Sunday December 10, 2023



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

130 Clergy Street East, Kingston, ON, K7K 3S3 www.StAndrewsKingston.org 613-546-6316

Gathering to serve God & neighbour in this community since 1817
We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe and Haudonosaunee peoples.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Preludes August C. Chaminade

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland A.N. Vetter Noël J-F Dandrieu

Entry of the Bible

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Candle #2 - Peace

(see insert)

Hymn On Jordan's Bank 126

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Words of Assurance

Gospel Box

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Lessons Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Emily

Isaiah 40:1-11

Hymn There's a voice in the wilderness crying 128

Message "All About Jesus"

Music Ministry A Choral Hymn for Advent arr. Henry Ley

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology Praise God from whom all blessings flow 830

Dedication of Offering Prayers of the People

Hymn O day of peace that dimly shines 732

Benediction and Choral Amen

Postlude Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland J. Walther



Second Sunday in Advent

Peace

Voice 1: The prophets call and an apostle writes that peace comes from God.

Voice 2: "For a child has been born for us... and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ... and there shall be endless peace." (Isaiah 9) "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4)

Voice 1: The world, our relationships and our lives are all too often torn by conflict and injustice.

Advent calls us to pray and work for peace—shalom—in the world God loves and to which Christ came. But God's shalom is not simply the absence of conflict. Shalom is the peace that comes when we live life in the balance, loving God and one another.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: Jesus Christ comes as the Prince of Peace.

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: We light this candle to shine for peace. (while lighting the candle of peace)

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. 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, for ever. Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Responsive Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Lord, you were favourable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand

double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Response to readings

For the word of God in Scripture For the word of God within us For the word of God around us Thanks be to God

Anthem – The Lord will come and not be slow

The Lord will come and not be slow, His footsteps cannot err; Before Him righteousness shall go, His royal harbinger. Truth from the earth, like to a flower, Shall bud and blossom then: And justice from her heavenly bower, Look down on mortal men. Rise, God, judge Thou the earth in might, This wicked earth redress; For Thou art He who shalt by right, The nations all possess. The nations all whom Thou hast made. Shall come and all shall frame To bow them low before Thee Lord, and glorify Thy Name. For great Thou art, and wonders great By Thy strong hand are done, Thou in Thy everlasting seat Remainest God alone.

> Words: John Milton (1608-74) Music: tune "Montrose" (1855), Scottish melody Arranged by Henry G. Ley (1952)

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Despite colder temperatures and occasional snow on the ground, there are still leaves on my trees that do not wish to acknowledge that Autumn is almost over and Winter is fast approaching. My wall calendar has for December 21, in very small print as if it too is afraid of acknowledging it: "Winter begins". I too am reluctant to acknowledge that my favourite time of year is almost over. But with the liturgical season of Advent upon us, we know that Christmas is coming and that Christmas will chase away any depressive thoughts. And so today our music is not only about the Lord's coming but our first **Prelude** is a last tribute to Autumn.

It was composed by a remarkable lady who fought continuing pressures from society and her own family, that women aren't to be recognized as great composers. Her own father, a gifted musician himself, did not want her to enter into the Paris Conservatoire. But Cécile Chaminade could not hold back that need to musically express herself. Born in Paris in 1857, as a young child, she would compose little pieces for her dog and cat and dolls. By the end of her career, she had been awarded the Légion d'Honneur, a first for a female composer, and it was proclaimed, "This is not a woman who composes, but a composer who is a woman." After being largely forgotten during the latter half of the last century, her beautiful music is being enjoyed once again.

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland (Saviour of the Nations, Come) began as a chant attributed to St. Ambrose from the 4th century. It appeared as a hymn by J. Walther in 1524 in Germany and then was used for several composers after that. We hear examples by A.N. Vetter (1666-1710) and the famous Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706). The **Postlude** is preceded by the chorale harmonized by some guy named Bach. There is speculation that some of the music attributed to Bach might have in fact been composed by his wife. But things were different then.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us this week, in person and online. We are happy that you're here, and hope you find the service meaningful and satisfying. Please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments in St. Andrew's Hall after the service so that we might greet each other.

Circle of Prayer

This team of St. Andrew's members is ready to add their prayers to yours. If you would like to join our circle, or if you have a prayer request (confidentiality assured), please contact our co-ordinator Dorothy at dotmessenger@gmail.com

After Church Potlucks

Beginning in January, our St. Andrew's monthly after church potlucks will resume!! On the last Sunday of each month, bring along some food to share as we join together in a time of fellowship and feasting. More details will be available closer to the date.

Advent Tree

During Advent, in the hall, you will see a tree with bare. You are invited to peg up new, even homeknit socks, mitts, hats etc., which will be distributed this winter to those in need of them.

Our Daily Bread

The large print version of Our Daily Bread for Jan-March 2024 is available in the church office if you would like a copy.

Scripture Readers

Seeking Scripture readers for 2024. If you would like to participate, please sign the roster at the back of the church.

