



**Sunday, December 21, 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 4 - God's Vision of Love

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

GATHERING MUSIC: *O Lord, how shall I meet you* (St. Theodolph) arr. by Wilbur Held

WELCOME

HIP HAPPENIN' NEWS: Jocelyn Carlson & Ilsa Buchholz

WORK OF THE CHURCH  
Minute for Council – Heather Ragot

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:  
We acknowledge the traditional territory upon which we gather this morning.

**For many thousands of years, the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota Nations and Metis nations have sought to walk gently on this land.**

They offered assistance to the first European travelers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate.

**We seek a new relationship with the original peoples of this land, one based in honor and deep respect.** May we journey together on this Road of Healing and Reconciliation.

**Help us to learn to walk and listen to our Indigenous, Metis and Inuit relatives.**

INVITATION TO WORSHIP:

R: **O Lord God of hosts, let your light of love shine.**

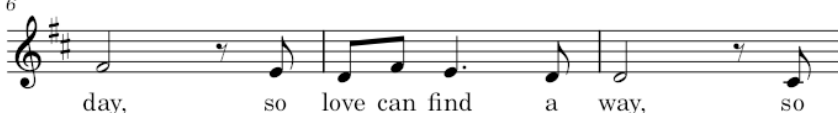
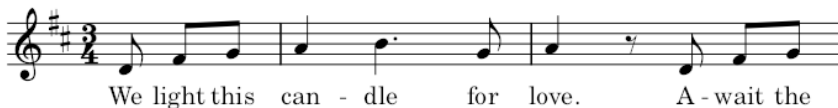
CENTERING WORDS

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: **VU62** *Once in Royal David's City*

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

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



HYMN: **VU31** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**We lay our burdens before you, O Lord, with our lives open and ready to receive your light and love.**

**Lead us toward Jesus, Emmanuel, as we continue to journey with you in faith.**

**Thank you for the many signs of your love, sent in the Christmas story.**

**May we have the faith of Mary and Joseph, and may we be your attendants, anxious for the coming of your Light once again.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM: *A Carol for Children* (Essery) A Carol for Children (Muriel Essery, words and music)

The stars were shining softly down,  
That night of nights in Bethlehem town,  
And shepherds out on the hills around  
Were held in wonder at the sound of

Angels gathering in the sky  
To sing the praises of God on high,  
Who sent his son by humble birth,  
To live with people here on earth.

Within a stable, sweet Mary smiled,  
And gently rocked the Holy child,  
While Joseph promised with quiet joy  
To love and shelter the tiny boy.

As angels were gathering in the sky...

And still we worship the Holy child,  
The baby born to Mary mild,  
So may we love each child on earth,  
As God has loved us through Jesus' birth;

Then all the bells on earth shall ring,  
And all the angels in heaven shall sing,  
When love enfolds each child from birth,  
Then peace shall come to all the earth.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 7:10-16 read by Sonja Lundstrom

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

TRUMPET SOLO: Melwin Agravante – *Etude 15* (Sigmund Hering)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *I wonder as I wander* (Appalachian Carol) arr. John Jacob Niles

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: *Good King Wenceslas* arr. Noel Rawsthorne

### Music Note

Our second hymn, "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You," is originally in German with text by Paul Gerhardt, translated into English by Catherine Winkworth in the mid-1800s. Winkworth was well-known for her hymn translations because they were true to the original text, while still being poetic and singable (her translations appear 11 times in our hymnbook!). She was a firm believer in women's rights to education and advocated for access to higher education for women until her death in 1878.

### Announcements

**A special thanks** to Jan Demeduk for organizing our Sunday School Christmas Play and all the children and youth who participated. Thanks to Fred Cross for videotaping and editing, Tyler for sound, Wes for playing and Rachel Tarrant as our singer.

**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 28th – Baptism & Worship with Westworth at St. Andrew's River Heights United Church
- Sunday, January 4th - Worship with Westworth at Westworth United Church at 10:45am

**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.

### 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, trumpeter Melwin Agravante Hip Happenin' News Reporters Jocelyn Carlson & Ilsa Buchholz, Candlelight reader, Fred Cross and our scripture reader, Sonja Lundstrom.

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

**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.

**Reports for the Annual report are due January 7th, 2026.** A copy of last year's report can be found on our website under [publications](#).

### Rev. Karen Lumley Kidney Donation Announcement Update

*"I wanted to give an update on my journey as a kidney donor. My brother-in-law has an issue that will likely need minor surgery, and then the hope is that he will be cleared. I am cleared medically for the surgery, but not surgically. With further investigation, it appears that the renal arteries are too short to connect to the recipient and to reconnect to me. This makes it riskier for me to donate and for the recipient to receive, which has caused the doctor to rule me out as a living donor. I want you to know this poses no threat to my health; everything is functioning well, and I remain healthy; however, it is disappointing to say the least.*

*Thank you for being a part of this journey with me over the past year as we have anticipated this surgery and my time off work. As a faith community, you have been very supportive, and I wanted to thank you for that. Remember my brother-in-law Greg in your prayers as he continues his journey."*

### Community News

#### **Vigil for Palestine: Bethlehem's Cry for Peace on Earth**

Sunday, December 21 from 4-5 pm at Home Street Mennonite Church

On the longest night, Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> gather at Home Street Mennonite Church ([318 Home St.](#)) for an Advent vigil at 4 pm. with candles, songs, prayers and reflections. Esther Epp-Tiessen will share from her recent trip to Palestine and the call of the Kairos II "Moment of Truth" gathering. Join together in responding to the cry of Christians in the Holy Land who "declare our adherence to our faith in a holy and just God, and in the right God has given us to live with dignity on our land and the land of our ancestors."

### Coming Up...

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**

Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 1pm

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 22**

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

#### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

Christmas Eve Communion @

9:15pm

Lessons & Carols @ 10pm

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28**

Westworth joins us for worship @

10:30am

Rental—Women's Music Club

(sanctuary) @ 5pm

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 29**

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 4**

Worship at Westworth United @

10:45am

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 5**

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 6**

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

### **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.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7**

Rental—River City Sound

(auditorium) @ 5:15pm

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 8**

Handbell choir practice (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 11**

Outreach Speaker Series (lounge) @ 9am

Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 1:30pm

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 12**

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 13**

ABC (lounge) @ 1pm

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14**

Rental—River City Sound

(auditorium) @ 5:15pm

Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6pm

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 15**