



The Presbyterian Church of Saint David

1544 Grafton Street at Blowers,
Halifax, N.S. (by Memorial Library)
Minister: Rev. Kenn Stright
Organist: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson
Clerk of Session: Murray Alary



WELCOME!

We are so glad you have chosen
to worship with us this morning!

Service for the Lord's Day December 02, 2012

The first Sunday in the season of Advent

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

Our Vision

A Worshiping, Sharing, Welcoming Community

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Minister (Kenn Stright): stdavids.stright@bellaliant.com (please send
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Office: stdavids.office@ns.sympatico.ca Telephone: (902) 423-1944
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God Calls Us to Worship

Prelude: Come thou long expected Jesus

*The Entry of the Scriptures

Call to Worship: *The God of hope is with us on our Advent journey
to the stable and beyond, God is with us in our meeting and in our
travelling together, God is with us in our worship and our praying
together, God is with us on our Advent journey to the stable
and beyond, our God of hope.*

*Hymn: As the deer

27

Gathering prayer: *Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable
and a new-born King, ears attuned to the song of angels, eyes alert for
Bethlehem's star. Forgive us if on our journey if we are
distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our
hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and the promise
of a Saviour. Amen*

Advent Wreath:

The Candle of Hope

Roops

We Hear God's Word

"Open our eyes" (sung unannounced)

445

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

One: *The Word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 25:1-10 *To you, O LORD, I lift up
my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to
shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those
who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who
are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O
LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach
me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all
day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your
steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember
the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your
steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O
LORD! Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs
sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and*

teaches the humble his way. *All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.*

Gloria Patri (*sung*)

*Hymn: Hope is a star **119**

Conversation: *Looking for Signs!*

From the letters: **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

Gospel: **Luke 21:25-36**

One: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ**

*Hymn: Let us hope when hope seems hopeless **792**

Sermon: **All I want for Christmas is... HOPE**

We Respond to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

"Arching Starlight", Words and music by Canadian composer Jeff Enns in November 2012, music director at St. James Lutheran Church, Elmira, Ontario.

*Doxology: *"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"* **830**

*Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (inside back cover of the Book of Praise)

Offertory Prayer

Announcements:

"Lord, listen to your children praying" (*sung unannounced*) **449**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer ("debts & debtors")

We Go Out to Serve God

*Hymn: Come thou long-expected Jesus **110**

*Benediction:

*Choral Amen:

Postlude: Improvisation on Emmanuel

Worship is now ended let our service begin!

Each Christmas we try to think of different ways to remember our friends at **David's Place**. Items like travel size toiletries: shampoo, soap, shaving cream, razors, deodorants, combs,

Kleenex, lozenges, are always in demand and we give these out each month. Socks, gloves, hats and underwear are always welcome as well as panty hose or tights. At Christmas we all look forward to chocolate and other sweets. We set up an area where they can choose what they would like or perhaps they want to get a gift for someone close to them. The VON staff have always been very generous and their gifts have started to arrive. We'd like to invite members of the congregation to help us to make this Christmas special for our friends who come to David's Place each week.

Hosts are needed for our time of fellowship following the service. If you are available to help out with this ministry on December 9, 23, or 30th, please note this on the sign up sheet in the hall.

Mozart's comic opera, *Così fan Tutti* is being performed this afternoon at the Lilian Piercey Concert Hall, 6199 Chebucto Road, at 2:00 p.m.

The Choir of St. John's United Church is presenting "**A Dicken's Christmas**" on Thursday, Dec. 6 - 7p.m.

Nova Voce with the Halifax Boys Honours Choir: on Friday December 7 at St. Benedict Parish Church, 45 Radcliffe Drive, Halifax starting at 7:30.

Jubilate Singers: on Sunday December 9 at St. Mark's Church, Gottingen Street and Russell Street, Halifax, starting at 7:00

Halifax Camerata Singers present a family concert of Christmas music and the reading of *A Child's Christmas in Wales* on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 4:30 pm at First Baptist Church, 1300 Oxford St., Halifax. CBC Radio personality John Hancock and Maritime Brass Quintet are guest artists.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY SERIES STARTS TODAY

Let's mix bible study with an exploration of the Young Adults in Mission Workcamp in Trinidad this past summer!

