

*Serving God and neighbour
in this community
since 1817*

Order of Worship

WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday
December 21st, 2014
Advent III



A warm welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. and a special welcome to all visitors and friends with us this morning. Our worship of God is enriched by your presence, and we pray that your joy will be strengthened by this time of praise and prayer.

Please join us for refreshments including Fair Trade Coffee and a time of fellowship in St Andrew's Hall after the service and consider signing our visitors' pew cards or guest book by the Princess Street doors. Peggy Sue Reynolds is our certified caregiver for the nursery. Laura Tyner-Clement is our church school teacher. Children are invited to join in either group or worship as they feel comfortable.

Please ask an usher if you have any questions or require assistance, and feel free to remain seated during any portion of the worship service.

Prelude From Heaven a Host of Angels came J.S. Bach

Entry of Holy Scriptures

Call to Worship

Prayer of Approach & The Lord's Prayer (inside)

Introit Puer natus in Bethlehem Piae Cantiones, 1582

Announcements

Presentation of White Gifts

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory & Prayer of Dedication

Doxology Praise God from whom all blessings (inside)

Lighting the Advent Candle (inside)

Hymn Hope is a star #119

Greetings & Introductions

Scripture Readings

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, & Malachi

Hymn Come, thou long expected Jesus #110

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-20

Hymn O little town of Bethlehem #165

Skit Hope and Breaking News:
The Shepherds Perspective

Hymn Go tell it on the mountain #133

Scripture Readings

John 3:16, Luke 2:10-11, John 3:17

Interpretive Dance

Hope Was Born this Night:
Angels, Kalista & Gavin, Shepherds, Olivia & Lindsay

Reflections Rev. Johnston

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

Hymn Good Christians all rejoice #141

Benediction & Congregational Amen

Postlude From Heaven a Host of Angels came J. H. Buttstedt

If you wish to leave during the Postlude, please do so quietly.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Advent III: The Candle of Love

L: Love is the wick
that is central to the candle.

**P: Love is the wick, given by God.
The flame that burns continually.**

L: Love is the wick
given by God that burns in the world.

**P: Love is the wick
given by God
that burns in our hearts.**

(The candle is lit.)

L: Let us pray:

**P: Source of light,
shine in our lives
and in your world
with your unending love.
Through Jesus
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Written by The Rev. Mary Whitson Produced by P.W.S.D.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Notes from the Director of Music

At Christmas time, amidst the hustle and bustle and overwhelming commercialization of Christmas, I think it is helpful to reflect on the closing scene of "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Little Linus steps forward and quotes from Luke about the visit of the angels to the shepherds: "...for unto you is born this day, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Linus comforts a confused Charlie Brown saying, "That's what it's all about, Charlie Brown." In this delightful cartoon, with amazing music by jazz pianist Vince

Guaraldi, this simple scene with Linus and Charlie Brown remains to me, one of the most powerful in all of the Christmas specials we see on television at this time. And what a powerful scene it must have been to the shepherds two thousand years ago! This scene is beautifully described in the music of Handel in his oratorio "Messiah." We hear in the violins, the angels fluttering around in the sky and then that great chorus "Glory to God" which ends with a very soft string passage as the angels ascend back into heaven. This scene of the angels descending from heaven has inspired many other composers. J.S. Bach used some descriptive writing in his chorale prelude "Vom Himmel Kam der Engel Schaar" (From Heaven a Host of Angels came) which is our **Prelude** today. The music is based on a traditional German carol but Bach embellishes it with scale-like passages, which describe the angels flying around. A more remarkable chorale prelude based on the same tune, was composed by German organist Johann Heinrich Buttstedt (1666-1727). Although he lived around the same time as Bach, his music is much more adventurous. In his chorale, presented as the **Postlude**, we can hear not only the angels flying around, but wings fluttering and trumpets announcing the exciting news as the glory of the Lord shone 'round about them. Buttstedt creates this big glorious noisy scene as if it is no wonder the shepherds were sore afraid. The chorale melody appears boldly in the pedal part as the angels make their great announcement. Then, as in Handel's writing, the music drifts off at the end, as the angels disappear. The **Introit** is based on this same ancient German tune. It was Martin Luther who composed the words "Vom Himmel kam..." to go with the tune and subsequently, many different harmonizations and variations have appeared, including today's Prelude and Postlude. One of the more remarkable transformations appeared in a book from 1582. As was often done at the time, the original tune was sung by the tenors, while a totally different hymn was constructed around it. In this case, new words were written: "Puer natus in Bethlehem" (A babe is born in Bethlehem: Alleluia. Great joyance for Jerusalem. Alleluia). The new melody (now sung by the sopranos) became very popular and inspired further compositions. For the Introit, the carol from 1582 is introduced by the original ancient German tune with words by Martin Luther (with a translation by R Massie).

An Advent Prayer

Allen P. Happe

Silent word, Creative Act, Hidden Truth, Revealed Love: We wait for you. To be precise, we are impatient for you to come and set things right. We are insecure with our world, fearful of crime in the streets, and anxious about ourselves. We refuse your guidance, but we often wish you would act according to our plans. We seldom pause to consider that you are waiting for us: waiting for some genuine act of contrition; waiting for us to repent and change; waiting for us to listen and respond with a burning passion to your truth, your justice, and your mercy. Furnish us with humble hearts and willing spirits to receive you as you come to us through all the experiences of our lives.

