

ST. ANDREW'S Presbyterian Church

A COMMUNITY LOVING GOD BY LOVING OUR NEIGHBOURS

At St. Andrew's, Brampton, we: learn together to know God's love through worship, study and prayer; put our faith into action by loving and caring for each other; use God's gifts to go forth to bring others to Christ.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

Advent 2: Peace • Seasonal Colour: Violet/Blue

(* Please stand if able. Masks are not mandatory but recommended.)

Prelude: Carol of the Hay

Trad. Polish

Carol Sing: I Wonder As I Wander (p. 9); Do You Hear What I

Hear? (p. 4); I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (p. 8)

Welcome, Greeting, Announcements

Silent Prayer

Approach to Worship

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

* Hymn: Comfort, comfort you my people

See & Hear

Choir Anthem: Prepare, Make Room

arr. M. Barrett

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Lighting of the Advent Candle

Advent Liturgy

(See PWS&D insert below)

The first candle of Advent is the candle of Hope; the second is the candle of Peace. This banner has been raised to remind us that our Lord Jesus brings peace to all who trust in Him.

Loving God, we thank You for the gift of peace.

May Christ's light shine in our lives,

showing us the way of peace between God and all people.

Help us to prepare our hearts to receive Him.

We ask in the name of the One born in Bethlehem. Amen.

(The children are invited to go to Sunday School.)

The Word Proclaimed

Unison Prayer for Illumination: (All readings NRSV; see below)
Let us give unto the Lord the honour due unto His Name as
He reveals Himself to us in Scripture. Let us bring our
intellect, our hearts and our wills that we may be shaped
and thus established in the Word of Truth. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Revelation 21:1-7

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 126 (See below for responses)

Additional Scriptures: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

(The Word of the Lord: *Thanks be to God.*)

Sermon: God Makes His Choice Rev. Wayne J. Baswick

* Hymn: Away in a manger 149

Response and Thanksgiving

Offering Announcement: For more on giving to St Andrew's, please visit: https://standrewsbrampton.ca/donate/

Offertory: Only A Manger Bed Trad. Polish

* Presentation of Offering

* The Offering: (sung)

661 v 1

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be. All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

* Unison Prayer of Dedication:

Give unto the Lord the honour due unto His Name. Bring an offering and come into His courts with thanksgiving. Let us present to God His tithes and our offerings. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

* Hymn: Hark! the herald angels sing

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Returning to Service

Commission & Benediction

* Choral Amen

Postlude: O Christmas, You Season of Childlike Delight

Trad. Norwegian

We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional territory of the Anishinabek (Ojibway), Huron-Wendat, and Haudenosaunee and Métis peoples.

All music used by permission. CCLI: 11298572 CSPL: 197383

In Worship Today

Interim Moderator/Stated Supply: Rev. Wayne J. Baswick Music Director: Shelagh Tyreman Senior Choir

Advent Candlelighters: Valerie & Gord Warren Scripture Reader: Lily Rhind Sound & Video: Peter Shepherd

Upcoming Worship Services

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 7:30 pm
Blue Christmas Service of Reflection, Remembrance & Hope
"Through the Valley"

Interim Moderator/Stated Supply: Rev. Wayne J. Baswick *This service is in-person only and will not be livestreamed.*

Sunday, December 15, 2024 10:30 am Advent 3: Joy • Church School Pageant "The Christmas Spirit"

Interim Moderator/Stated Supply: Rev. Wayne J. Baswick If you are unable to attend worship in person, please join us for our livestreamed services: <u>St. Andrew's YouTube Channel</u>

Stewardship Moment

It's not joy that makes us grateful it's gratitude that makes us joyful. - *David Steindl-Rast, Benedictine monk, author, lecturer*

Carols & Hymns for Sunday, December 8, 2024:

I Wonder As I Wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die For poor orn'ry people like you and like I I wonder as I wander out under the sky

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall And the promise of ages it then did recall

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing A star in the sky or a bird on the wing Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing He surely could have it, 'cause He was the King

I wonder as I wander out under the sky How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die For poor orn'ry people like you and like I I wonder as I wander out under the sky

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
Do you see what I see,
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
Do you see what I see,
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite; With a tail as big as a kite.