NEWS FROM THE PCC

Olive Tree Planting

Amidst the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, Palestinian farmers residing in the West Bank are gearing up for their olive tree planting season. The Presbyterian Church in Canada has sponsored the planting of 261 trees in Bethlehem and Hebron between 2022 and 2023. The PCC is accepting donations for the Olive Tree Campaign, which will help Palestinian farmers to replant their destroyed olive orchards. More information about this initiative is available at: https://presbyterian.ca/2023/10/19/a-just-and-lasting-peace/

Prayers for Peace

Amen.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada asks that people pray for all who are affected and threatened by the hostilities in the Middle East, and for an end to violence and a just peace in the land of Christ's birth. They suggest the following prayer.

God of truth, mercy and peace, God of life and of reconciliation, we mourn the suffering and murder of your people and we pray for a just peace and reconciliation for the people of Palestine and Israel who have endured the burden of violence and conflict for so long. Console those who grieve, heal the injured, comfort those who are alone and afraid, protect those who are held hostage, and restrain those who would cause more violence or act cynically for political gain and power. Let wisdom settle on your churches and on the governments and leaders of this world so that justice is sought, reconciliation found, peace established and security provided for all. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Call for Photos

Once again, the PCC is looking for your photos to highlight in the 2025 calendar. The theme this year is Planting Seeds of Hope. Curled up inside the smallest seed is the potential for future growth of life, nourishment and beauty. Jesus uses seeds when he speaks of the mysterious potential of the reign of God to grow among us in lifegiving ways from even the smallest things. Actions, words, decisions, gifts, and ministries plant seeds that, unbeknownst to us, will grow and bear fruit in ways we could never ask for or imagine. Is there a community garden or Canadian Foodgrains project associated with your ministry? Is a new generation of young people being nurtured by a creative ministry you participate in? Is there a flower growing from the stonework of your worship space that evokes God's unexpected grace and power? Is there an image of the Lord's Table set with bread and wine made from the fruit of the field that testifies to God's presence? Have a look around, get creative and send them your high-resolution photos (taken horizontally – not portrait but rather landscape) for use in the 2025 calendar, the newspaper and other resources. The photos should depict how we, in the PCC, see the reign of God growing in the world as seeds of hope and potential. The submission form is online at: https://form.jotform.com/220324249628960

Financial Review to Nov 30, 2023	Budgeted	Received
General Offerings	\$204,858	\$179,245
Missions	\$15,000	\$11,241

SERVING THIS MORNING

Beadle: Larry

Livestreaming: Christopher

Flowers: Decorating Committee

Ushers this week: Dixie and Murray **Ushers 17 Dec:** Helene and Michael

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FALL 2023

Sunday School – a multi-grade class, each Sunday immediately after Gospel Box Time. (except today!) We also have a nursery for infants and pre-schoolers, staffed by a certified ECE.

Choir – Thursdays 7:00 pm, St. Andrew's Hall, mjchall@telusplanet.net

Imago Dei – A gathering to read Scripture, discuss, study and spend time in contemplative prayer. 1st Thursday monthly, 4:30-5:30. Contact: dotmessenger@gmail.com

Prayer in Song – A meditative ecumenical gathering of singing and prayer in the Taizé tradition. Last Friday of each month, 5:15-6:00 pm, in the chapel of St. Andrew's. Enter via doors on Princess St. Dates for 2023/4: Dec 29, Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 29, Apr 26, May 31, Jun 28.

Session – 2nd Monday monthly, 7:00, St. Andrew's Hall. If you have something you would like to bring to Session, please contact your elder by the Friday before the meeting so it can be put on the agenda.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Partners in Mission Foodbank

As we approach the Christmas season – traditionally their busiest time of year – Partners in Mission is especially grateful for donations. Their most needed items include:

Canned meat/fish Pasta Sauce
Peanut Butter 100% Fruit Juice

Cereal Soup

Baby Food Monetary donations

Stews/Chunky Soups (https://www.canadahelps.org/

Canned Tomatoes <u>en/dn/m/11240</u>)

Mission Moment - Community-Based Rehabilitation



In northern Ghana, people living with disabilities face a range of issues, such as widespread poverty, limited access to livelihood opportunities and health care, and social barriers to full inclusion. Political, environmental, and economic challenges work together to create those difficult conditions. PWS&D works with the

Presbyterian Church of Ghana in a Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program to address these challenges through vocational skills training programs such as soap and pomade making. Ateni Lois, a participant in the soap-making class, expresses her gratitude, stating, "We are so grateful to the CBR program and PWS&D for equipping us with the skills to be able to produce soap and pomade for money. Very soon, we will be in good business and will be out of poverty in our respective communities."



In 2023, through offerings designated "Mission", members of St. Andrew's Kingston have a goal of contributing \$4,515 to PWS&D

Convener of Property and Maintenance – John Sanger
Treasurer – Paul Payne
Chair of Trustees – Ken Hancock
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