

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David

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

Minister: Rev. Kenn Stright

Organist: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson



WELCOME!

We are so glad you have chosen
to celebrate the Christmas season with us!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE 2015



WHAT DOES



CHRISTMAS LOOK LIKE?

Prelude: Improvisation on Carols

*The whole world waits in December darkness for a glimpse of the Light of God. . . .
The one who declared he never would forgive has forgiven, and those who left home have
returned, and even wars are halted, if briefly as the whole world looks starward. In the
December darkness we peer from our windows watching for an angel with rainbow
wings to announce the Hope of the World.
Ann Weems, Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Choir: Gesu Bambino by Linda Spevacek

Christmas looks like a PROMISE

*What do I want for Christmas? To see in that stable the whole world kneeling in
thanks for a promise kept: new life. For in his nativity we find ours.
(From Kneeling in Bethlehem)*

Gathering: *The deeper the darkness the brighter the light shines. Love refuses
to be extinguished by despair. Resilience and hope cannot be quenched while the
light of love burns steadily, fueled by courage and by compassion. Look for the
light and there you will find love. Loving God, help us remember the
birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the
gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the magi. Close the
door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let
kindness be the face of Christmas present with every gift and
good desires with every greeting.*

Hymn: We've a story to tell to the Nations (1&3)

765

First reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

*Come and see! The light of God has come into our world
to proclaim God's justice and love; It has overcome the
darkness and brought new life. Come and follow! Christ our
companion has redeemed our world. He draws us into a
loving family from every tribe and family and culture. Go and
tell! The Spirit has equipped us for service -To love our
neighbours as we do ourselves - To bring God's salvation to
the ends of the earth. Come and see, come and follow, go and tell!
In God's Love the nations of the earth will put their hope.*

Go tell it on the mountain (1&3) 133
Lighting of the Christ Candle The Lappins
Choir: Silent Night, Holy Night by Ruth Elaine Schram

Christmas looks like a PICTURE

What does Christmas look like?

Through the eyes of Mary

Born in the night (1&4) 137

Away in a Manger (1&3) 149

What does Christmas look like?

Through the eyes of Joseph

The hands that first held Mary's child (1&3) 158

What does Christmas look like?

Through the eyes of a shepherd

While Shepherds watched (1,3&6) 138

Prayer *In the slow wait for birth O God dream in us the possibilities the ancient prophets spoke... of light coming though the darkness, of the humbling of the powerful the lifting of the lowly... of the Word set free, alive in the world in the slow lingering of the minutes round the turning of midnight set free in us the risk of believing it all to be true that justice will come that the imprisoned will be set free that the hungry will be fed because of this birth.*

Carol: Sussex Carol arr. by Bob Chilcott

The Christmas story: Luke 2: 1-20

Message:

What does Christmas look like at St. David's?



O Little Town (1&2) 164

Offering Holy Night, Silent Night

Hark the Herald (1&3) 139

Prayer: *God's light is present in this world.*

Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.

Present in the star, in all that guides us to love. God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our failures will not overcome it. We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Sharing the Light

Angels from the realms of glory (1&2) 146

Silent Night 154

O come all ye faithful (1&5) 159

Blessing *No more do we wait for some new Messiah. Joy to the world, the Lord has come! The stars proclaim his righteousness and all peoples behold his glory.* To you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord. The joy of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Joy to the World (1,2&4) 153

Postlude: O Come All Ye Faithful by Halley

Participants: We thank everyone who participated in the service this evening. This year's Christmas quartet is comprised of St David's Choral Scholars Kate Kempster-Harper, Lisa Webb, Sarah Richardson and Ian Gilmore.

A blessed Christmas to you and yours! Our prayer is that you will find the deep peace, the amazing hope, the wonderful joy and especially the divine love that makes this day different from any other. Rev. Kenn and family

If you are making a donation and you want it to be credited for the 2015 tax year, please have your donation in to the church by 1 pm on Thursday December 31st. If no one is present at the church, drop your envelope through the letter slot on the North West Passage door. (It faces Blowers Street.) Thank you.

