

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE #192

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 5, 2023

PARABLE OF THE PASTOR

What is Advent and why is it significant? The word advent is not used in the Bible. It means "wait" and refers to the world waiting for something remarkable to happen. The Hebrew people waited for generations for the Messiah.

Each Advent we again wait expectantly for the birth of the Christ child. But Christ was born long ago, to parents who had no place to deliver him other than a borrowed stable. Again, this year, however, we are reminded of the significance of waiting and the powerful effects upon our lives of Advent waiting. For what or for whom do we wait?

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love? Yes, to all! Our dark and lonely world groans for good news. War spills from the lips of dictators to the munitions of armies to the innocent lives caught in the crossfire. Who will win? The strongest? The loudest? The dictator and the army with the most ammunition?

Benjamin Howard relates a story in *The Wondrous Mystery: An Upper Room Advent Reader* of an Iroquois tale about how the animals in the forest held a council to decide if they should have light in the midst of an all-dark world. The story contained two main characters with opposing opinions. Bear adamantly growled, "We must have darkness." This put an end to most discussion since Bear, by virtue of its size and gruffness, carried a lot of weight in the council of animals. But young Chipmunk, undaunted by Bear's power, bravely sang out, "Let there be light," again and again until the sun actually spread its gleam throughout the forest world.

Our Advent wait is for the light to reach us again. We need to be reminded that hope, peace, joy and love are still possible. Christ is coming again but we must be prepared. We must not be too busy to recognize His light because we are occupied with other more immediate and pressing duties.

Wait patiently but wait purposefully. Wait knowing that that Christ is coming to our dark world. Light is on the way. Thanks be to God!

May your Advent wait fill you with God's perfect peace,

Mitch

SHARE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

Donations for this year's **Share the Joy of Christmas Campaign** have amounted to \$1160 as of December 3rd. This is enough to provide three Christmas hampers (each for a family of four) or several for couples and individuals. The food hampers are put together by the Mustard Seed Food Bank and the dollar value for a hamper for a family of four is approximately \$360.

St. Andrew's members and adherents contribute to our **Share the Joy of Christmas** program each year to provide a brighter Christmas to those who are struggling financially in Greater Victoria. We are off to a wonderful start...way to go, St. Andrew's!

Next Sunday, there will be 3 baskets on our small white tree in the sanctuary which is our visual reminder about this year's **Share the Joy** campaign.

If you want to help to bring comfort and joy to others in Victoria this Christmas, donate what you can afford through your church envelopes or follow the instructions under the Donate tab on St. Andrew's website, standrewsvictoria.ca. Remember to indicate that your donation is for **Share the Joy of Christmas**.

If you have any questions about our Share the Joy of Christmas campaign, please call Debra Verwey at 250-383-1009.

CBC Radio & Our Place present
A dramatic reading of Charles Dickens' Classic Tale

A Christmas Carol

Friday, Dec. 8, 2023
7:00pm Live Event
First Met United Church
932 Balmoral Rd. Victoria

Tickets: \$15.00 individual
\$35.00 family
\$15.00 virtual link

Featuring:
CBC Personalities
Reach Choir
Surprise Guests

Feel the
Christmas Spirit
and give back
in service to our
community

Buy tickets:
ourplacesociety.com/christmascarol

All proceeds to benefit Our Place Society

 **90.5 F**
radio one

 **ourplace**
Hope and Belonging



THE ANNUAL RECOVERY

CHRISTMAS DINNER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
12:00 PM - 2:30 PM

IN PERSON * BUFFET STYLE * TURKEY DINNER * COFFEE * TREATS * STOCKINGS

EVERYONE WELCOME!

680 COURTNEY STREET

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - KIRK HALL




FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL RECOVERYCHRISTMASDINNER@GMAIL.COM

9th Annual

A Balm In Gilead Band Christmas Concert

Songs and stories to celebrate the birth of Jesus

Thursday, December 21, 7pm
Knox Presbyterian Church
2964 Richmond Road



PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY

ADVENT SING & STUDY You don't have to be a great singer to enjoy the music of the season. Please let us know the songs you would like to explore and plan to attend this fun afternoon gathering with folks from Knox, Trinity and St. Andrew's. Many thanks to Elise Kennedy who has volunteered to play piano for us. The four sessions are on Mondays from 1:00 – 2:30pm beginning November 27th. Hope to see you there!

