



Sunday, December 28, 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.

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.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Christmas Eve services, many hands make light work.

Welcome to all those who are attending from Westworth United Church. It will be wonderful to worship together next week at Westworth and wonderful to worship together at St. Andrew's today.

Upcoming Services

- Sunday, January 4th - Worship with Westworth at Westworth United Church at 10:45am
- Sunday, January 11th - Baptism of Jesus

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.

Carols & Stories

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

GATHERING MUSIC: *Bring a Torch*, Jeannette, Isabella arr. Mark Hayes
Ding! Dong! Merrily on high arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

INVITATION TO WORSHIP:

We come praising God for the gift of hope, peace, joy and love at this time of the year.

These gifts came in the form of Christ Child.

The Christ Child was God's gift of love to us some 2,000 years ago and still is today.

Come, let us worship Christ the newborn King.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING PRAYER

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (see booklet)

Jackson James Hooker, child of Taylor & Jacob Hooker

Emmeline Patricia Rex, child of Tim Rex & Ainsley Wray

Charles David Runolfson, child of Diana Fred & Allen Runolfson

Hebrew Benediction **VU965**

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:

the Lord make his face shine upon thee,

and be gracious unto thee:

the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee,

and give thee peace. Amen

PASSING THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 2:1-12 read by Rhonda Kennedy

SOLO: Heather Kozak – *Gesu Bambino* (Pietro Yon)

When blossoms flower e'er 'mid the snow,

Upon a winter night,

Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,

The King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,

The grateful earth rejoiced;

And at His blessed birth the stars

Their exultation voiced.

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows

To greet the holy night,

That gave the world its Christmas Rose,

It's King of Love and Light

Let every voice acclaim His name,

The grateful chorus swell,

From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

SERMON: Carols & Stories

CAROL: **VU44** *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL: **VU59** *Joy to the World*

CAROL: **VU40** *Before the Marvel of This Night*

CAROL: **VU67** *Silent Night*

COMMUNITY PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER: **VU916** *A Paraphrase*
**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, for-
give us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is
love,
now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *In the bleak midwinter*
arr. Malcolm Archer

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: *Fum, Fum, Fum* arr. Mark Hayes

Announcements

Today, we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism:
Jackson James Hooker, child of Taylor & Jacob
Hooker
Emmeline Patricia Rex, child of Tim Rex & Ains-
ley Wray,
Charles, David Runolfson, child of Diana Fred &
Allen Runolfson
are being baptized.

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

Walks on Tuesdays with Westworth continue
every week at 1pm. If you would like to be in-
formed about the routes of these walks and would
like to have your email provided to the organizers,
please let the church office know.

**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](#).

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
Heather Kozak, and our scripture read-
er, Rhonda Kennedy.

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

Outreach Speaker Series

Sunday, January 18th (previously January 11th), at 9am in the lounge.

With Cynthia Drebot, executive director at North End Women's Centre (NEWC). She will speak about the work they do and how people can help support women.

Coming Up...

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

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

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

Handbell choir practice (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Outreach Speaker Series (lounge) @ 9am

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Council meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

Rental—River City Sound

(auditorium) @ 5:15pm

Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Handbell choir practice (lounge) @

6pm

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Rental—Opera Idol (sanctuary) @

5pm

Board game night (lounge) @ 7pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Sunday recital series (sanctuary) @ 12pm

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

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 28

Rental—River City Sound

(auditorium) @ 5:15pm

Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

Handbell choir practice (lounge) @

6pm

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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

Rental—Judy Oatway (sanctuary) @ 6pm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Rental—River City Sound

(auditorium) @ 5:15pm

Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6pm

