

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

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The Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 18, 2011



Our Mission

To send our people into the world
restored, refreshed, forgiven, and joyful;
to live as Christ would have us live,
with love and justice as our goals.

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2011

ORDER OF SERVICE

*Congregation please stand, as you are able, and join congregational responses in **bold print**.

(Listening aids are available in the narthex; large print bulletins with hymns are available from the usher's table.)

The musical offerings during worship can be very inspirational. Please help us to preserve the sanctity of those offerings to God and God's people by allowing the music to stand alone in silence at its conclusion as it resonates in the sanctuary, in our hearts, and in our souls. If you wish to share your thoughts or appreciation with the musicians, please do so after worship.
Thank you!

CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING

Katelyn Jenkins

PRELUDE: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (VU1)

VENI EMMANUEL

We Gather

WELCOME

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

We Approach Our God

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We wait. We wait – not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because you are not already and always here. We wait, because to wait is to expect something more. To wait is to expect that the story might enter our hearts and our world in new ways, to bring the change we long for.

As we light the candle of love we remember the stories of your faithfulness and steadfast love which surrounds us and will not be contained. We trust that you are with us always. As love that bursts forth from all your people, love is born again and again in all creation.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (unison):

Gentle God, you know that for us, this is a season of hopes and fears. We are caught up in our excitement and plans. We worry whether everything will get done, and whether our relationships will blossom, bend, or break in the stress of the season. Slow us down, God, and help us to place our hope in you. Be our calm centre, that we may be channels of love to the people around us. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: **38**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison):

God of grace, you send signs of love in people who care. But often we shut those people out. We turn away your

love when we need it the most. We deny your hope within us, and we keep ourselves isolated and afraid. Visit us with your salvation, for we await you in need. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUNG RESPONSE: **MV17** (verse 1)

God in the Darkness

TRARALGON

God in the darkness, God beyond our knowing,
patient creator, seed in secret growing,
rock of the living, water everflowing,
come and renew us.

*HYMN: **68**

All Poor Ones and Humble

OLWEN

CHILDREN'S TIME: LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

ADVENT SONG: **MV220**

Love Shines as the Solitary Star

MacLean/Tissandier

Love shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

We Listen for God's Word

SOLO: Mary, Did You Know?
(Soloist: Sarah Corey)

Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:46b-55 N.T. pg.57 read by Jim Rae

ANTHEM: Magnificat in Bb

Charles V. Stanford

MESSAGE: "Choose Your Adjective"

We Make Our Response

*HYMN: **12**

She Walked in the Summer

THE VISIT

OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY:

Resonet in laudibus (Joy is now in every place) arr. N. Rawsthorne

*DOXOLOGY: **353** (see page 7 of bulletin)

'Tis the Gift to Be Simple

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU914)

We Go Forth

*RECESSIONAL HYMN: **73**

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

THE VIRGIN MARY

*BLESSING

*BENEDICTION: **84** (verse 4)

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word

CANONBURY

POSTLUDE:

Variations on 'In dulci jubilo'

D. Bedard

We thank the Youth Choir for singing this morning.

*The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are to the glory of God
in loving memory of Ruby and Archie Curtis
from their family.*



Please join us for coffee, tea and juice
after the service in the downstairs
auditorium.



Welcome to Worship

We extend a special welcome to all our guests and newcomers. Please sign our guest register and introduce yourself to an usher so that we may help you feel at home. Would you like someone to phone you about St. Andrew's River Heights United Church? Please leave your phone number in the register and a representative of the Fellowship and Pastoral Care Committee will be happy to contact you.

You are welcome to take this bulletin home with you. If not, please place your bulletin in the paper-recycling bin.



The Anthem this week

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852 – 1924) was a prolific composer, well known for his music written for the Anglican church. He was one of a number of fine English composers who emerged in the latter part of the nineteenth century, such as Edward Elgar and Charles H. H. Parry, and he was also important in his influence as a teacher of many English composers of the next generation, including Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Ireland and Herbert Howells. He wrote four versions of the *Magnificat*, this one in B flat being particularly bright and optimistic.

Sunday School This Week

This year the Sunday School is exploring what faith looks like in other world religions. Today, Rev. Karen will be down with the Sunday School to speak about Buddhism. Christmas cards will be made, and snacks made for coffee time with the congregation as well.

Simple Gifts

An Appalachian Shaker Song

Joseph Brackett

The musical score for 'Simple Gifts' is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is presented on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the staff, and guitar chords are indicated above the notes. The chords used are F, Am, Gm, C7, F, Bb, and F.

'Tis the gift to be sim-ple, 'tis the gift to be free. 'Tis the
gift to come down where we ought to be. And when we find our-selves in the
place just right, 'Twill be in the val - ley of love and de-light.
When true sim-pli-ci-ty is gained. To bow and to bend we shan't be a-sham'd. To
turn, turn will be our de-light, Till by tur-ning, tur-ing we come round right.

The United Church of Canada

ST. ANDREW'S RIVER HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH

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Ministers: All the people of the congregation

Clergy: Lesley Fox
Karen Lumley

Ministry of Music: Wes Elias
Derek Morphy

Interim Sunday School Superintendent: Tara McCallum

Office: Maggie Zoske
Bill Craddock

Caretaker: Lou Jubinville