

*The Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David*



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

**WELCOME!**

*We are so glad you have chosen to worship  
with us today*

Service for the Lord's Day, December 22, 2013  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Our Vision**

*A Worshiping, Sharing, Welcoming Community*

Office & Mailing Address: 1537 Brunswick St., Halifax, NS B3J 2G1  
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**God Calls Us to Worship**

Prelude: Wexford Carol by Rutter

\*The Entry of the Scriptures

Call to worship:

\*Hymn: Come, know my Joy 788

Announcements:

Gathering Prayer:

Advent wreath: *The candle of JOY  
Ainsley Miller Hilliard*



**We Hear God's Word**

First reading: **Isaiah 35: 1-10**

Responsive lesson: **Psalm 146:5-10** *Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Sovereign their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. God sets the prisoners free; God opens the eyes of those who cannot see. God lifts up those who are bowed down; God loves the righteous. God watches over the strangers; and upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin. The Sovereign will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise be to God! Gloria Patri (sung)*

\*Hymn: What child is this? 161

A time with the young people: Celebrating White Gifts

Gospel: **Matthew 11:2-11**  
*One: The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, O Christ*  
\*Hymn: Good Christians all rejoice **141**  
Sermon: **Rejoice with Joy and Singing**

### We Respond to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings  
Anthem: Away in a Manger by Reginald Jacques  
featuring Kathryn Kempster-Harper  
Offertory Prayer  
Communion Hymn: *I come with Joy* **530**  
Invitation  
Communion Prayer (sung responses to the prayer are: 147  
chorus only, 812, 123 verse 1) Prayer concludes...  
*Together, around the table, we pray:*  
**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**  
**Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all  
of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be  
opened, that we might recognize the Spirit rising in our  
midst indeed, in one another. Come, Holy Spirit, come.**  
(Followed by sung Lord's Prayer)  
Celebration of the Sacrament  
Prayer following Communion

### We Go Out to Serve God

\*Hymn: Joy to the World **153**  
\*Benediction and Choral Amen:  
Postlude: O Come All Ye Faithful by Halley

**Worship is now ended let our service begin!**

**Thank you to all the early birds** who came to breakfast and explored the plans for the renovation of the Sanctuary!

**SINGING THE LORD'S SONG** a study of the book of Psalms last meeting until Lent. **Pick up your refreshments and join us in the minister's study.**

**Christmas Families Wrapping Party- thank you to all who participated this year in any way and a special thank-you' to Amy and Paula Minnikin who spearheaded the appeal this year (once again!)**

**TONIGHT, 7pm** The Choir of Saint David's presents: "No Small Wonder: an evening of Lessons and Carols." with music by Howells, Rutter, Chilcott, Cleobury and more. The free will offering will be donated to the church music fund. The choir spent 5 hours on Saturday practicing so please come out and support them!!

Tuesday at 4 pm - **WALKING THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM** - join us on the road to Bethlehem as children and youth of the congregation take us to the manger and the place of Jesus' birth. This is a 'Family-friendly' service of readings and carols and more!

Tuesday at 7 pm **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - THE JOURNEY** - join us for a celebration of the season that takes us to the journey's end - to Bethlehem

St. David's is conducting a **Clothing Drive** for the Halifax Refugee Clinic clothing store (Section 96 on Grafton St.) Please drop off good used winter clothing (men's and women's outside clothing such as jackets, coats, hats, scarfs and gloves/mitts) until January 11 at the church office.

Ken & Gloria Mader will celebrate the anniversary of their wedding, which took place here at St David's 60 years ago on December 30<sup>th</sup>, with an 'AT HOME' in the Church Hall 4-7pm on Monday December 30. They invite all who wish to join in their celebration to let them know before December 20 by email to kenmader@eastlink.ca, phone to 902-423-2134 or by post to 1874 Seldon St Halifax, B3H 3X4."

Flowers in the sanctuary this morning:

City of Halifax - Major Savage

John and Carolyn Finley in memory of John's mother  
Gretchen Finley

There will be no Sunday School next Sunday.

THIS WEEK - ( December 22-29 )		
<b>Today</b>	9:00 am	Early service
	11:00 am	Communion service - Sunday School White Gift
	7:00 pm	Lessons and Carols service
<b>Tuesday</b>	4:00 pm	Family Christmas Eve Service
	7:00 pm	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight service</b>
<b>Friday</b>	10:00 am -	1:00 pm David's Place (Hall).
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am -	Early service with communion
	10:00 am -	Circle of Prayer
	11:00 am	Traditional service - our last service of 2013!

**Isaiah 35:1-10** The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,

and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Matthew 11:2-11** When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."



**Minister:** Kenn Stright (o) 423-2660  
**Organist:** Tristan Cleveland-Thompson  
**Clerk of Session:** Murray Alary  
**Pastoral Care:** Val Macdonald (h)455-1893

### **Rewarding Initiative in Mozambique**

Asuncion grew up in a community abundant with cattle before moving to Nacala ten years ago. After realizing there was no butchery in her new town, she decided to open her own business and has become a very successful entrepreneur. With support from Presbyterian World Service & Development and partner COCAMO – an organization that supports community development through grassroots micro-enterprise in Mozambique – Asuncion joined a savings group and received a small loan, which she used to purchase a single cow. With subsequent loans she expanded her business by investing in a refrigerator and a portable barbecue. "I believe that any hard working woman with initiative could get a lot from these services," affirms Asuncion.

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP** Pray for those who will receive from our White Gift service today!

**STEWARDSHIP** Stewardship is the act of organizing your life so that God can spend you. *Lynn A. Miller*

**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 welcoming elder is Colin MacPherson. Our scripture reader is Mac Fyfe. Our refreshment host are Susan and Joseph Lappin.