Presbyterian Church of

Saint

Mariel





1544 Grafton Street at Blowers, Halifax, Nova Scotia 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!

May 03, 2015

*All who are able are asked to stand

Our Vision:

A Worshipping-Sharing-Welcoming Community

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God Calls Us to Worship

Prelude:

*The Entry of the Scriptures

Call to Worship: God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us! As God lives in us we can live,

work, care for others letting love, hope and joy touch all people through Jesus Christ.

The God of Abram praise Hymn: 331 Confession: Loving and merciful God, we thank you for the community in which you have placed us, for the brothers and sisters with whom we walk this journey of faith. Yet, we confess that we fail to love as you love. We push aside those whom we believe are the least in your coming reign. We fail to see your love in the stories of Jesus because we fail to see your love in each other. Form in us a new vision of community in which your great commandment of love is our only rule. We pray for the sake of your coming reign that both is and is not yet. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: In Christ Jesus we are a radically renewed community. Thanks be to God! Old things are done away with, all things become new. Thanks be to God! We are both recipients and agents of grace and reconciliation. Thanks be to God! With every step or stumble, Christ will be with us. Thanks be to God now and forever!

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Acts 8: 26-40 One: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God. Responsive Reading: Psalm 22:25-31 4 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. 4 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ★ For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. \maltese To him. indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. ★ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, \(\mathbb{A} \) and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it. (Gloria Patri) Jesus loves me 373

Conversation with the young people: Daisy

Sunday school leaves for classes

From the letters: 1 John 4: 7-21 Gospel: Iohn 15:1-8

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ Hymn: Come let us sing of a wonderful love 706 All you really need... Sermon: Response to the Message: Ubi Charitas 501 We Respond to God's Word Presentation of Tithes and Offerings Anthem: *Doxology: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow" **830** Offertory Prayer Announcements: "Lord, listen to your children praying" 449

We Go Out to Serve God

*Hymn: O Love that will not let me go... 209 *Benediction and *Choral Amen Postlude:

Worship is now ended let our service begin!

Prayers of the People:

St. John's United Church, Halifax, is hosting a "Dinner By Candlelight" on Saturday, May 9th – 6 p.m., in the hall at Faith Tabernacle, corner of Windsor and Summit. The menu will include Caesar salad, stuffed pork loin, roasted root vegetables and rice, with apple pie, tea and coffee. Silent auction. \$25/person. For information contact Gerry MacCreadie 902-876-7301

Vox: a choir for social change, and the Don't Be Afraid campaign will be hosting 'Ukuthula' on May 10th at St. Matthew's United Church in Halifax, NS. They will present two performances at 2:30pm and 7:00pm. Admission is by donation

Each year we take time to honour our graduates at the June Communion service. If you have a family member who is graduating from high school, university, college, or another program please let Kenn or Valerie know.

THIS WEEK - (May 3- May 10) Today Sunday School: 11:15 am. Refreshments following the service. Tuesday 2:00 pm WCL Thursday 7:30 pm Choir Practice Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm David's Place Sunday 9:00 am Early service with communion: 10:00 am Circle of Prayer. 11:00 am Traditional service

Acts 8:26-40 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to lerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. 1 John 4:7-21 Beloved, let us love

one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us. and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you

bear much fruit and become my disciples.





Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact one of the following:
Kenn Stright office: 423-2660
Valerie Macdonald home: 455-1893

MISSION CAPSULES: Partnering with Chinese educators Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* send Canadian Presbyterians to help rural Chinese middle school English teachers develop their listening and speaking skills. Last August, a team of four representatives from Knox, Waterloo spent a month in Weifang, China with the Amity Foundation's summer English program. Both the Knox team and the Chinese students learned from the experience. Athena, a grade one teacher in rural China, shares, "Learning about the traditions and beliefs of Canadians and comparing them to Chinese practices has shown that we are all similar; we all have the same goal, to share our love of language and to help our students be the best they can be. Janice Harper adds, "My own approach to teaching has even changed as a result of our experiences, and that is after being a teacher for 32 years!"

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP Pray for the commissioners and staff on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as they prepare for the Commission's closing event in Ottawa at the beginning of June. Kenn will be one of the representatives.

STEWARDSHIP And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

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 this morning is Johannah Roberts. Our reader for this morning is Kathy Large. Our refreshment host today is Jackie and Sara Kinley

Thank you to all those who attended the public hearing on Tuesday. There is now a 30 day period for any to respond.