



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

Minister: Kenn Stright

Clerk of Session: Valerie Macdonald

Organist: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson

WELCOME!

Service for the Lord's Day

December 11th 2016 Advent 111

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.

Our Mission:

To Welcome all people, without judgment, extending hospitality, and inviting them to join with us in worship and sharing.

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GATHERING

Prelude:



*The Entry of the Scriptures

Call to worship: *The joy of the season is upon us. The time is almost here. We have come to praise the Lord! We are here to sing praises to God, the Holy One in whom we place our trust. God opens our eyes and lifts us up. Let us praise God who reigns forever.*

Advent Liturgy The candle of Joy Barb and Gary Smith

*Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel **122**

Prayer of Confession: *Here we are, Patient God, in the third week of our Advent journey. You alone know how that journey is going. Did we, at the beginning of the season promise to make this Advent different? Did we promise in our heart of hearts to prepare ourselves spiritually to receive the gift of your Son?*

We confess, O God, that we, so easily, have given into the expectations of people and situations around us. We allowed the times of quiet we promised for you to slip away. Forgive us in our distractions. Help us renew our preparations for your coming. We look forward to your promise to change things - to bring life, and strength and courage to us: eyes to see, ears to hear, and tongues to speak your word. So we wait a little longer - and with a great deal more patience. Continue to be with us, O Lord as we learn to wait with you.

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

PROCLAIMING

First Reading: **Isaiah 35: 1-10**

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

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 146:5-10** *Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the*

wicked he brings to ruin. The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

*Hymn: Jump with Joy 406

Our community conversation Meet Clara

From the letters: **James 5: 7-10**

Gospel: **Matthew 11:2-11**

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

*Hymn: Good Christians all rejoice 141

Sermon: **Surprised by JOY**

RESPONDING

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem: In the Bleak Mid-Winter by Christina Rossetti and Harold Darke

"To God in the highest" (sung unannounced) 59

Offertory Prayer

Announcements:

Communion Hymn: *I come with Joy* 530

Invitation

Communion Prayer (Prayer concludes...) *Together, around the table, we*

pray: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be opened, that we might recognize the Spirit rising in our midst indeed, in one another. Come, Holy Spirit, come. (Followed by sung Lord's Prayer- 831)

Celebration of the Sacrament

Prayer following Communion: **We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy. We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love. We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world and there is a Light for us to follow.**

SENDING

*Hymn: Joy to the world 153

*Benediction: *Choral amen Postlude:



Worship is now ended let our service begin!

THIS WEEK - (December 11-18)		
Next Sunday	9:00 am	Early service with communion
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer
	11:00 am	Advent 4 - Love
	11:15 am	Sunday School
Thursday	7:30 pm	Choir
Friday		David's Place.

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

Isaiah 35:I-10 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save

you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5:7-10 Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11:2-11 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear

soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Schedule for Christmas and beyond:

December 18 4th 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 **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.

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



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

Mission Moment: Sharing the Gospel in people's heart

languages In order to preserve their cultures and promote the use of their ancestral languages, indigenous churches are working to enable indigenous peoples to read and study Scripture using the language of their hearts. The Rev. Dr. Paul McLean advises indigenous pastors and elders on translating the Bible into the languages of the Amis, Bunun, Drekey, Paiwan, Tayal and Pinuyumayan peoples. Paul shares, "I thank the Presbyterian Church in Canada for supporting multicultural multilingual Bible translation work in Taiwan. Thanks to everyone who faithfully prays and supports me and our partners in mission through *Presbyterians Sharing*. May our good and gracious God bless you for your part in sharing the Gospel ..."

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP God, be present with people experiencing their first Christmas and winter in Canada; guide us to share God's love with these newcomers by loving words support.

STEWARDSHIP For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Please 'treasure' St. David's this Christmas!

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 Don Knox. Our reader today is Barbara Smith. Refreshment Host is Sally Fyfe.