A Christmas Prayer

Edith Williams

Dear God, We will be very busy again this Christmastime, and we know that we will be tempted to forget the true meaning of this festival. Please help us to conquer these temptations, so that we may share with our families the true joy of our Saviour's birth. Lord, we have sung our Christmas carols and heard the Nativity story so many times before; help us, in our acts of worship, to recapture the wonder of this glad season. Please make each heart a manger and each home a Bethlehem. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ.

This Morning...

This morning we will present 'white gifts', a traditional way to share some of our joy of Christmas with the wider community. This year we are supporting a neighbouring school community, students and parents and teachers of Central School, with gifts of books for the school library.

After the service please linger for a time and enjoy a pot luck congregational lunch in St. Andrew's Hall. We never know what will be served, but there is always enough - join us!

The candles of our Advent wreath this year are hand-rolled beeswax candles made by women who find a safe place with Evangel Hall Mission in Toronto, which we support through Presbyterians Sharing. These candles offer an opportunity not only of some income in addition to the minimum levels of social assistance, but also of personal growth and community.

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given in loving memory of Melba Fisher from her beloved husband Stinson & Family.

This Week...

Christmas Eve

Our service is at 7 p.m. Wednesday - **Candles, Carols and Readings**, with special contributions by Kalista, the Hall Family, and the St. Andrew's Choir. Be sure to invite family, friends and neighbours to enjoy the beauty and joy of the evening.

Advance Notice...

Sunday, December 28, 10:30 a.m. - We welcome the Rev. Karen Bach back to the pulpit of St. Andrew's .

New Year's Eve

Kurien and Liz are inviting all to gather at their home for the evening and together give God thanks for the year past and welcome a new year by the grace of God. Good company, some singing, nibbles ...Wednesday December 31, 7:30 p.m. Ask for directions or a drive - 3314 Silverwood Dr. Inverary [613-767-9990](tel:613-767-9990).

Epiphany Sunday!

January 4, 10:30 a.m. We worship with the magi, and afterwards we enjoy a slice of galette des rois! Paintings of Mitch will again be available to peruse and purchase in support of the choir fund.

On Sir John A.'s birthday

Come and sing the classic Scottish metrical psalms on which Sir John A was raised. Sunday January 11, 5-6 p.m. Followed by demonstration of Scottish country dancing and Scottish nibbles.

Mission and Evangelism Paper

Saturday January 24, 1:30 p.m. St. Andrew's Hall. The 2014 General Assembly commended that Sessions and congregations study a World Council of Churches paper entitled 'Together towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes'. The Elders of St. Andrew's invite you to pick up a copy in advance, along with the PCC study guide, and join in a discussion together.

Also...

Street Parking

St. Andrew's members have received permission to park along Queen Street east of Clergy after 5:30 p.m. each day and all day Sundays. The temporary signs will continue to say 'No Parking' but parking officers have been notified.

Mission Exposure Trip to India

The Session was pleased to hear that a member of the congregation, Ada, has applied to participate on a PCC tour to visit the Church of North India March 9-24, following the visits to us of Drs. Datta and Wilson, and Pauline Brown. Applications from other who might be interested are being accepted until January 6 - <http://presbyterian.ca/missiontrips/>

2015 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2015 are now available in St. Andrew's Hall. If you do not currently have numbered envelopes and would like to have them or contribute through Pre-Authorized Remittances for next year, please contact Ann at ann@standrewskingston.org or telephone the office (613 546-6316) and leave a message. Those already on par are able to pick up bundles of Sunday morning's offering cards.



Working with Women in Guatemala

"I am grateful to be helping the development of my community," says Aurelia Jimenez Zacarias. For four years, Aurelia has been working with Presbyterian World Service & Development as an agricultural promoter – helping women establish family gardens, plant trees and raise animals to improve their livelihoods. "I didn't always know very much about agriculture or livestock," admits Aurelia. "If I needed something to eat, I bought it from the market. If my animals were sick, I would sell them because I didn't have the skills to take care of them." With training in soil preparation, composting and vegetable planting, Aurelia now harvests vegetables from her own garden, using the money she saves to take care of her family's other needs. She has also learned how to properly care for animals and administer vaccines so they stay healthy and strong. Thrilled with the results, Aurelia is passionate about sharing her knowledge with others: "I hope to

continue working with women in need so we can improve our living conditions – especially for our children, who are our future." This Advent we help women receive the skills and knowledge to improve their nutrition and better their livelihoods. PWS&D responds to God's call to serve people in need. WeRespond.ca

Bringing hope to inner-city Winnipeg

Through St. Andrew's support to *Presbyterians Sharing*, Winnipeg Inner City Missions helps people to develop or recover a healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual self. WICM ministers to children and youth through after school programs. The "Miracle Store" provides the community with essential needs, while allowing choice, encouraging saving and providing dignity to people who are viewed with suspicion in other stores. Anishinabe Place of Hope offers residents clean, safe, sober housing and access to professional services. A worship service and Sunday school classes are held every Sunday afternoon, where two different spiritual traditions come together. WICM's director, the Rev. Margaret Mullin, shares, "Our families are encouraged to be who they are. They are Anishinabe people with a rich spiritual heritage who are embracing the way of Christ." *Presbyterians Sharing* supports Winnipeg Inner City Missions



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