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
Do you hear what I hear,
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
Do you hear what I hear,
A song, a song, high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea; With a voice as big as the sea.

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
Do you know what I know,
In your palace warm, mighty king,
Do you know what I know,
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold
Let us bring Him silver and gold; Let us bring Him silver and gold.

Said the king to the people everywhere
Listen to what I say,
Pray for peace, people everywhere!
Listen to what I say,
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night,
He will bring us goodness and light; He will bring us goodness and light.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

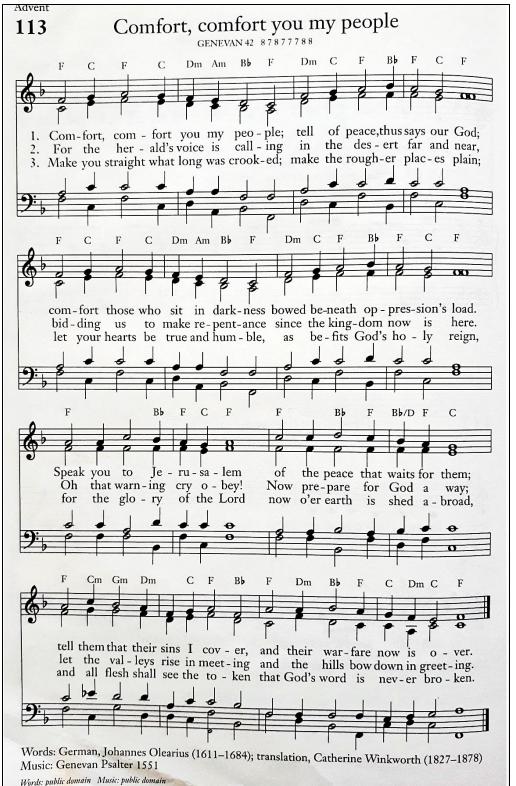
I heard the bells on Christmas day Their old familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all Christendom Had rolled along th'unbroken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head "There is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail With peace on earth, good will to men."

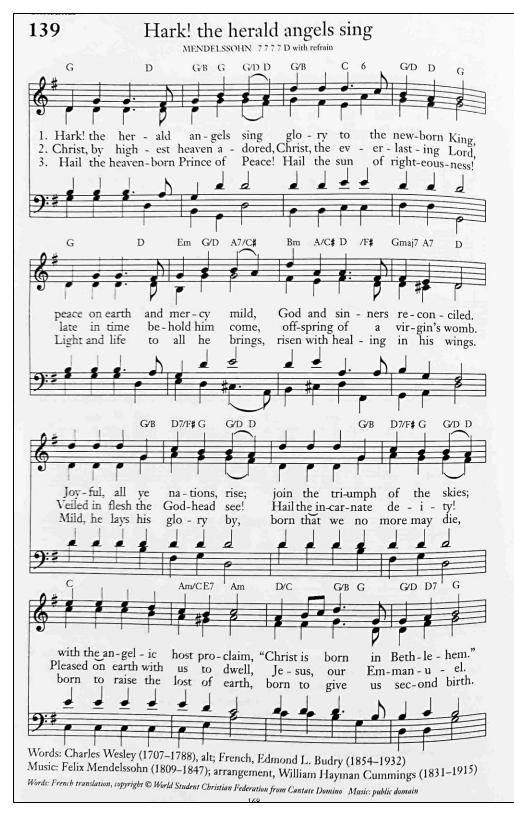
'Til ringing, singing on its way The world revolved from night to day, A voice, a chime, a chant sublime Of peace on earth, good will to men.





