

The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

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 4 - March 30, 2014

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

Our Vision

A Worshiping, Sharing, Welcoming Community

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I want to be more but I fight the growing. I want to be new but I hang on to the old. I want to live but I won't face the dying. I want to be whole but cannot bear to gather up the pieces into one. Now is the time. You call to me, begging me to let you have my life, inviting me to taste the darkness so I can be filled with the light, allowing me to lose my direction so that I will find my way home to you.

Joyce Rupp

God Calls Us to Worship

Prelude: *Climat* by Alain

*The Entry of the Scriptures

Call to Worship:

Lenten Liturgy:

Hymn The Lord's my Shepherd 11

Confession: *Holy Jesus, we confess that we fail to question our own sightlessness. Being so sure that we "see," we miss the truths you would teach us. With the poultice of your love, cure this blindness.*

Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings, our own failures and our own faults. Make our "shadow side" known to us and help us to diminish it with the light of your grace. For it is only when we see ourselves clearly that we can worship you truly.

Assurance of Pardon:

We Hear God's Word

"Open our eyes" (*sung unannounced*) 445

First Reading: **1 Samuel 16: 1-13**

One: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm: **Psalm 23** *God is my shepherd, I shall not want. God makes me lie down in green pastures, and leads me beside still waters; God restores my soul and leads me in right paths for the sake of God's name. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long.*

Gloria Patri (*sung*)

*Hymn: Open my eyes 500

Conversation with the children:

From the letters: **Ephesians 5: 8-14**

Gospel: **John 9:1-41**


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

*Hymn: Precious Lord take my hand 675

Sermon: **WE are not blind, are we?**

We Respond to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem  Christ Whose Glories Fill The Skies by Daley

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

Confession of Faith (Apostles' Creed)

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: Revive your work **284**

*Commissioning:

*Choral Amen:

Postlude: Nimrod by Elgar :

Worship is now ended let our service begin!

THIS WEEK - (March 23-30)		
Today	9:00 am	Early service
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer
	11:00 am	Traditional service and Sunday School
	12:15 pm	Lenten Study in the minister's study
Tuesday&Thursday	9:30 am	Exercise class
Wednesday Noon		Fish Chowder luncheon
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	Anniversary Sunday and Sunday School
	12:15 pm	Lenten Study in the minister's study

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. Feel free to join us for any or all the series!

Chowder, Chowder, chowder everywhere! With the Wednesday storm, there is chowder in abundance available at the kitchen window!

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).

FISH 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 (423-2067). Also gingerbread makers will be called by Dorothy Jackson. **Come and eat - Wednesday from noon to 1:30.**

Anniversary Sunday is quickly approaching! Please make every effort to attend on April 6th as we explore the Methodist heritage which continues to influence the sanctuary and the form of worship we use here at St. David's. Barry Cahill our Archivist and historian will make a presentation on the Methodism influence.

The Helen M. Watson Fund of the Presbyterian Church of Saint David: Applications for financial assistance from the Helen M. Watson Fund will be received prior to April 30, 2014. The Helen M. Watson Fund of The Presbyterian Church of Saint David produces income to be used "exclusively for local missionary work in Nova Scotia". If you have any questions, please contact Mac Fyfe (902) 425-3844, Mac Mackay- (902) 422-5481 or Johannah Roberts (902) 457-2836. Application Form and Guidelines Document, may be obtained from the Church Office (902) 423-1944, by E-Mail stdavids.office@ns.sympatico.ca or from the Web site, after April 1, 2014.

1 Samuel 16:1-13 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And

the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Ephesians 5:8-14 For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

John 9:1-41 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."



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: CY2014

From July 7-12, 2014, Brock University will be alive with energy as Presbyterians from across Canada come together for Canada Youth 2014. The week of worship, workshops, recreation and faith-filled connections will change lives as people grow in their relationship with one another and with God. Participants return home affirmed and strengthened in their faith, equipped with tools to connect in deeper ways to their congregations. Larissa McCormick from Victoria, British Columbia shares: "Saying Canada Youth affected the way I view my faith would be far too much of an understatement. It has completely transformed the way I perceive my future, friends and relationship with God." Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* make Canada Youth possible. Please pray for our young people as they gather for this life-changing event. Registration deadline is June 1, 2014.

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP *Pray for the Canada Youth International Visitor program as final preparations are made to host young people from around the world this June. They will be spending time in Halifax!*

STEWARDSHIP The good leave an inheritance to their children's children but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous. *Pr. 13:22*

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 Mac MacKay. Refreshment Hosts: David and Nancy Tindall.