



1544 Grafton Street at Blowers, Halifax, N.S.

Minister: Kenn Stright

Clerk of Session: Valerie Macdonald

Organist: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson

WELCOME!

Our Church At Worship

November 27th 2016 Advent 1

We gather on the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Mi'kmaq bind us together as we strive for reconciliation.

VISION: *The church as we see it at its best and the church as we dream it!*

A Worshipping, Sharing, Welcoming Community

This is the church we want our neighbours to see.

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GATHERING

Prelude: Emmanuel

*The Entry of the Scriptures

Call to worship: *In Advent we watch and wait, and prepare to welcome the Christ Child into the world. **Come, Lord Jesus, come!** In Advent we prepare for a life of discipleship, and watch*



*faithfully for signs of God's light breaking into the world. **Come, Lord Jesus, come!** As we wait, advent God, we watch for signs of your action in the world, Actions of compassion and grace breaking in. **Come, Lord Jesus, come!** Holy God, we recognize that we do not know the day or the hour, but we know that the day is near. **Come, Lord Jesus, come!** Be born anew in our world and in our lives.*

Advent Liturgy The candle of Hope Gwen Larsen

*Hymn: Come, thou long-expected Jesus **110**

Prayer of Confession: God, you call us to turn our lives around, and work with patience and diligence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we get discouraged and give up too soon. **Holy One, Have mercy.** God, you call us to collaborate in community to prepare the way for your Reign, but we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others. **Christ, have mercy.** God, you call us to be full of joyful confidence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear. **Holy One, have mercy.**

Assurance of Pardon: *Friends, find peace and believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

PROCLAIMING

First Reading:

Isaiah 2: 1-5

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

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem built as a city that is bound firmly together. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD. For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers." For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

*Hymn: Hope is a star 119

From the letters: **Romans 13:11-14**

Gospel: **Matthew 24:33-44**

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

*Hymn: Speak Lord in the stillness 442

Sermon: **Waiting... with HOPE**

Waiting is not a very popular attitude. . . . In fact, most people consider waiting a waste of time. Perhaps this is because the culture in which we live is basically saying, "Get going! Do something!" For many people, waiting is an awful desert between where they are and where they want to go. Henri Nouwen, Watch for the Light

RESPONDING

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings: *In response to the promise of God, let us give thanks through the presentation of our gifts and offerings.*

God of hopeful waiting, we give thanks for all of the ways in which you reveal yourself to us. Help us to clear away the many distractions of this season and offer our whole lives as gifts to you. May these offerings nurture all of the ways in which your promise is breaking into the world in acts of compassion and justice. May these gifts bring hope to the world. Amen.

Anthem: Advent Cry by Joseph Martin

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

Offertory Prayer

Announcements:

"Lord, listen to your children praying" (unannounced) 449

Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer (debts & debtors)

SENDING

*Hymn: Those who wait on the Lord 662

*Benediction: *Choral amen

Postlude: See Amid the Winter's Snow by Willcocks



**Worship is now ended let our service begin!
Newsletter deadline is December 2!**

On Dec. 16, **David's Place** is hosting a **Christmas dinner** for our guests. The St. David's community is invited to this celebration. As well, the David's Place team is creating small treat bags for guests, and contributions are welcome, as is warm outdoor wear, like socks, mittens, hats and scarves, men's coats and ladies larger coats. If you would like to join us, or to contribute to the gift bags, contact Johanna Roberts or Val MacDonald.

THIS WEEK - (Nov 27-Dec 04)

Next Sunday	9:00 am	Early service
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer
	11:00 am	The Rev. Dr. Richard Topping
	11:15 am	Sunday School
Thursday	7:30 pm	Choir
	1:30 pm	St. Vincent's communion service
Friday		David's Place.

Communion at Melville Heights Dec 05 at 11 am

Set aside Dec. 18 at 3 pm for a special **Christmas Concert** featuring our choir and friends under the direction of Tristan Cleveland-Thompson.

Adult Study: *'Being the Church'* Thank you to all who participated in our Fall study. We learned much about being the church! Last study is today.

New Halifax choral ensemble *the I9*, founded by artistic director Tristan Cleveland-Thompson, will be premiering their debut concert entitled *This Winter's Night*. They will be sharing an evening of music surrounding the theme of Winter and all that it encompasses. You'll hear music from living artists such as Pentatonix and the King's College Choir of Cambridge as well as individual and group performances from members of this new Halifax based ensemble. There is a Free Will Offering with a suggested donation of \$20 for this evening which is not to be missed. The concert is at 7:30pm Sunday, December 4th at the Presbyterian Church of Saint David.

Isaiah 2:1-5 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's

house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Romans 13:11-14 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 24:36-44 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

PASTORAL CARE

We are pleased that you are here and look forward to discovering ways that we can grow in faith and service together. We pray that you will be blessed in worship today and that you will come again! Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact one of the following:

Kenn Stright office: 423-1944
Valerie Macdonald home: 455-1893



MISSION MOMENTS Take the Advent Challenge! During the Advent season, we celebrate God's amazing gift—Jesus! This gift changed the world. It is with this same spirit of generosity that we too can make a difference for our sisters and brothers across the globe. Each week of Advent, PWS&D challenges individuals and congregations to share the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love with those living in some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. In the midst of poverty, injustice and disaster, the Christ light shines. To learn more about the Advent Challenge, visit WeRespond.ca.

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP Pray for church music directors, choirs and musicians during the Advent and Christmas season.

STEWARDSHIP Through these gifts we go where we cannot travel; witness where our voices cannot be heard; speak languages never learned and love those whom we have never seen.
C. William Nicholson

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.

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 Colin MacPherson. Our reader today is Anne Sommerville. Refreshment Host is Johannah Roberts