Words: v.1, 2, Little Children's Book for School and Families c. 1885; v.3, Gabriel's Vineyard Songs 1892; alt Music: William James Kirkpatrick (1838–1921); harmony, Eric H. Thiman (1900–1975)

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French

- 1. Ecoutez! le chant des anges, vient d'éclater dans les airs; joignons aussi nos louanges à leurs sublimes concerts: gloire à Dieu! paix sur la terre! Aujourd'hui le Christ est né! Jésus s'est fait notre frère, un Sauveur nous est donné. Jésus s'est fait notre frère, un Sauveur nous est donné.
- 2. Son palais est une étable, une crèche est son berceau, et pourtant, c'est l'Admirable, c'est le Fils du Dieu très-haut. Il vient à nous débonnaire et de grâce couronné. Jésus s'est fait notre frère, un Sauveur nous est donné. Jésus s'est fait notre frère, un Sauveur nous est donné.
- 3. Avec vous, bergers et mages, aux pieds de notre Seigneur nous déposons nos hommages, nous lui sonnons notre coeur. Tout son peuple sur la terre dit, avec nous prosterné: Jésus, s'est fait notre frère, un Sauveur nous est donné. Jésus, s'est fait notre frère, un Sauveur nous est donné.

Hungarian

- 1. Halld mint zeng az egész ég;
 "A Királynak dicsőség!
 Békesség a földön lenn,
 Istentől jő kegyelem."
 Népek, örvendezzetek!
 Visszhangozzák a mennyek!
 Hirdesse a természet:
 Krisztusunk megszületett!
 Halld mint zeng az egész ég:
 "A Királynak dicsőség!"
- 2. Krisztus, kit imád a menny, Úr a nagy világ előtt, Köztünk íme megjelent, Szent szűz az, ki szülte Ót. Dicsősége eget áthat, Isten Ő, ki porruhánkat Földön élni vette fel. Jézus O, Immánuel! Halld mint zeng...
- 3. Dicsőség! Ó a Király,
 Békesség és Igazság,
 Éltető világos nap,
 Bajainkra gyógyírt ad.
 Kis gyermek lett mi érettünk,
 Született, hogy mi élhessünk,
 Porból, hogy feltámasszon
 S ujjászületést adjon.
 Halld mint zeng...



Second Sunday in Advent Peace

One: In a world too often divided, we gather to embrace

the gift of peace.

All: We come with hearts open to reconciliation and

understanding.

One: We light the second candle of Advent, a symbol of

God's peace in a troubled world.

(Light the candle of peace)

One: May the light of this candle guide us as we seek to

fulfill our calling as peacemakers.

All: Holy One, strengthen us by your Spirit to commit

ourselves to standing against injustice in our

communities and the world. Affirm within us

a dedication to foster your peace.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Praying for Peace in Gaza

The war in Gaza has left tens of thousands injured or dead and many more people facing severe hunger.

Aid efforts are hindered by ongoing challenges, including limited access and mobility, high costs for goods, and challenges in moving them.



PWS&D is responding through ACT Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Local partners have established clinics to provide health services. Since the start of the conflict, churches are being used as distribution points to get ready-to-eat meals to people in need. In southern Gaza, where most people have sought refuge, food assistance is being distributed. Psychological support, especially for children, is being provided in refugee camps.

We echo the words shared by the ACT Alliance, "Gaza's urgent need for peace and humanitarian support remains a top priority. Let us unite for justice and access to aid for those suffering."

Join us in praying and advocating for an end to the violence, enabling all to live in safety and dignity.

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to help provide food, shelter and mental health support for people in crisis.

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Readings for Sunday, December 8, 2024:

<u>Scripture Lesson</u>: Revelation 21:1-7
The New Heaven and the New Earth

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

(The Word of the Lord: *Thanks be to God.*)

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 126 A Prayer for Deliverance

- R: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
- C: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.'
- R: The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
- All: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Additional Scripture: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Additional Scripture: Luke 3:1-6 The Proclamation of John the Baptist

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."'

