

# St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

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## The Second Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 4, 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 Second Sunday of Advent***  
***December 4, 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**

**PRELUDE:**

Pastorale from 'Christmas Concerto'

A. Corelli

**We Gather**

**WELCOME**

**LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH**

## We Approach Our God

### ADVENT LITURGY OF PEACE:

*We wait –*

*We wait not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because Jesus is 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 for which we long.*

**As we light the candle of peace this morning, we remember that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. His life has shown us ways to share God's peace with others. We can trust that God is with us, as we wait for peace to be born, anew, in us. Amen.**

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: **882**

Prepare the Way (Isaiah 40)

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison):

**God of Advent, as we await your coming, we confess the rough places of our own hearts. We confess the angers that become the stony roadblocks to your peace. We confess the mountains of hurt feelings we leave behind us through our thoughtlessness. We confess that our motives are not always pure which sometimes results in greed shown in acts of injustice. God of Advent, help our lives to reveal not only our brokenness but your glory. 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: **MV20**

God of Still Waiting

HESYCHIA

CHILDREN'S TIME: Puppet Play "Getting Ready"

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

ADVENT SONG: **MV220**

Peace Shines as the Solitary Star

MacLean/Tissandier

Peace 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**

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:1-8 N.T. pg.34

read by Audrey Belyea

ANTHEM: Music from "Messiah"  
(Soloist: Jan van der Hoof)

G. F. Handel/Text: Isaiah 40: 1-5

Recitative: Comfort ye

Aria: Ev'ry valley shall be exalted

Chorus: And the glory of the Lord

MESSAGE: "Good News or Not So Good News!"

## We Make Our Response

\*HYMN: **20**

On Jordan's Bank

WINCHESTER NEW

OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY:

Prelude on 'Prepare the way, O Zion' (Bereden vag for Herran)

D. Wood

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

'Tis the Gift to Be Simple

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND A PARAPHRASE OF LORD'S  
PRAYER (VU916)

## We Go Forth

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN: **18**

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

ASCENSION (BANCROFT)

\*BLESSING

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

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word

CANONBURY

POSTLUDE:

'Tis the Gift to be Simple (Simple Gifts)

arr. N. Rawsthorne



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



## **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**

This sequence of music comes from the opening section of Part 1 of Handel's "Messiah". The prophet Isaiah is speaking to the Israelites in the latter part of their captivity in Babylon and there are several instances in the Book of Isaiah, of which this is the best known, where he exhorts the Israelites to be comforted. He wishes to assure them that happier times will soon happen. Biblical commentators have interpreted these five verses as being a clear prophecy of the coming of Jesus Christ, hence its place in the lectionary for Advent, and its prominent place in "Messiah".

## **Sunday School This Week**

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

# Simple Gifts

An Appalachian Shaker Song

Joseph Brackett

F Am  
'Tis the gift to be sim-ple, 'tis the gift to be free. 'Tis the

Gm C7 F  
gift to come down where we ought to be. And when we find our-selves in the

Am Gm C7 F B $\flat$  F  
place just right, 'Twill be in the val - ley of love and de-light.

F C7 F Am Gm C7  
When true sim-pli-ci-ty is gained. To bow and to bend we shan't be a-sham'd. To

F Am Gm C7 F B $\flat$  F  
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