



The Presbyterian Church of Saint David

544 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 23, 2012
The fourth 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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The mission of love should remind you, all souls need divine will to grow
One's care for the other shows clear, that love is full reason we're here.

David MacEachern

God Calls Us to Worship

Prelude:

*The Entry of the Scriptures

Call to Worship: *The God of love 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 love.*

*Hymn: Of eternal love begotten

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Gathering prayer: *This is Advent, season of promise. In our worship we prepare for the birth of a baby in a dusty stable in Bethlehem, and remind ourselves that this child will become the Prince of Peace who will return again in power and glory to draw us together with songs of everlasting praise.*

God of peace and promise, be with us throughout this Advent season and draw us ever closer as we journey together toward the stable and the birth of your Son, our Saviour. Amen

Advent Wreath: The Candle of LOVE Lisa Glennie & family

We Hear God's Word

"To God in the highest" (sung unannounced)

59

First Reading: **Micah 5:2-5a**

One: *The Word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 80:1-7 *Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Gloria Patri (sung)

*Hymn: Away in a manger 149

Conversation: *I LOVE you*

From the letters: **Hebrews 10: 5-10**

Gospel: **Luke 1:39-55**

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

*Hymn: My soul gives glory to my God 123

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

We Respond to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem:

*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: Go tell it on the mountain 133

*Benediction:

*Choral Amen:

Postlude:

Worship is now ended let our service begin!

THIS WEEK - (December 23 – December 30)

Today 9:00 am Early service with communion:

10:00 am Circle of Prayer

11:00 am Traditional service.

**Christmas Eve 4 pm Family Service and
7 pm Candlelight service**

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

Sunday 9:00 am Early service with communion:

11:00 am Traditional service

Micah 5:2-5a But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Hebrews 10:5-10 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1:39-45, 46-55 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from

generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."



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: Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support The Rev. Dr. Todd Statham, his wife Annika and their children, Sophia, Mio and Aliko Beatrice in Malawi. Todd serves the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) as a lecturer at Zomba Theological College. As he negotiates and tries to bridge the considerable cultural differences between himself and his students, he welcomes the challenges and opportunities he faces in his ministry in Malawi. He shares, "Christianity here is exploding numerically. It is exuberant, energetic, colourful and chaotic – and my students reflect all this newness, wonder, passion and excess in their questions, comments and class discussion." Pray for Todd as he helps the CCAP to equip these future ministers, so that they can serve people who are hungry for the gospel.

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP Pray that the celebration of the birth of Jesus will bring joy, love and a renewed vision of justice for all people around the world.

STEWARDSHIP A society can be judged by the way it treats its most disadvantaged, its least beloved, its mad. As things now stand, we must be judged a poor lot, and it is time to mend our ways.

Lewis Thomas, physician and poet

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 Johannah Roberts. Our scripture reader for this morning is Lisa Glennie. Refreshment Host is Anne Sommerville