(The Word of the Lord: *Thanks be to God.*)

ST. ANDREW'S SESSION Session Summary from December 2, 2024 WE ARE WORKING TO SERVE YOU

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SESSION NEWS

Search Committee

The Committee has completed its interviews and will meet with the Session shortly to present its recommendations.

Stewardship Committee

Finances: The deficit at the end of November is \$28,000.00. The weekly offering is 12% below budget, compared to 7% below the prior year. The S-EAOM offering is 30% below budget compared to 15% below in 2023. The Canada Post strike is impacting donations.

Regular and Christmas offerings can be made by bringing your offering envelopes to worship services or dropping them any time in the mailbox outside the parking lot door. You can also make donations electronically via the Donate page on the Church website at:

https://standrewsbrampton.ca/donate/

Worship & Fellowship Committee

The Christmas services are as follows: **December 11**, Blue Christmas Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlour. Only the parking lot door will be open for this service. **On December 24**, the Family Service is at 4:00 p.m., and the Lessons and Carols service is at 7:30 p.m.

The S-EAOM congregation will hold their services on **December 24** at 11:00 p.m. and on **December 25** from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., followed by a meal.

Food Bank

The Food Bank served one thousand three hundred and forty-four more clients in 2024 than in 2023.

The Food Bank is closed for December 25 and January1; the last day to distribute to clients is December 18, and it reopens on **January 8, 2025**.

Mission Committee

Correction: Last month, the summary said that St. Paul's United donated to Project Cozy. St. Paul's Presbyterian, Bramalea, knitted and crocheted the hats, scarves and mitts. Many thanks to St. Paul's Presbyterian, Bramalea.

Inside St. Andrew's Monthly Newsletter

The monthly newsletter will live on, under new management. We just haven't figured out who. Any volunteers?

In-Person Worship Reminder

The Session wants to assure you that your safety and health remain its primary concern. If you feel unwell, please do not attend in-person worship, meetings, or events.

Reminder: The courtyard door is locked on Sundays at 10:40 a.m., and a notice is on the door advising anyone arriving late to use the front doors. The Church Street door will be open as an entry door; bulletins will be on the table at the entrance.

Pastoral Care

Rev. Wayne J. Baswick is in the office every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for anyone who wishes to drop by to meet or say "Hello." If you need to see a minister <u>urgently</u>, Wayne is available 24 hours daily at 905-456-1727.

Our Congregational Care Team is also available to help you. Contact Felicity Alexander at 905-791-0490.

Prayer Circle: If you request prayers for a family member or friend, please have their permission before submitting their name to Sandra Jackson at 905-459-4563.

Announcements for Sunday, December 8, 2024

Welcome to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

We're so glad you chose to join us for worship today! Please recycle your bulletins in the Great Hall after worship. St. Andrew's is a scent-free zone. Overflow parking for up to 10 spaces is available at Central Public School (24 Alexander Street) on Sunday mornings and during special events while construction at Rosalea Park is ongoing.



Please join us in the Great Hall after worship for fellowship and refreshments, and to enjoy the display of Christmas nativities and other cherished items from our congregation.

Minister's Availability & Pastoral Care

Rev. Wayne J. Baswick is available to meet in the Vestry on Wednesdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. He can be reached 24/7 at 905-451-1723 ext. 22 or 905-456-1727.

Special Christmas Offering

Special Christmas Offering envelopes are available at the four Sanctuary entrances throughout the Advent/Christmas season. During the postal strike, you can hand in your offering envelopes during worship services, or drop them any time in the mailbox outside the parking lot entrance. You can also donate electronically through the Donations page on our website: https://standrewsbrampton.ca/donate/.

Christmas Congregational Letter

The annual Christmas letter from Rev. Wayne Baswick was recently emailed to the congregation. Hardcopies were provided for pickup in the Great Hall for those who have not given us a current email address. Please check the box on the table beside the Sanctuary entrance to see if there is an envelope there for you! And, if you do have email (or if the address you gave us has changed), please let the Church Office know at standrewsoffice@rogers.com so that we can add you to our e-distribution list. Thank you.

