkhardt

MEMORY TREE RECEPTION

Music Note

Tim Lowry wrote the words for "Mary Did You Know" in 1984, and explained the inspiration for the song in a 2018 interview: "I started

thinking and wondering if Mary realized the power, authority and majesty that she cradled in her arms that first Christmas...I started thinking of the questions I would have for her if I were to sit down & have coffee with Mary...'What was it like raising God? What did you know? What didn't you know?'"

Announcements

Today, the Family Service will be pre-recorded immediately following the morning service. Coffee will be served outside the Narthex doors instead of in the sanctuary.

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 Susanne Reimer, Hip Happenin' News Reporters Andrew Dolinsky & George-Anthony Shariff, Candlelight reader, Fred Cross and our scripture reader, Linda Paul .

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cookie walk, whether through baking, organising or even purchasing. We thank you very much for your contribution in making this year's cookie walk a success! We raised \$1,980.

Wreaths are sold out! Thank you to everyone who supported the wreath fundraiser. Thank you to the youth group who helped sell them after church on Sundays. We raised \$790 for the 1JustCity program at Augustine Centre.

Church Envelopes: If you are new to the church or, for whatever reason, do not have church envelopes and would like to receive income tax receipts for your gifts to the church, see Bill Craddock or contact the church office.

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.

Upcoming Services

- Sunday, December 21st - Advent IV
- Sunday, December 28th – Baptism & Worship with Westworth at St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

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

Socks Update: To date, we have collected 277 pairs of socks for 1JustCity. Thanks to all who have contributed.

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.

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!

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.

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/JNgbpF2XfFChFYAP6>

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, DECEMBER 14

Memory Tree

Recording Family service @ 11:30am

Rental—Joy Cooper (sanctuary) @ 2:30pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Council meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

