

WELCOME TO...

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

Oganist: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson

Clerk of Session: Murray Alary

Service for the Lord's Day January 01, 2012

First Sunday After Christmas Day

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

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

God Calls Us to Worship

Silent preparation for worship and Prelude

Call to Worship:

Hymn: Now greet the swiftly changing year

810

Gathering Prayers: *Almighty and Eternal God, In the midst of all that is darkness and cold, in the midst of a winter's day that grabs our senses with a cold beauty, we your people, brought together because of our love of Jesus Christ, come to proclaim light in the darkness, life in the presence of death, warmth in the midst of cold and love in the*

face of hate. For it is out of darkness that you bring light out of chaos, you bring order out of despair, you continue to bring hope even to people like us.

Lord God no matter what has happened in the past, no matter what the last 52 weeks have brought, your love has reigned supreme. Your love has reigned supreme while our response has wilted and faded like the leaves on an autumn tree.

Bring us back to the hope of a winter's day, Lord God. Bring us back to the evergreen trees that stand tall and proud in the frost - signs of hope to come. Lord God, forgive us for failing to appreciate all your gifts in the cycle of your created order. Even when we think all is dead you are providing signs of life. Even when we believe all is finished you are sowing seeds for a harvest still to come. Forgive us for failing to see them.

As we stand on the threshold of a New Year allow us to grasp the picture you have for us of all that lies ahead. It is a picture full of hope, full of purpose and full of love. Forgive us for ever thinking otherwise. All this we ask in Jesus' name

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. **Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.** *When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Hymn: Standing at the portal

811

Reflection: **A Time and a Season for...**

Offering

Prayer: *Gracious God let this prayer be...*

A thanksgiving for life at the beginning of a new year

An offering of gratitude for blessings received

An awareness that throughout all the days that have gone.

You have been present, Lord God. In the darkness of the darkest night, in the loneliness of the loneliest day, in the stumbling, searching, groping of our living.

You have been present, To bring light into our darkness, to bring companionship into our solitude, to bring direction into our wanderings.

And for that act of faith in us, for that belief in us, through Jesus Christ

We offer today our thanksgiving. Lord God.

And in thanksgiving our prayers for others:

For those for whom the advent of this New Year has brought no peace or joy. For the troubled land that is Afghanistan and for our forces remaining there, for the families left behind, and the children too young to comprehend, for the fatherless and the angry; Lord God, may your peace descend slowly like a dove upon that land.

For those for whom there will be no New Year celebrations because of the continuing aftermath of natural disasters that flooded homes and swept away villages months ago. For those still scrabbling for a pittance of food to keep body and soul together. For those who found little warmth in the doorway or the dark alley. For those addicted to their habit of drink or drugs. For all victims of domestic violence at this time. For those for whom anxiety and ill-health have blighted this stage of life.

Lord in silence we lay before you now the needs of those for whom especially today we wish to pray (silence)

As we have begun the year worshipping may that spirit of harmony and togetherness typify all our relationships from this day forwards By placing you, Lord God, at the centre of our lives And by placing us at the centre of yours.

These we ask and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray saying...

Hymn: I come with joy (vs. 1-3)

530

Invitation: Here at this table Christ is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him, those who want to follow him must first be fed by him, those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time that Christ can renew us.

Christmas Day is over and a new year is dawning, when we know you will be interested in getting your homes organized. That will probably mean finding new homes for some of your older items.

The Worship and Church Life Committee is giving you a chance to do this, while at the same time helping Saint David's. On Saturday, January 21 from 10-noon, we will be hosting a new-to-you sale. We will not be trying to handle clothing, so please find another home for those items. Any other donations may be left at the church. We will need some assistance with set-up on Friday after 2:30 pm and also the day of the sale. If you are able to help out in this way or have any questions, please contact a member of the committee: Val Macdonald-455-1893, Phyllis Morrison- 429-4353, Carol Dobson-429-5885, Anne Sommerville-422-9494 or Colin MacPherson-434-1674.

It will soon be time for **undecorating!** Join us at 10 am next Saturday morning.

Worship and Church Life meets on Tuesday at 2 pm.

Our Welcoming Elder this morning is Valerie MacDonald.

This Sunday Jane and Gordon Brown will be our hosts for refreshments.

The "Out of The Cold" emergency winter shelter currently has an opening for the following position: **Overnight Staff - Contract position.** This position hours are 11pm to 6:30am, either 3 or 4 days per week (changes from week to week).

Interested persons should apply, with resume, by responding to this e-mail. Applications will be accepted until Friday January 6th.

Applicants selected for an interview will be contacted on Jan.6th and scheduled for an interview during the week of Jan.7th - 12th.

The position begins Monday, January 15th and ends Monday, April 30th 2012.

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Words of institution: To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and command rooted in the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem: are we ready to share in this sacrament? **We are ready!** Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty. **We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!** We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . ." **Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance.** In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said, **"Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."**

Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread . . . **We participate in the Body of Christ.** Through the cup of blessing . . . **We participate in the new life Christ gives.**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!** Come, for all things are ready!

Sharing the gifts of bread and wine

Hymn: I come with joy (vs. 4-5)

530

We go out with a promise: "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.'"

In work and worship

God is with us

Gathered and scattered

God is with us

Now and always

God is with us (Copyright (c) Iona

community)

Hymn: I'm gonna live so God can use me

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