



**Wednesday, December 24, 2025**



Joy to the world, the Lord is come! We join with Mary and Joseph, the Angels, the Shepherds, and the Wise Ones to celebrate the arrival of the Christ Child. After four weeks of waiting and preparation in Advent, Jesus is born and we rejoice! We rejoice with God, and with each other, that God's promise of new life has been fulfilled in the Christ Child. Merry Christmas!

#### **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.

**WASHROOMS:** Wheelchair accessible and gender neutral bathrooms are located outside the lower auditorium. They can be accessed by the stairs in the Narthex or the elevator outside the church office.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**Wednesday, December 24th 2025 at 1pm** - Christmas Family Service (posted on YouTube at 1pm) - 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

*\*Lessons & Carols will be recorded and edited and will be available as soon as possible after Christmas\**

### **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

**We hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year**

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.

## Lessons and Carols— 10pm

Please join in singing the Hymns, found in the red Voices United hymn book, standing as you are able.

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GATHERING: *On Christmas Night* (Sussex Carol)  
arr. Dan Forrest

*The holly and the Ivy* arr. Noel Rawsthorne  
*God rest you merry, gentlemen* arr. Wilbur Held

*Once in royal David's city* arr. Dan Forrest

WELCOME: Rev. Karen Lumley

**HYMN: VU64** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

LESSON 1: Isaiah 9:2–7 (OT pg. 638)  
*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah*  
Reader: *Evan Demeduk*

CAROL 1: *Sure on this Shining Night* (James Agee, text; Morten Lauridsen, music)  
Sure on this shining night  
Of star-made shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me  
This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed, all is health.  
High summer holds the earth.  
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night  
I weep for wonder  
Wand'ring far alone  
Of shadows on the stars.

Sure on this shining night.

LESSON 2: Matthew 1:18-25 (NT pg. 1)  
*Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus*  
Reader: *Ben Dyck*

**HYMN: VU60** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

LESSON 3: Luke 2:1-7 (NT pg. 58)  
*Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*  
Reader: *Jocelyn Carlson*

CAROL 2: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*  
(Sabine Baring Gould, text; Basque Carol, arr. John Leavitt, music)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
With wings as drifted snow,  
With eyes as flame, "All hail, to thee,  
Thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favoured lady!" Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee;  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favoured lady!" Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's Holy name."  
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

LESSON 4: Luke 2: 8-14 (NT pg. 58)  
*The angels appear to the shepherds*  
Reader: *Jamie Mainprize*

**HYMN: VU49** *No Crowded Eastern Street*

LESSON 5: Luke 2:15-20 (NT pg. 58)  
*The shepherds go to Bethlehem*  
Reader: *Ilsa Buchholz*

**HYMN: VU48** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

CAROL 3: *Rise Up, Shepherds!* (Nancy Price, words; Don Besig, music)  
There's a star in the sky this winter night;  
Rise up shepherds and follow!  
All the world can behold its shining light;  
Rise up shepherds and follow!

Come on and rise up!  
Rise up shepherds and hurry to the manger.  
Rise up! Rise up! Rise up!  
Rise up shepherds and follow that star!

Leave your sheep and leave your lambs,  
Rise up shepherds and follow.  
Journey now to Bethlehem;  
Rise up shepherds and follow that star!

Come on and rise up!...

Come and hear the angels sing;  
Rise up shepherds and follow.  
Share the joyful news they bring;  
Rise up shepherds and follow that star!

They're singing "Gloria, glory, glory hallelujah!"  
Come on and rise up!...

LESSON 6: Mathew 2:1-12 (NT pg. 2)  
*The visit of the Magi*  
Reader: Julia Mainprize

CAROL 4: Torches (Galician carol, text; John Joubert, music)  
Torches, torches, run with torches  
All the way to Bethlehem!  
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;  
Come and sing your song to him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby,  
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;  
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling,  
While we sing you our Roro.

Sing, my friends, and make you mercy,  
Joy and mirth and joy again;  
Lo, he lives, the King of heaven,  
Now and evermore. Amen.

OFFERTORY: *In the bleak midwinter* arr. Dan Forrest

**HYMN: VU55** *In the Bleak Midwinter*

LESSON 7: John 1:1-14 (NT pg. 91)  
*John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation*  
Reader: Izzy Dyck

CAROL 5: O Bethlehem (Rev. J. O'Connor, text; Elizabeth Poston, music)  
O Bethlehem! Rose of thy heart,  
Its Bud embow'ring, O Bethlehem!  
O Bethlehem! Yet has thy Rose  
its time for flow'ring, O Bethlehem!

Had'st thou no room for God's own son,  
Stranger within a lowly stable?  
Now there is room in ev'ry cradle,  
And He is gone, O Bethlehem!

O Bethlehem! Ancient of days,  
Within thy story Heaven was laid.  
O Bethlehem! Anguish must be  
The price of glory, and thou hast paid.

God's greatest gift to thee was made;  
So to Himself our gift is given,  
Given, ourselves, from earth to Heaven,  
O Bethlehem! O Bethlehem!

BLESSING

**HYMN: VU67** *Silent Night*

POSTLUDE

### Music Note

Elizabeth Poston, composer of "O Bethlehem," is perhaps not a familiar name, but she led a highly interesting life! She was born in 1905 in England, and her family home was Rooks Nest House, north of London (the author E.M. Forster also lived in this house, using it as a backdrop for his novel *Howard's End*). Elizabeth was a musical child, playing piano and eventually attending the Royal Academy of Music for composing.

During World War 2, Poston worked for the BBC as Director of Music in the European Service, and simultaneously as an agent for the Political Intelligence Department, using gramophone records to send secret messages to allied forces (although she never confirmed nor denied this). Poston lived at Rooks Nest House until her death in 1987. Her many compositions are finally becoming more widely known as they are posthumously discovered, published, and performed.

## 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

Clergy	Rev. Karen Lumley	klumley@standrewsriverheights.com
Choir Director	Katy Harmer	music@standrewsriverheights.com
Organist	Wes Elias	weselias@mymts.net
Sunday School	Jan Demeduk	j.demeduk@hotmail.com
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Treasurer	Bill Craddock	wjcdlc@mymts.net
Church Office	Charlotte Lindsay	office@standrewsriverheights.com

**A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service tonight!**

To our Singers, thank you for raising your voices in song!

Thanks to Katy ( choir and bells) and Wes (organ and piano) for their leadership in providing the music and for sharing their talents with us.

To our readers: Thank you so much for gifting your time and talents in reading for this special evening.

At this Christmas time, we thank our minister, Karen, for her dedication to and hard work for this congregation.

We are grateful to Charlotte for all the extra time and effort she put in preparing the bulletins and booklet for the holiday season.

A special thank you goes out to our greeters tonight, who go out of their way to make both congregational members and newcomers feel welcome!

And thank you to everyone working behind the scenes, whether it is during or before the services, you ensure everything runs well, and we appreciate your efforts!

**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.

