

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 4, 2026



Today is World Communion Sunday which is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October.

World Communion Sunday promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. It focuses on an observance of the Sacrament of Communion. Come and celebrate with us with the bread and the wine.

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.

Sunday School registration forms are available at the back of the church for those who have not registered their children, and youth may go to Sunday School after the Children's time.

Glenn Neufeld passed away on September 16th. Remember his family in your prayers. A service of Celebration will be held on Thursday, October 8th at 2pm.

Audrey Belyea passed away on September 5th. Remember her family in your prayers. A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, October 10th, at 11am.

Make sure to subscribe to our weekly Online newsletter 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.

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GATHERING MUSIC: *Variations on 'O for a World'* (tune Azmon) arr. Robert Hobby

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *United Church of Canada Worship Resources, Called to Be the Church, Stewardship Resources.*

Welcome in the name of Christ.

Welcome to this place of worship, situated on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota peoples.

Welcome to this place of blessing, this space of grace, and this holysanctuary.

We gather this morning to share in the Word, the Cup, and the Bread and to receive God's deepest blessing so that we might in turn be a blessing to others.

So, be welcome.

Be blessed.

HYMN: **VU291** *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **VU477** *I Come with Joy*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

The 1986 Apology to Indigenous Peoples reads:

Long before my people journeyed to this land, your people were here, and you received from your Elders an understanding of creation and of the Mystery that surrounds us all that was deep, and rich, and to be treasured.

We did not hear you when you shared your vision. In our zeal to tell you of the good news of Jesus Christ, we were closed to the value of your spirituality.

We confused Western ways and culture with the depth, breadth, length and height of the gospel of Christ.

We imposed our civilization as a condition of accepting the gospel.

We tried to make you be like us, and in so do-

ing, we helped to destroy the vision that made you what you were. As a result, you and we are poorer, and the image of the Creator in us is twisted, blurred, and we are not what we are meant by God to be.

We ask you to forgive us and to walk together with us in the Spirit of Christ so that our peoples may be blessed and God's creation healed.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM: *The Church Where Love Lives* (Amanda Udis-Kessler, text and music; arr. Ken Janzen)

The church where love lives is a safe place for all,
Where we gather in wonder to remember God's call,

To embody God's vision of kindness and care,
With each song that we offer, with each protest and prayer.

On this sacred foundation of faith and of trust,
We are building a world that is gentle and just.
We rejoice and repent, offer praise and forgive,
And welcome all people to the church where love lives.

The church where love lives draws the stranger inside,
Making neighbours of strangers, not a neighbour denied,
Till there's heaven on earth and God's will has been done,
Till the whole of creation is restored to its home.

On this sacred foundation...

The church where love lives is preparing a feast,
For the pained and rejected, for the lost and the least,
For the ones filled with terror, and those filled with shame.
Come and sit at our table! Love has called you by name.

On this sacred foundation...

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 21:33-46 read by Laura Cole
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

SOLO: Sarah Schellenberg - *With Verdure Clad*
(from "*The Creation*," Josef Haydn)
*With verdure clad, the fields appear,
Delightful to the ravished sense;*

*By flowers sweet and gay
Enhanced is the charming sight.
Here fragrant herbs their odours shed;
Here shoots the healing plant.
With copious fruit the expanded boughs are hung;
In leafy arches twine the shady groves;
O'er lofty hills majestic forests wave.*

SERMON

HYMN: *I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table*
(traditional Spiritual)

**I'm gonna eat at the welcome table;
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, alleluia.**

**I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus;
I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus, alleluia.**

**I'm gonna join with all God's children;
I'm gonna join with all God's children, alleluia.**

**Here all the world will find a welcome;
Here all the world will find a welcome, alleluia.**

**We're gonna feast on milk and honey;
We're gonna feast on milk and honey, alleluia.**

Communion Set MV 203,204,205

INTRODUCTION: WORLDWIDE COMMUNION

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God, the God of all the universe.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You said, "Light!"