Please Lend a Helping Hand!

We are always in need of **Ushers**, **Duty Elders** and **Refreshment Volunteers** on Sunday mornings. If you can help – even for a single day – please sign the sheets posted in the Great Hall <u>at least one week in advance</u> so that we can add your name to the weekly bulletin.

Bruce the Cookie Man is Back!

Solve your gift-giving and holiday hosting needs with delicious baked goodies from Bruce the Cookie Man. These items will sell out quickly, so place your order soon! <u>Details and pricing are available here</u>.

Blue Christmas Service of Reflection, Remembrance and Hope Wednesday, December 11 • 7:30 pm in the Parlour

This worship service is for those who are grieving lost loved ones or feeling blue for any reason at this busy, festive, and

sometimes overwhelming time of year. In an intimate environment, attendees are invited to light a candle in memory of their loved ones. Anyone feeling the need for a quiet space of worship is most welcome to attend.



Donation Drive

Help us make this holiday season brighter for our Food Bank clients! We're putting together 150 special gift bags and need your support. Please consider donating some of the following:



- Men's & Ladies' socks
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Combs & hairbrushes
- Chapstick or lip balm
- Pocket-sized facial tissue
- Disposable razors
- Feminine hygiene products
- Travel-sized shampoo & conditioner
- Travel-sized hand lotion
- Travel-sized deodorant

We will collect your donations in the red tote bins on the Great Hall stage up to and including December 15.

Join us in spreading kindness and cheer this holiday season!
Thank you for your generous support!

CHRISTMAS KARAOKE

Get ready to sing your heart out! Please join us for a festive night of Karaoke Carolling on Friday, December 13 at 7:00 pm.



Gather with friends and family in the Sanctuary and Great Hall for an

evening full of music, laughter, and holiday cheer. No experience needed -- just bring your singing voice and a joyful spirit! We'll have plenty of refreshments to keep the fun going. All are welcome, so mark your calendars and come share the joy!



Our church family is growing and it's music to our ears with the joyful sounds of babies!

We're excited to open up our nursery and need 2-4 warm-hearted volunteers to help care for our little ones, from newborns up to 3 years old. It's a wonderful way to make Sunday mornings special for these tiny members (and their parents)! If you're ready to join in the fun and help out, please get in touch with Kim Shepherd. Thank you for considering this delightful opportunity!



MYSTERY DINNERS ARE BACK FOR 2025

January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, 2025

The Mystery? - Who is coming to dinner?

Where? – January, February and March at participants' homes; in April there is a themed potluck dinner at the church.

When? – Arrive at 6:30 pm. Dinner will be around 7:00 pm with the evening ending around 10:00 pm (depending upon the people involved).

Why? - For members, long-time or newcomers, to get to know each other better; to have fun and good food.

Cost? - There is no cost to register. Hosts pay costs for dinner at their house; there is usually a small charge for the potluck at the church.

Those who register will dine with twelve (12) different people in three (3) different homes. The week before the dinner evenings, you will receive an invitation giving the address and phone number of the home of the host. All names are a secret until everyone arrives. The mystery (who is coming to dinner?) ends, and the fun begins!

HOW DO MYSTERY DINNERS WORK?

- 1. Open to all in the congregation.
- 2. Host a dinner for two (2) couples and attend two (2) dinners.
- 3. List any food allergies when registering.
- 4. **S** E C R E T !!! Everyone is sworn to secrecy. It is fun guessing who is coming to dinner/who will be hosting the dinners you will attend.
- 5. No host gifts, please.
- 6. Hosts may serve whatever they wish. The object is to be comfortable and have fun.

Registration Deadline:

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Co-ordinators:

Pam Loree Jessica Rhind Kim Shepherd