BLUE CHRISTMAS December 10 at 2:00 pm at Trinity. This a reflective time with scripture, familiar carols, prayer, and a time to light candles in memory of loved ones. It is a time of reflection for people who find the Christmas season difficult, or for people who want to have a quiet time away from the busyness of the season.

SONG AND PRAYER December 17 at 2:00 pm at Trinity. There will be hymns and carols, interspersed with spiritual poetry and meditative readings. People can join in singing, or simply sit and listen to the beautiful music and words.

SUNDAY NIGHT DINNER This is an opportunity to cook and eat together with students from UVic Multifaith. I hope we have participants from St. Andrew's, Trinity, and Knox congregations. The idea is to make a quick soup or stew together – depending on what ingredients are brought to share. We can also make biscuits or another quick bread to enhance the meal. I am sort of making this up as I go along but there will be food and fellowship and fun so what can go wrong!?! Plan to be part of this community experience in the lovely Knox kitchen and lounge on the second Sunday of the month beginning **January 14, 2024 / 5-7:30pm**.

INCLUSIVE CHRISTIANS: 'Around the Table' dates for next term January 31/March 13/March 27. Please let Laura know if you can help with meals.



ENSEMBLE LAUDE



VISIONS

Visions, our winter concert, presents beloved works from some of the world's most celebrated choral composers. Muusika and Kodutee by Part Uusberg, Falcon Carol by Stephen Chatman, and Only in Sleep by Erik Esenvalds pair with Antonio Lotti's Kyrie, the dynamic Pakkanen by Soila Sariola, and Kothbiro, arranged for Ensemble Laude by BC composer Allison Girvan. Also featured are traditional Georgian and Gregorian chants, that set the air shimmering with sound.

DEC. 09
2:00 PM

ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
924 DOUGLAS STREET

TICKETS: \$25 / \$30 door / \$15 student / under 13 free
WEBSITE: www.ensemblelaude.org
EMAIL: info@ensemblelaude.org

DECEMBER

14

12:00PM

ADMISSION
BY
DONATION

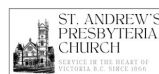
THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

WITH CAROL SINGING!

Featuring organ, trumpet, oboe, cello,
and guitar music! Muffins, coffee, & hot
chocolate available for everyone!

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
924 DOUGLAS STREET
ACCESSIBILITY ENTRANCE ON BROUGHTON
FREE PARKING AT LIBRARY PARKADE

CONTACT FOR MORE INFO
250-384-5734
OFFICE@STANDREWSVICTORIA.CA



ST. ANDREW'S CALENDAR

OPEN CHURCH WED. AT 1:00 PM

MEDITATION HOUR WED. AT 4:30 PM

WORSHIP SERVICE SUN. AT 10:30 AM

ADVENT SING & STUDY AT KNOX CHURCH	December 11 & 18 Mondays 1:00 - 2:30 pm	You don't have to be a great singer to enjoy the music of the season. Please let KNOX CHURCH know the songs you would like to explore and plan to attend this fun afternoon gathering with folks from Knox, Trinity and St. Andrew's.
VISIONS	December 9 Saturday 2:00 pm	Presented by Ensemble Laude. Tickets \$25,\$30 door, \$15 students, under 13 free. For more information and tickets go to https://ensemblelaude.org
THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC & CAROL SINGING	December 14 Thursday 12:00pm	Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach and The Victoria Foundation. Light refreshment for everyone. Free admission, donations accepted. Everyone welcome!
GOTHIC VOICES	December 16 Saturday 7:30 pm	A medieval Christmas celebration presented by The Early Music Society of the Islands. For more information and tickets go to www.earlymusicsocietyoftheislands.ca .
CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT KNOX	December 21 Thursday 7:00 pm	Join A Balm in Gilead Band for seasonal story and songs. Refreshment and conversation to follow. Entrance by donation in support of the PWS&D.
ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE	December 24 Sunday 10:30 am	No coffee hour after service.
A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES	December 24 Sunday 2:30 pm	'A Child's Christmas in Wales' is a warm and nostalgic Vox Humana Christmas tradition. More info and tickets available at www.voxhumanachoir.ca .
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	December 24 Sunday 7:00 pm	No coffee hour after service.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church acknowledges and thanks the ləkʷəŋən People – WSÁNEĆ, Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations – on whose traditional land we meet and worship.