

Sunday December 24, 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	Lo, how a Rose e'er Blooming Es ist ein Ros' Entsprungen	M. Praetorius J. Brahms
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Entry of the Bible

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Candle #4 - Love
(next page)

Hymn	Prepare the way, O Zion	129
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Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Words of Assurance

Gospel Box

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Lessons	Responsive Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26 Luke 1: 26-38	Ken H
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Hymn	Of eternal love begotten	163
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Message	"Who is Mary?"
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Music Ministry	Gesù Bambino	Pietro A. Yon
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Invitation to the Offering

Doxology	Praise God from whom all blessings flow	830
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Dedication of Offering

Prayers of the People

Hymn	Come, thou long-expected Jesus	110
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Benediction and Choral Amen

Postlude	Noel VI	L.C Daquin
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Fourth Sunday in Advent

Love

Voice 1: The prophets call and the psalmists sing to announce that God is love.

Voice 2: “For the mountain may depart and the hills may be moved, but my steadfast love shall never depart from you...and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord who has compassion on you.” *(Isaiah 54)*

“Give thanks to the LORD, who is good...give thanks to the Lord of lords, whose steadfast love endures forever.”

(Psalm 136)

Voice 1: From the mystery of God’s love came our creation and we are nurtured daily by it. The power of God’s love is transformative; because we have received God’s love, we cannot remain the same. Love means seeking the best for others. Love is compassion for all creation. Love speaks the truth with kindness. Love is the way of seeing others as God sees them.

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

All: **Jesus Christ is the love of God come into the world.**

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

All: **We light this candle to burn for love.**

(while lighting the candle of love)

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 89:1-4, 19-26

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:

**"I will establish your descendants for ever,
and build your throne for all generations."**

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:
'I have set the crown on one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

**I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;**

my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.

**The enemy shall not outwit him,
the wicked shall not humble him.**

I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

**My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.**

I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.

**He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"**

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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 – Gesù Bambino

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of Love and Light.
The angels and, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced,
And at His blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced:
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,
Its King of Love and Light.
Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,
The grateful chorus swell;
From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.
O come let us a adore Him, Christ the Lord

Words: Frederick H. Martens

Music: Pietro A. Yon

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Pietro Yon (1886-1943) was born and educated in Italy. He was invited to be organist at St. Francis Xavier Church in New York City in 1907. He became a popular recitalist, teacher and composer. It was in 1917 that he composed the well-known Gesù Bambino with his own Italian words. A different text was later devised by Frederick Martens. We are delighted that Marianne Emig Carr has taken time from her busy schedule to sing this for us today.

The text of *Lo, How a Rose* has unknown origins but the first German words appeared in print in 1599. *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen* (literally, “A rose has sprung up” refers to a text from Isaiah 11:1

“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”

The rose in the German text is a reference to Mary and this carol is sometimes referred to as “the Marian Hymn”. Mary is the rose that has sprung from the stem of Jesse. In 1609, the German composer Michael Praetorius composed the music which we enjoy to this day. Johannes Brahms (1833-1897), toward the end of his life, composed a few organ pieces and this chorale prelude, based on the Praetorius tune, is his most popular. We hear the original chorale followed by Brahms’s chorale prelude with the tune well hidden.

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

Advent Tree

During Advent, in St. Andrew’s Hall, you will see an urn with tree branches beautifully laden down with socks, scarves, hats and mittens. Thank you so much for your generous contributions! After Christmas, these items will be distributed to those in need of a little extra winter warmth. If you still have items to bring, and there is no room on the tree, just add them to the baskets underneath.

Scripture Readers

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

Christmas Office Hours

Please note that, as usual, the church office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. This year, that the week of Dec 25-29. If you have pastoral concerns during this time, please contact Rev. Carr on his cell phone at: (613)451-2067

Church Directory

Please ensure that the Roll Clerk/Office has been made aware if you have moved within the last year or acquired a new phone number or email address. This is to ensure that the new directory of Members and Adherents has the correct information. It will be distributed in the new year.

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

Peanut Butter

Cereal

Baby Food

Stews/Chunky Soups

Canned Tomatoes

Pasta Sauce

100% Fruit Juice

Soup

Monetary donations

(<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/11240>)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FALL 2023

Sunday School – a multi-grade class, each Sunday immediately after Children's Time. 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.

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:** Elaine and Pat
- Ushers 24 Dec (p.m.)** Alberta and David
- Ushers Dec 31:** Andy and Lori-Kim



JOY

May the joy
of Christ be felt
through us. Luke 1:44

LOVE

Help us see ways to turn love
into action this Christmas. Matthew 25:40

FAITH

Increase our faith so we fully trust in Your promises.
Matthew 1:24

LIGHT

May the light of Christ shine from within us. Isaiah 9:2

PEACE

May the peace of Christ cover the busyness of this season. Isaiah 9:6

PROMISE

Thank you for the promise of eternal life through Jesus. John 3:16

GRATITUDE

Thank you for all of our blessings, not just the gifts under the tree. Luke 1:49

SIMPLICITY

You came as a baby in a manger, help us find value in the simple things. Luke 2:7

OBEDIENCE

Help us to be obedient to You even when we don't fully understand. Luke 1:38

GENEROSITY

Show us what gifts we have to offer and help us give them generously. Matthew 2:11

HOPEFULNESS

Fill us with hope for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ. Daniel 2:44

TOGETHERNESS

Thank you that the gift of Jesus makes us one family together in Christ. John 1:12

AMEN

Mission Moment – Being There



Through Presbyterians Sharing we shine Christ's light in Canada and around the world. We are there when a prisoner in Malawi discovers Christ's love through Bible study, and when an Indigenous woman in Taiwan reads the Bible in her own language for the first time. We are there when a congregation adapts to

meet community needs in new ways and when a theological student in Canada, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana or Beirut graduates, ready to serve God. We are there when a child receives a healthy snack and after-school support from an inner-city ministry, and when a refugee claimant needs a friend. We are also there for one another as we pray, serve and share the gifts God has given us. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!



**Presbyterians
Sharing**

In 2023, through offerings designated "Mission", members of St. Andrew's Kingston have a goal of contributing \$2,330 to Presbyterians Sharing

Convener of Property and Maintenance – John Sanger

Treasurer – Paul Payne

Chair of Trustees – Ken Hancock

Clerk of Session – David Holland

Office – Lori-Kim den Otter lorikim@standrewskingston.org

Bookkeeper – Candace Gomes candace@standrewskingston.org

Weekday Custodian – Glen Mercer

Weekend Custodian – Larry Moore

Director of Music – John Hall – mjchall@telusplanet.net

Minister – Rev. Barry Carr – rvmdbcarr@gmail.com