

Advent/Christmas Worship

This Advent we will prepare to welcome Christ by looking at some of the characters who welcomed Christ at his incarnation. Lindsay Robinson will lead us in lighting the Advent wreath each week.



Faith is a Verb - Joseph

Sunday December 3, 10:30 a.m.

We will look at the faith lived by Joseph (Matthew 1: 18-25). We begin singing 'O come, O come Emmanuel' and as we celebrate Holy Communion, we will sing what is considered the oldest hymn of Christian worship, 'Let all mortal flesh keep silence ... for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth'.

Faith is a Verb - John the Baptist

Sunday December 10, 10:30 a.m.

As we light the second candle of Advent, the Church School will lead us in a meditation on 'peace'. The prophet John called the people to turn their lives to God, and the coming Christ - and turning can be a challenge! (Mark 1:1-8)

Advent 3 - Lessons and Carols

Sunday December 17, 10:30 a.m.

A special traditional service of Advent lessons and carols will be presented by the St. Andrew's choir. Between readings of Scripture, the choir will sing seasonal anthems. And there will be hymns and carols for the congregation as well. We will also have the opportunity to present our White Gift Offering.

Faith is a Verb - Mary

Sunday December 24, 10:30 a.m.

We complete our preparations as we remember how an angel is sent to declare that God is about to do the impossible. How does Mary respond? 'Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word' (Luke 1:26-38).

Christmas Eve

Sunday December 24, 7:30 p.m.

Finally, our waiting is over and we light the Christ Candle. We hear of how the Holy One came to us, as one of us. At the end of an hour of carols and readings, we hold candles, we sing 'Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright'. Invite family and friends!



Hogmanay

Sunday December 31, 10:30 a.m.

This is the Scots word for the last day of the year. A wonderful time to look back with thanksgiving and forward with trust, in praise of God. And just to make the day extra festive, we shall gather in St. Andrew's Hall to begin with muffins and croissants, and continue with worship.

Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 7, 10:30 a.m.

With the magi of old (Matthew 2), we come to worship the Christ, and celebrate Holy Communion.

Advent Devotions

As a way to prepare personally for Christmas, two possibilities are highlighted this year:

PresbyCan Daily

All through the month of December, wonderful Christmas devotionals! Join 6000 subscribers around the world and enjoy thoughts and prayers each day from the Presbyterian Church, delivered free by e-mail to your inbox. Subscribe at www.presbycan.ca/subscriptions

Moving Towards the Manger

Brief reflections by well-known Presbyterian theologian, Frederick Buechner, with accompanying Bible readings and prayers. A depth of wisdom to prepare our hearts to cradle the Christ. Suggested donation, \$3.50



Mighty God,
most holy and most humble,
you have chosen to hear our cry
and share our poverty.
Come close to our world,
kindle our hearts
and melt our despair,
that with all your creatures
we may live in hope;
through Jesus Christ our King. Amen

Janet Morley

White Gifts

Sunday December 17, 10:30 a.m.

We are invited to reach out with some of the joy of Christmas to our downtown neighbours at Interval House.

Women, youth and children find temporary shelter here through the year, in 18 apartments.

The suggestion is that our offering support the purchase of subscriptions to magazines of various types that can be enjoyed by all during their stay. An envelope has been included.

Capital Fund Update

On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank all who have already supported the capital funds appeal.

Responses have been received from 53 of the congregation's 139 households.

Your commitment to the future of our Christian witness in the heart of Kingston is demonstrated by your generous response. Well over \$100,000 has been subscribed to date. Again, thank you.

This appeal remains open until April 2018.

Ralph Kendall and Paul Payne

Advent Meditation

All the figures on the first pages of the gospels are waiting ... Those who are waiting had each received a promise that gave them courage and allowed them to wait ...

The waiting of the Advent figures in the gospels is not a passive waiting. They are waiting actively. They know that what they are waiting for is growing from the ground on which they are standing. Right here is a secret for us about waiting. If we wait in the conviction that a seed has been planted and that something has already begun, it changes the way we wait. Active waiting implies being fully present to the moment with the conviction that something is happening where we are and that we want to be present to it. A waiting person is someone who is present to the moment, believing that this moment is *the moment*.

O God, you have planted many seeds of faith, hope and love in our hearts. May we learn this Advent to nurture them patiently and courageously. Forgive us for frequently living in fear of the future or in regret of the past. Help us to open our hearts to you each moment.

Henri Nouwen



The Days of December



'On The Way To Bethlehem'
One of a new sanctuary banner set
created by Anne-Marie Gabrini and Fern Houston

**St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church
Kingston**

Join us!
www.standrewskingston.org