**St. Andrews United**

**Church**



**60 West Avenue, St. Thomas 519- 631-4558**

**e-mail:** [**standrewsucgra@rogers.com**](mailto:standrewsucgra@rogers.com)

**Website:** [**www.standrewsunitedchurch.com**](http://www.standrewsunitedchurch.com/)

**Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s**

**Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/**

**Merna Edison/Thomas Bee**

**December 24th, 2023 Advent 4**

**Christmas Eve Day - A Service of Song and Story**

**Prelude**

**Gathering Hymn - O Come All Ye Faithful - 60 VU**

**Declaration of Good News**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

One:Arise and celebrate: God loves the world, a child is born.

**All: The glow of the Divine lightens our hearts like an infant stepping to love.**

One:Here we are together in a world caught between anxiety and hope, celebrating what God has done in Christ. We will never be alone. May our remembering and celebrating change how we live and open our hearts and communities, so that all can together live and share in fullness of life.

**All: Because God loves, holiness continues to break into the messiness of our lives.**

One: God-always-with-us, we thank you for your love that keeps faith with and encourages us to imagine a world where the power of love can loosen the grip on restrictive ways to embrace a new life of flourishing possibilities. Through Jesus, stir us by the light of your love so that we may return to your way of fullness of life you intend for all.

**Carol: A Candle is Burning - Verse 5**

**Introduction**

**Story: Our Journey to Bethlehem**

**Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem - 64 VU**

**Story: Jesus is Born**

**Song: Away in a Manger - 69**

**Story: The Shepherds**

**Song: While Shepherds Watched - 75**

**Story: The Angels**

**Song: Hark the Herald Angels Sing - 48**

**Story: The First Christmas**

**Song: Joy to the World - 59 VU**

**We Respond to God**

### **Offering Invitation**

**Offering Hymn - In the Bleak Mid-Winter -Verse 4**

### **Prayer**

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Sharing the Christ Light**

**Carol: Silent Night, Holy Light - 67 VU**

**Blessing and Benediction**

**Announcements**

**Upcoming**

**Dec.31-Messy Church Service-11am**



**Be sure to join us for Messy church on Dec.31st.This combined service with New Vision will feature crafts, games, puzzles etc and a meal to follow. A joyous celebration to start the new year.**

**COVID and FLU are on the rise and while it may only affect you mildly, others could have devastating complications. Please be considerate and protect each other. Consider wearing a mask, covering your cough, social distancing or staying home if you feel unwell. Always be kind.**

**Rev. Matthew & Carol Penny wish all our friends at St. Andrews ad New Vision the merriest of Christmases and the presence of the Spirit in 2024.**

*Wishing one and all a very Merry Christmas from the staff of St.Andrews United Church- Rev.Cheryl Bolton, Susan, Doug* and Belinda

* Special thanks to all our Mailbox Ministry drivers who deliver kindness all year long! Thank you so very much.