



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

December 04<sup>th</sup> 2016      Advent 11

*We acknowledge the Mi'kmaq people on whose territory we gather this morning. This acknowledgement is not a simple or superficial statement but is one that points to the heart of reconciliation. It acknowledges the unceded rights and title of the Mi'kmaq people and our desire for healing and 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.*)

Mailing Address: 36061 RPO Spring Garden Halifax, NS B3J 3S9

Minister (Kenn Stright): stdavids.stright@bellaliant.com

Office: stdavids.office@ns.sympatico.ca      Telephone: (902) 423-1944

Organist (Tristan Cleveland-Thompson): stdavids.music@bellaliant.com

Web site: [www.saintdavids.ca](http://www.saintdavids.ca)

### GATHERING

Prelude:

\*The Entry of the Scriptures



Call to worship *The Reign of God is drawing near: The prophet calls us to change our lives! Prepare the way for the Lord: A just and peaceful path! Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you: For the glory of God!*

**Advent Liturgy** The candle of Peace: Stephanie, Mark and William Nickerson

\*Hymn: Hark the glad sound 118

Prayer of Confession: (together) **Holy and Loving God, we give thanks for the promise of this sacred season and for the joy we find in the Christ Child. Yet even as we celebrate, we recognize that we often fail to live with the hope of redemption. In this season of anticipation, we know that we are easily distracted by our own projects and preparation. We lose focus on the one who is the Source of our hope. Forgive us, God, and restore our hope in you. Amen.**

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

### PROCLAIMING

First Reading: **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

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

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 126** *When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.*

\*Hymn: People in darkness 124

Our community conversation

From the letters: **1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24**

\*Hymn: Help us to help each other, Lord 489

Sermon 'A push, a hand and a hug.'  
Rev. Dr. Richard Topping

RESPONDING

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem:

\*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: Arise your light is come **712**

\*Benediction:

\*Choral amen

Postlude:



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

**THIS WEEK - (December 4-11)**

<b>Next Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Early service with communion
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer
	11:00 am	Advent 3 and Communion
	11:15 am	Sunday School
<b>Monday</b>	11:00 am	Melville Heights Communion
<b>Thursday</b>	7:30 pm	Choir
<b>Friday</b>		David's Place.

Schedule for Christmas and beyond:

**December 11** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
9 am Early Service with Communion  
Sacrament of Holy Communion  
White Gift Sunday

**December 18** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent  
9 am Early Service with Communion  
3 pm Choir and friends Carol Service

**December 21** Christmas Families Wrapping Party 10 a.m.

**December 24** 4 pm Family Service  
7 pm Christmas Eve candlelight service

**December 25** 11 a.m. Traditional Service

**December 29** 7 pm Come to Auld Lang Syne (see above)

**December 30** Northwood Communion Service

**January 1** 11 a.m. Traditional Service

**January 8** 9 am Early Service with Communion  
11 am Traditional Covenanting Service

If anyone (or families) would like to light the **Advent Candles** please see Phyllis Morrison.

**New Halifax choral ensemble *the 19***, 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 tonight here at Saint David's.

St. John's United Church, Halifax, is hosting its monthly Taize Prayer tonight, Dec. 4th @ 7 p.m.

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.

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

Interested in being a **Sunday greeter** – please talk with Colin MacPherson – 902-434-1674

### **Presbyterians Sharing Update:**

Up to November 30th, \$18,623 has been received (85% of our \$22,000 target). In 2015, the amount on Nov 30th was \$20,661 (94% of our \$22,000 target).

Did you pick up your **Christmas Family tag** as yet from the foyer tree – there are plenty for all and a second and a third!

**For Auld Lang Syne'** – a night of music and remembrance as we celebrate Tristan's seven years with us and bid him (and the present choristers) a warm farewell. The congregation and friends of Saint David's are cordially invited to this time of celebration and reflection – **Thursday, December 29 at 7 pm.**

*'Should  
auld*



## **Second Sunday of Advent**

*acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind?'*

**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11** The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the

captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24** Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.



## 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 soon. Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact one of the following:*

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

**Welcome our Guest:** One of my favourite Christian writers, William Willimon said of our guest for today: 'Richard Topping is leading one of the most dramatic turnarounds in North American theological education at Vancouver School of Theology.' Richard is the Principal and also Professor of Studies in the Reformed Tradition.

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP** Take time during the consumer-driven Christmas rush to think about and be thankful for what it means to have "enough"

**STEWARDSHIP** Consider your possessions loaned to you by God.  
*St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380),*

**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 Anne Sommerville. Our reader today is Colin Roop. Refreshment Host are Nancy and David Tindall.