You said, "Earth!"

You said, "Heavens!"

You said, "Stars!"

You said, "Creatures of the water and air!"

You said, "Creatures of the land!"

And you said,

"This is good. This is very good."

It is good! Thank you, loving **ST. ANDREW'S CONTACT LIST**

God.

Thank you, loving God!

We give you thanks...

...in the years that followed.

Thank you, loving God!

For all that you...

...we give you thanks!

Thank you, loving God!

And so, we join our voices with the song of all creation,
celebrating your love.

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the one who comes and bears your name always !

But even as we thank you ...

...for his tears.

For all that he was, and is, and always will be!

And, with his death and resurrection in mind and heart,

we sing the mystery of our faith:

Sing, Christ has died, and Christ is risen,

Christ will come again!

Sing Christ has died, and Christ is risen,

Christ will come again!

We remember that ...

...Each time you eat bread - **Remember me!"**

When the meal ...

...Each time you drink - **"Remember me."**

So, as people...

...now and forever.

Amen, amen, O Holy One!

Hosanna and Amen!

Amen, amen.

O Holy One Hosanna and Amen!

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 Sarah Schellenberg, and our scripture reader, Laura Cole. Thank you to the communion servers and Fred Cross, who will co-lead the communion.

Clergy	Rev. Karen Lumley	klumley@standrewsriverheights.com
Choir Director	Katy Harmer	music@standrewsriverheights.com
Organist	Wes Elias	weselijah@mail@gmail.com
Sunday School	Jan Demeduk	j.demeduk@hotmail.com
Council Chair	Fred Cross	fcross@mymts.net
Treasurer	Bill Craddock	wjcdlc@mymts.net
Church Office	Charlotte Lindsay	office@standrewsriverheights.com

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

We give thanks that bread broken and wine poured brings new hope to our United Church of Canada as we offer ourselves to you as servants of reconciliation within our country and within our world. Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *Prelude* William Harris

OFFERING/OFFERTORY SUNG RESPONSE: **VU539** *God of All Good vs.1*

♪ **God of all good, our gifts we bring you,
use them your holy purpose to fulfil;
tokens of love and pledges brought anew
that our whole life is offered to your will.** ♪

OFFERTORY PRAYER

BLESSING

BENEDICTION: **VU431** *Sing Amen*

♪ Leader: Sing Amen!

All: Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Leader: Sing Amen!

All: Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Leader: Sing Amen!

All: Amen, Amen! Amen, Amen! Amen, we praise your name, O God! ♪

POSTLUDE: *Postlude on an old Irish church melody Op. 101#5*
Charles Villiers Stanford

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.

Board Game Night on October 16 at 7pm in the lounge! Anyone in their 20s-40s is welcome to come out and play some board games, eat some snacks, and enjoy some (light) competition. All are welcome, even those who don't regularly attend St. Andrew's -- please share with anyone who is looking for something new to do. Contact Katy for more information. See you there!

Music Note

Sarah Schellenberg is our soloist this morning. Sarah recently completed her Bachelor of Music at the Desautels Faculty of Music (UofM), and is now pursuing a Bachelor of Education to become a music teacher. This year she was also appointed the apprentice conductor of Women of Note. This aria from "The Creation" highlights the creation of plants, trees, and fruit on the third day of creation (Genesis 1:11).

Announcements

Thanks to all who participated in the Community Fair last Sunday; it was a great success, with more volunteers and lots of information shared with people present.

Bible Study begins on Wednesday, October 7th at 9:30am in the lounge; all are welcome. We will be studying Matthew 22:1-14 together.

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, October 11th – Thanksgiving & Sacrament of Baptism

Confirmation Classes will be offered for youth on October 18th. Any youth can attend. Please let Rev. Karen Lumley know.

Remember Joshua Ward in your prayers as he recuperates from donating a major part of his liver to a neighbour in need. He will be off work from 1JustCity for two months. Remember him, the recipient and his ministry as Site Lead at Pimicikamak Wellness Centre.

