



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

Minister: Kenn Stright

Clerk of Session: Valerie Macdonald

Supply Organist: Freeman Dryden

## **WELCOME to our Church at Worship**

**January 15 Epiphany 2**

*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:** *How can we be the best church possible  
in service to Christ in 2017*

**A Worshipping, Sharing, Welcoming Community**  
**This is the church we want our neighbours to see in 2017.**

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### GATHERING



Prelude: *Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning* as set by: J.S.Bach (1685-1750); Félix Mendelßohn (1809-1847); Healey Willan (1880-1968)

\*The Entry of the Scriptures

Call to worship *Come, let us join ourselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant which will never be forgotten. Let us worship God with heart and mind and voice!*

\*Hymn: O God our help in ages past 330

Prayer: O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### PROCLAIMING

First Reading: **Jeremiah 31: 31-34**

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

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 29** *Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendour. The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!" The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!*

\*Hymn: I am the church  
Community Conversation

Being the church **475**

## THE COVENANTING SERVICE

Invitation: *Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honourable; others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ. Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray: Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things. Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work. Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.*

The Admonition: **I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.**

From the letters: **Acts 10:34-43**

Gospel: **Matthew 3:13-17**

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

\*Hymn: O for a thousand tongues to sing **374**

Sermon: ***Creating Covenant***

## RESPONDING

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

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

Offertory Prayer Announcements:

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

## SENDING

\*Hymn: My hope is built on nothing less **349**

\*Benediction:

Postlude: *Farandole* (Suite l'Arlesienne N°2) - Georges Bizet

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



### **THIS WEEK - (January 15-22 )**

Today is FOOD BANK Sunday (again!)

**Next Sunday:** Early communion service at 9 am

Prayer Circle at 10 am

Traditional Service at 11 am

**David's Place continues on Friday**

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017**

St. Matthew's United will kick off the Week of Prayer today - 1-2 pm at the Oval (public skate). They'll bring hot cocoa and some sort of WPCU identifying signage around which we can gather. Skates can be rented with photo ID. Theme for the week:

**Reconciliation – The love of Christ compels us** (Corinthians 5:14-20)

### **All services 12:15 pm**

Church location	Day	Host liturgist	Preacher
St. Paul's Anglican	Monday	Paul Friesen	Jenny Csinos
St. David's	Tuesday	Kenn Stright	Rhonda Britton
First Baptist	Wednesday	Lynn Uzans	Brian MacMillan
All Saints Cathedral	Thursday	Paul Smith	Kenn Stright

**Thank you** to all the people who contributed to Tristan's gift and to the party we had on the 29th. Sorry if you didn't make it that night. Lots of talent! I'm sure he was very pleased.

**Jeremiah 31:31-34 A New Covenant** The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was

their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**Acts 10:34-43** Then Peter began to speak to them "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

**Matthew 3:13-17** Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

O God, our Covenant Friend,  
you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives.  
We thank you for your loving care,  
which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.  
**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You have given us life and reason,  
and set us in a world filled with your glory.  
You have comforted us with family and friends,  
and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers. **R**

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you,  
and have given us your peace.  
You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus.  
You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit  
and the witness of your Church. **R**

You have been our light in darkness  
and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation.  
You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys  
and the all-sufficient reward in all our labours. **R**

You remembered us when we forgot you.  
You followed us even when we tried to flee from you.  
You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you.  
For all your patience and overflowing grace. **R**

**The Admonition:** First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord; in seeking earnestly God's special assistance and gracious acceptance of you; in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant; in searching your hearts whether you have already freely given your life to Christ. Consider what separates you from God's love in Christ. Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, direct, and spiritual they are, and whether you, after having carefully considered them – love God, love neighbour, love self – and consider if you are willing to choose them as your way of life. Be sure you are clear in these matters deep in your heart.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant, rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise. Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful. You have given God your heart, your mind body and spirit With God's power, never go back.

And finally, as this New Year dawns, be ready to renew your covenant with Christ. Begin the year on your knees, with hands lifted toward heaven, and heart open to God and others. As able, join me in the printed response.



## 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 consider making us your church home in 2017. Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact one of the following:*

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

**The vouchers help me survive** “In Syria, I could do anything.” Now settled in Lebanon with his daughter Rihan, Mousa remembers his peaceful home before the war. Mousa has not been able to find work because of restrictions placed on Syrian refugees. To get by, he picks fruit for local farmers but does not earn enough to cover his expenses. With partners at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, PWS&D is providing food vouchers to Syrian refugees so they can purchase groceries at local stores and save money for rent. For Mousa, this assistance has been an answer to his prayers. During the uncertainty of war, knowing he can provide a warm dinner for his daughter is a source of comfort and strength.

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP** As a new year begins, please pray for PWS&D programs that are responding to poverty, hunger and emergency situations around the world (such as above).

**Wise are congregations** that invite and challenge believers of all ages and abilities to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet 3.18).

**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 Davida Mackay. Our reader today is Lisa Glennie. Refreshment host is Anne Sommerville