



The Presbyterian
Church of
**Saint
David**



1544 Grafton Street at Blowers, Halifax, N.S. (by Memorial Library)

Minister: Rev. Kenn Stright

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. John Pace

Organist: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson

Clerk of Session: Murray Alary

WELCOME!

Service for the Lord's Day December 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**All who are able are asked to stand.*

We bow before the mystery of **God's love**. From it came our creation. By it we are daily nurtured. Through it we find salvation. A consuming fire of purity, God's love is yet warm and gentle compassion. We respond to the God who is love by loving in return. (from Living Faith)

God Calls Us to Worship

Prelude: Ave Maria by Biebl

*The Entry of the Scriptures

*Call to Worship:

Advent 4 Liturgy: Elizabeth Cameron and William Nickerson

*Hymn: People look east **125**

Prayer of Adoration and Confession: *Let us confess our brokenness and sin to God and to one another: **God of David and Mary, we confess our impatience and lack of discipline. The pace of the holidays sweeps us along like leaves before the wind.***

We are set on what we want so that we are blind and deaf to angels.
We are not yet prepared to say with Mary, "Let it be to me according to your word."

We need moments of stillness, even in snarled traffic or noisy store, when Christ is conceived in us.

We yearn for love to find a home in us.

Forgive us for attitudes and anxieties that keep you out.

Turn our hearts and spirits toward you and each other in acts of compassion and justice, through Jesus who brings your rule among the nations. Amen.

Assurance of God's pardon

We Hear God's Word

Motet: Where Shepherds Lately Knelt by Carl Schalk

First Reading: *Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26**

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; 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 forever, 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!'"

Gloria Patri (sung)

*Hymn: What child is this? (vs. 1-2)

Conversation with the young people: **Love**

Hymn: What child is this? (v.3)	<u>161</u>
Gospel: <i>Luke 1.26-38</i>	
From the letters: <i>Romans 16: 25-27</i>	
*Hymn: The angel Gabriel from heaven	<u>156</u>
Sermon: SURPRISED BY... LOVE!	

We Respond to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings	
Anthem: Allegría by Conrad Susa	
*Doxology: <i>"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"</i>	<u>830</u>
Affirmation of Faith : The Apostles' Creed (inside back cover of the Book of Praise)	
Offertory Prayer	
Announcements:	
<i>O Lord, hear my prayer" (sung unannounced)</i>	<u>446</u>
Prayers of the People	
Lord's Prayer ("debts & debtors")	

We Go Out to Serve God

*Hymn: Lord, you were rich	<u>134</u>
*Benediction:	
<i>"Irish Blessing"</i> by L. MacLean	
May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back.	
May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields.	
And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.	
Choral Amen: (Please be seated for the Amen)	
Postlude: O Magnum Mysterium by Lauridson	

Worship is now ended let our service begin!

We welcome all who are worshipping here today! If you are here for the first time, please sign the Guest Book at the main entrance. Our Welcoming Elder this morning is Shelley MacDonald-Parsons. Our scripture reader for this morning is Anne Sommerville. Our refreshment host this morning is Anne Sommerville.

We welcome younger children to our services! St. David's is a breastfeeding friendly facility. If desired a **nursery room** is available with an audio link.

The 3 R's at Saint David's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
This is a 'scent free' zone for the comfort of all.

THIS WEEK - (December 18- December 25)		
Today	11:15 am	Sunday School
	7:00 pm	Carol Service
Wednesday	10:00 am	Wrapping Party
Thursday	7:00 pm	Longest Night service in cooperation with Calvin and Knox
Friday	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	David's Place (Hall)
Saturday	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Family service
	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight service
Sunday	11:00 am	A casual Christmas service of carols and readings and meditation. Any who would like to share a Christmas gift or a Christmas story are welcome to do so. Please come prepared!

Come one, Come all! Come celebrate the advent season with the Senior Choir of Saint David's and Friends. It's going to be an evening of Carols and Anthems from around the world. This years Lessons and Carols service will encompass music by Bob Chilcott, Rachmaninoff, Biebl, as well as some familiar carols. Everyone is welcome to join us in this evening of choral bliss and enjoy the sounds of Christmas. We welcome you to bring a friend and enjoy the Advent season with us at 7pm in the sanctuary for this evening of Lessons and Carols that is not to be missed! The evening offering will be used for the chorister program.

Capella Regalis Men and Boys Choir is performing its second annual Christmas concert on 20 December 2010, 7PM at First Baptist Church in Halifax.

Christmas Families: Hopefully all the gifts with their tags attached are now returned. If not, please confirm with Valerie Macdonald that you will be bringing the gift. **The Wrapping Party will commence at 10 a.m.** on Wednesday, December 21st. Luncheon will be provided by Michael de la Ronde. Everyone is welcome at this fun time of outreach and fellowship.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE Thursday, December 22 at 7:00 P.M. ...a service of reflection, contemplation, and comfort on the longest night of the year. Come in from the cold, light a candle, listen to the music; hear the words of comfort, and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa before venturing out into the dark night.

As a follow-up to Bible Society Sunday in October, did you know that the **Canadian Bible Society** collects used stamps and then sells them to collectors to raise money for their work. If you would like to cut them off the envelopes and pass them along, Valerie Macdonald would be happy to forward them to the CBS.

Christmas Eve Family Service, December 24th at 4 p.m.
“The Greatest Christmas Gift Ever...” come and celebrate the birth(day) of Jesus as we gather around the Christmas tree with songs and carols and gifts and surprise. This is for the young and young at heart!

Christmas Eve Candlelight service December 24th, 7:00 p.m.
“I” Witness to wonder: Come and join our choir, youth and children as we explore the personal meaning of Christmas through our songs and stories.

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to the family and friends of Brenda Wilson who died Wednesday past. The funeral will be from Snow’s (Lacewood Drive) on Tuesday, December 20, at 1 pm.

MISSION CAPSULES: MALAWI: Coordinating synod visitors
Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Linda Inglis as she helps the Blantyre Synod welcome visitors from around the world. Working with the Synod’s General Secretary and various committees, Linda helps plan programs that engage people in the Synod’s mission work. Linda sees how mission visits “help people to witness the wonderful faith and joy of Christians in Malawi and awaken them to the realities faced by everyday people in one of the world’s poorest countries.” Let us pray for Linda and the Blantyre Synod as they engage people in Christ’s mission.

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP *4th Sunday in Advent* On this International Migrants’ Day, pray for organizations and individuals working for the humane and dignified treatment of migrant workers and their families.

STEWARDSHIP The shepherds came from the fields bringing only themselves and their sheep. Yet their interest in Jesus was enough to win them a place in the Christmas story for all times. What is their stewardship message to us? Even if all we have to give is our interest, our caring, and our time to come and visit; those are important gifts to give. *Archstl.org*

PASTORAL CARE

Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact one of the following:

Kenn Stright office: 423-2660 home: 477-2870
Valerie Macdonald home: 455-1893

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David

Our Vision: *A Worshiping, Sharing, Welcoming Community*

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