



*The
Presbyterian
Church of
Saint
David*



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 18th 2016 Advent 1V

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

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 love

Heidi Schaefer, John Hope, and Jillian, Erin and Allison

*Hymn: Lord, you were rich

134

Prayer of Confession: (together) **Advent God, forgive us when we pay more attention to satisfying our own needs, than seeking you and your will for our lives - for being more interested in possessing the material things of life, rather than your spiritual gifts. Turn our lives around so that we are looking in the right direction - towards you. Only then can we hope to recognise the signs of your presence in the world and the love that was born for us in Bethlehem. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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

PROCLAIMING

First Reading:

Isaiah 7: 10-16

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

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *Give ear, O*

Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! you who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

*Hymn: Away in a manger 149
 Our community conversation
 From the letters: **Romans 1: 1-7**
 Gospel: **Matthew 1: 18-25**
One: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ**
 *Hymn: Of Eternal Love Begotten 163
 Sermon: **Yes, another love story**

RESPONDING

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
 Anthem:
 *Doxology: *"In the bleak mid-winter"* (vs. 4) 145
 Offertory Prayer
 Announcements:
 Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer (debts & debtors)

SENDING

*Hymn: My soul gives glory 123
 *Benediction:
 *Choral amen
 Postlude:



Worship is now ended let our service begin!

THIS WEEK - (December 18-25)
Christmas Eve services at 4 pm and 7 pm
Choir Christmas service this afternoon at 3 pm
Next Sunday There will be no early service or Sunday
 School on Christmas Day or New Year's Day
 11:00 am Christmas service
Friday David's Place.

Today at 3 pm - special Christmas Concert featuring our choir and friends under the direction of Tristan Cleveland-Thompson.

Presbyterians Sharing up to Dec 11th: \$19,186 received, 87% of \$22,000 target. **Offering budgeted** for 2016: \$128,500. Offering received up to December 11th: \$114,406.

Thank you to all who contributed to the flower arrangements for Christmas.

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

Isaiah 7:10-16 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Romans I:I-7 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name,



including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew I:18-25 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



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: The Rev. John Wyminga and Rev. Shannon Bell-Wyminga are ministers with the Nazko & Area Dakelh Outreach in the Cariboo region of British Columbia. Shannon shares, "This ministry is about walking the long road with the people of Nazko and the surrounding area. More and more we realize that God is calling us to accompany people on the journey. We walk with them through the tragedies, the grief and the trauma that continues due to poverty, racism and the legacy of the past. We celebrate with them new births, milestones and treatment centre graduations. The power in Jesus' ministry was all about incarnation – God being present in real flesh. As we live that incarnation of Jesus' love, we trust that God's power will also be manifest as we walk the long walk to healing in our communities.

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

STEWARDSHIP A thing is bigger for being shared.

Gaelic saying

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 Greeters this morning are Barb and Gary Smith Our reader today is Nancy Tindall. Refreshment Host is Phyllis Morrison.