



# The Presbyterian Church of Saint David

1544 Grafton Street at Blowers, Halifax,  
Minister: Rev. Kenn Stright  
Organist: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson

## WELCOME!

*No matter who you are, or where you  
are on life's journey, you're welcome in  
this Service for the Lord's Day.*

December 13, 2015  
The Third 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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### God Calls Us to Worship

Prelude: Silent Night by Chilcott  
\*The Entry of the Scriptures

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

\*Hymn: Joyful, Joyful we adore you 410  
Advent Wreath: The Candle of JOY The Glennies

### We Hear God's Word

First Reading: **Zephaniah 3:14-20**  
*One: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.*  
Responsive Reading: **Isaiah 12:2-6** *Surely God is my salvation; I will  
trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my  
might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give  
thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the  
nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD,  
for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.  
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the  
Holy One of Israel. (Good Christians all rejoice – 141 vs.2)*  
Prayer: *O God, you broke down the barriers when you crept in beside us. In  
Jesus, your hands touched all, and touched us. You opened our eyes to see how  
the hands of the rich were empty, and the hearts of the poor were full. You  
took the widow's mite and the child's loaves and used them to show us the  
Kingdom. Here in the company of the neighbour whom we  
know and the stranger in our midst, and the self from whom  
we turn, we ask to love as Jesus loved. Make this the place and  
time, good Lord, when heaven and earth become one, and we in word and  
flesh know ourselves beloved. Amen*

\*Hymn: Rejoice in the Lord always 421  
Conversation: *Do YOU have a Happy Light?*  
From the letters: **Philippians 4:4-7**  
Gospel: **Luke 3: 7-18**  
*One: The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, O Christ*  
\*Hymn: On Jordan's Banks 126  
Sermon: **What does JOY look like?**

## We Respond to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthems  The Holly and the Ivy by Owens

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

Offertory Prayer

Announcements

Invitation: *We thank God for bringing us to Bethlehem, House of Bread, where the empty are filled, and the filled are emptied; where the poor find riches, and the rich recognize their poverty; where all who kneel and hold out their hands are lovingly fed.*

\*Communion Hymn: "I Come with Joy" **530**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebration of the Sacrament

Prayer following Communion

## We Go Out to Serve God

\*Hymn: Joy to the world **153**

\*Benediction:

\* May the God of Hope go with us **726**

Postlude: Agnus Dei by P Halley

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

**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 Greeters this morning are Don Knox and Valerie Macdonald Our scripture reader for this morning is Nancy Tindall. Refreshment host is Vanora Haldane.

The choir of the Presbyterian Church of Saint David will present a **service of Lessons and Carols** at 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Saint David's Organist and Music Director Tristan Cleveland-Thompson has assembled a group of extremely talented choristers for this annual celebration. A freewill offering will be taken to be directed toward Refugee sponsorship and support.

## **THIS WEEK - (December 13 – December 20)**

<b>Today</b>	11:00 am	Christmas Communion service. Food Bank Sunday White Gift Sunday School at 11:15
<b>Thursday</b>	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Early service with communion
December 20	10:30	Carol Sing
	11 am	Advent 4 Candle of Love
	4 pm	Choir Lessons and Carols Service
December 21	7 pm	Longest Night Service at First Baptist
December 24	4 pm	Family Service
	7 pm	Candlelight Service
December 25		David's Place
December 27	9 am	Communion
	9:45	Potluck breakfast
	11 am	Traditional service
January 01	Morning:	New Year's Levee with our David's Place guests. Come and welcome in the New Year!
January 10	11 am	Annual Covenanting Service

**Zephaniah 3:14-20** Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

**Philippians 4:4-7** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Luke 3:7-18** John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**St. John's United** Church Choir and Handbell Ringers present "O Holy Night" on Sunday, Dec. 20 – 7p.m. in the Lilian Piercy Concert Hall. Music for Advent and Christmas will be presented and a reception will follow. Admission \$10.



## PASTORAL CARE

*WE WELCOME YOU to worship morning! We are glad you are here, we invite you to worship with us regularly! If you are a visitor, or if have a prayer or pastoral concern, please contact*



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Valerie Macdonald

home: 455-1893

**MISSION MOMENTS:** This church will be our church! *Presbyterians Sharing* supports new congregations as they respond to specific needs in their communities. Lighthouse Evangelical Arabic Church is meeting the needs of Arabic speakers in Winnipeg, MB. The Bahgat family was part of a Presbyterian church in Egypt before coming to Winnipeg in 2001. The first time they attended Lighthouse church, Rev. Ibrahim Zabeneh preached about the vision of the church and God's desire for Lighthouse to reach out to the community. At the end of the service, the Bahgats approached Rev. Zabeneh, "This church will be our church. We are committed!" They had been longing for a church where they could feel at home in Winnipeg, and were thrilled to have found a welcoming place where they could worship in their own language.

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP** Pray for our mission partners all across the globe that this Christmas is a joyful time to celebrate with family and friends.

**STEWARDSHIP** If a man is proud of his wealth, he should not be praised until it is known how he employs it. Socrates



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

**The 3 R's at Saint David's** - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. **This is a 'scent free' zone for the comfort of all.**

**Check out:** <http://faithhub.net/what-does-your-joy-look-like/>