You will get to study four amazing topics while learning about this mission effort that has 13 denominations work together in the Caribbean and North America. Six more topics await you in Lent! You may want to bring a light lunch to nibble on!

Study 1 Psalm 150 Glorify and Enjoy!

Study 2 David – the Singer and the Song

Study 3 What Instrument do you play?

Study 4 Can you sing? What gifts have you been given?

THIS WEEK - (December 2 – December 9)

Today 9:00 am Early service with communion:
10:00 am Circle of Prayer
11:00 am Traditional service. Sunday School at 11:15
12:30 Bible study

Tuesday&Thursday 9:30-10:30 am Fitness Classes

Thursday 7:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday 10:00 am 1:00 pm David's Place (Hall)

Saturday 10:00 am Decorate the Sanctuary

Sunday 9:00 am Early service with communion:

10:00 am Circle of Prayer

11:00 am Traditional Service- Food Bank Sunday

12:30 pm Advent Bible Study in the Parlour

7:30 pm Tupper Band Christmas Concert

Jeremiah 33:14-16 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Luke 21:25-36 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

**Advent at the
Presbyterian Church of Saint David**

Advent I Sunday Dec. 2 at 9 and 11 a.m.

Decorating Party Dec. 8 at 10 am

Advent II Sunday Dec. 9 at 9 and 11 a.m. The Tupper Band will present its annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m.

Advent III Sunday Dec. 16 at 9 and 11 a.m. Communion at both services White Gift Sunday

December 17 The choir will present its service of Lessons and Carols 7 pm

Advent IV Sunday Dec. 23 at 9 and 11 a.m.

Longest Night service December 21 at Calvin, 7 pm

Monday Dec. 24 Christmas Family Service at 4 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

Advent Bible Study every Sunday at 12:30 throughout Advent

A Time Called ... ADVENT

When children say, "I can't wait for Christmas," they convey what it means to live in Advent. With joy they are waiting for an event that is good, that has been promised, and is now hidden from sight. Children do manage to wait. One way they do this is by sharing in the many preparations for Christmas. Waiting and preparing are the themes of Advent for adults as well. But when did Advent begin? And what can it mean in your life?

Historical Roots of Advent

The *calendar year* may begin on January 1, but for Christians the Christian year begins with Advent – four weeks before Christmas. Advent is the beginning of a cycle of time that celebrates the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

The church has observed an Advent season for over 15 centuries. It may originally have been a time of instruction for people who were preparing to be baptized on January 6, on Epiphany. History reveals Advent traditions of varying lengths, but our waiting time is now the four Sundays before Christmas.

Finding Meaning in the Tradition

Advent is the time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We recall those who waited and prepared for a promised Christ child: the prophet Isaiah, Mary, his mother, and John the Baptist. We also think about God's promises that are yet to be revealed under the reign of Christ, in "the age to come" or "the day of the Lord." Advent is oriented in both the past and the future. As we get ready for the birth of Jesus and for the promise that Christ will come again, we use gifts of spiritual preparation: worship, prayer, singing, Bible study, fellowship (Christmas parties!), and service to others.

Questions for Personal Meditation

- ☐ What am I waiting for?
- ☐ Who am I waiting for?
- ☐ How am I preparing?
- ☐ What gives me joy in this season? What might I discover from that?



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



MISSION MOMENTS: Turning the Tide Together:

World AIDS Day The Presbyterian Church in Canada, through Presbyterian World Service & Development, continues to support HIV and AIDS programs to help people work against stigma and discrimination, teach and equip people to prevent the spread, and provide home based care and medications to help people living with the disease cope. PWS&D works with partners to prevent the transmission between mother and child, provide counselling and testing, and support and care for orphans and vulnerable children. Take the lead. You can inspire others to learn more and help fight AIDS. Raise funds for PWS&D's AIDS programs. Together we can turn the tide.

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP Pray for the Rev. John Vissers, Moderator of the 138th General Assembly, as he visits congregations and ministries in southern Manitoba this week.

STEWARDSHIP Those who trust in their riches will wither, but the righteous will flourish like green leaves. *Proverbs 11:28*

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.**

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 Greeter this morning is Colin MacPherson. Our scripture reader for this morning is Colin Roop. Refreshment hosts are Val and Rod MacDonald.