



1544 Grafton Street at Blowers, Halifax, (by Memorial Library)  
**Minister:** 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**  
**Lent 2 - March 16, 2014**

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

### Our Vision

*A Worshiping, Sharing, Welcoming Community*

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**Lent** is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!  
 Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think, for thoughts come unbidden.  
 Perhaps we're afraid to face our future knowing our past.  
**Give us courage, O God, to hear your Word and to read our living into it.**  
**Give us the trust to know we're forgiven and give us the faith to take up our lives and walk.**

Anne Weems in 'Kneeling in Jerusalem'

### God Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

\*The Entry of the Scriptures

Call to Worship: *From where will help come in times of trouble?*

**Our help comes from God, who created the heavens and the earth. God will not let us stumble or fall; the one who watches over us never tires and never sleeps. It is God who watches over us, whose protective presence stands beside us. Neither the bright light of the sun, nor the dim light of the moon will harm us.**

**Lenten Liturgy:**

**Shelley**

\*Hymn: I to the hills will lift my eyes **82**  
 Confession: *God of Israel and God of Jesus Christ, we would not be here if you had not chosen to touch our lives with your love. We cannot hide our wonder that you should choose to enter our world and our lives in person - in Jesus. We confess that we sometimes have trouble in our decision-making when faced with questions of whether we wholeheartedly serve you or not. Forgive us when the choices we make reflect not your glory but our own selfishness. Forgive us when the choices we make revolve around judging or condemning others without first listening to their stories. Forgive us when the choices we make contribute to our own prosperity and wellbeing while ignoring the needs of others. Forgive us when the choices we make diminish our awareness of you, O God, in the midst of those who suffer. Gracious and loving God, strengthen us where we are weak with the renewing power of your Spirit so that the choices we make clearly reveal our identity as your faithful people, and as sincere and devoted followers of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord - in whose name we pray. Amen.*

*Assurance of Pardon: Out of love for the world, God chose to share our humanity in the person of Jesus Christ, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are accepted, we are loved, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!*

### We Hear God's Word

"Open our eyes"

(sung unannounced)

**445**

First Reading:

**Genesis 12: 1-4a**

*One: The Word of the Lord.*                    **All: Thanks be to God.**  
 Responsive Psalm: **Psalm 121** *I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.*                    Gloria Patri (*sung*)

\*Hymn: One more step along the world I go                    **641**

Conversation with the children: The hungry caterpillar

From the letters: **Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

Gospel: **John 3: 1-17**

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

\*Hymn: Brother, sister, let me serve you                    **635**

Sermon: **From where will my help come?**

### We Respond to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem: "At the River"                    by Aaron Copland

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

Confession of Faith (Apostles' Creed)

Offertory Prayer

Announcements:

Prayers of the People:

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

### We Go Out to Serve God

\*Hymn: For all the love                    **440**

\* Commissioning:

\*Choral Amen:

Postlude:

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

<b>THIS WEEK - (March 16-23)</b>		
<b>Today</b>	9:00 am	Early service
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer
	11:00 am	Traditional service and Sunday School
	<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Lenten Study in the minister's study</b>
Tuesday&Thursday	9:30 am	Exercise class
Thursday	7:30pm	Choir Practice
Friday	10-12 noon	David's Place - Friday Drop-In
Sunday	9:00 am	Early service
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer
	11:00 am	Traditional service and Sunday School
	<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Lenten Study in the minister's study</b>

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **David Rose** who died this past week. Dave was a regular at David's Place and attended worship here on occasion. Many will miss him.

**You are** invited to participate in a six-week study program after church exploring basic Christian beliefs entitled, "**Beginnings: An Introduction to Christian Faith.**" The conversation is generated around a series of videos. This week explores who Jesus is for us. (John 4). Feel free to join us for any or all the series!

Once again Saint David's is being asked to support the snack program at **Phoenix House**. This is a once a year contribution that goes towards healthy snacks for the youth who use Phoenix's facilities. We have been asked to provide \$175 and anyone who wishes to contribute is asked to give their donations to Carol Dobson or Anne Sommerville (income tax receipts will be issued). Thank you for supporting this worthwhile endeavour.

**Too much of everything at Christmas? Give it all up for Lent!** David's Place can use your excess personal items. Also we **would** like to fill up the freezer with a supply of meals, so that we are able to plan a bit ahead. This month we are asking folks to provide a pot

of soup. These could be dropped off ready to freeze on Friday, next Sunday, or anytime through the month.

### **FISH CHOWDER LUNCHEONS STARTING MARCH 26**

– Set aside 4 weeks for the chowder luncheons! If you can participate any Tuesdays morning with preparation of ingredients and any Wednesday please contact Colin MacPherson (434 1674) or Don Knox (422 2067). Also gingerbread makers will be called by Dorothy Jackson.

### **AMS PLANNING MEETING . WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19. IONA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH , 1:30.**

You are invited to help plan the AMS Annual Meeting hosted by the Halifax Lunenburg Presbyterial, in September. Bring your ideas to Iona Presbyterian Church, Wednesday, March 19 at 1:30pm.

### **Values and Vision: Is Doctor Assisted Suicide a Right?**

A public forum on end of life issues, will be held at St. Andrew's United Church on Friday March 21st at 7pm. Wanda Morris, Executive Director of Dying with Dignity Canada will be joined by academics, advocates and religious leaders (representing a variety of points of view) for a panel discussion. We invite your input: potential questions for the panelists can be emailed in advance to [saintandrews@eastlink.ca](mailto:saintandrews@eastlink.ca)

**Presbyterian Record Subscriptions:** For 2014, Saint David's has paid \$2,269 for 86 subscriptions. If you have already paid, thank you. If you are receiving the Record through Saint David's, and have not yet paid, the price is \$26.39, payable to Saint David's. See the last Newsletter, page 3, for how you should pay.

**House Party, Saturday March 22, at 8:00 PM** St. Andrew's United invites you to the first party of 2014: NAME THE BAND NIGHT! Your musical host, Bill Stevenson, will be joined by a great collection of musicians, young and old, making up the 'Mystery Band.' General tickets are \$20.00, student over 19, \$10.00. Call 425-0339 to reserve for this special evening.

**L'Arche Halifax's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show and Sale** will take place this year in the St. Agnes Church Auditorium, 6903 Mumford Road on Saturday, March 29th from 10:00am to 6:00pm and Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am to 3:00pm.

**Genesis 12:1-4a** Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran

**Romans 4:1-5, 13-17** What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**John 3: 1-17** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God;

for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."



## 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: Sharing and Caring in Malawi

Through PWS&D's "Building Sustainable Livelihoods" program, groups of women are being supported as they form self-help groups. Although they are often the poorest in their communities, they are learning to save and lend generously amongst themselves in order to build better futures. Prior to joining her self-help group, Mary Jere cut grass and sold thatch for income. She often struggled to afford enough food to feed her family. Today, Mary's main source of income comes from the group. Two small loans totaling about \$30 allowed her to grow vegetables and buy fertilizer. She has used the profits to build her family a new brick house and help others in her community as well.

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP** *Pray for those who receive and count the Sunday offering—that they will be blessed in this important task.*

**STEWARDSHIP** Take care of yourself — you never know when the world will need you. *Rabbi Hillel*

**We welcome** younger children to our services! St. David's is a



Breastfeed.

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 Murray Alary. Our scripture reader for this morning is Shelley MacDonald-Parsons. Refreshment Hosts Claudia Saoud.