

## 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 MOMENTS Singing songs of joy in Malawi

Presbyterian World Service & Development's Building Sustainable Livelihoods program in Malawi supports orphans and vulnerable children, women, and people living with HIV and AIDS to overcome poverty and build hopeful futures. One way this is accomplished is through self-help groups. Last year, 22 groups were established, enabling vulnerable women to save and borrow loans to better care for their families. With her first loan, one woman transformed her life. With her savings, she opened a small grocery stall. Today, she is earning enough to support herself, buy food and hygiene supplies for her family and pay her son's college tuition. "I am really grateful to this project. It is there to empower us," she says. "We are now singing songs of joy."

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP** O Heavenly Father, protect and bless all things that have breath. Guard them from all evil, and let them sleep in peace.

Albert Schweitzer

**STEWARDSHIP** Whatsoever I thankfully receive, as a token of God's love to me, I part with contentedly as a token of my love to Him.

*-Theophilus Gale (1628-1678)* **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. **We are '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 Val Macdonald Refreshment Hosts are Val and Rod Macdonald.



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

**Minister:** Kenn Stright

**Clerk of Session:** Valerie Macdonald

**Organist:** Freeman Dryden

# WELCOME!

**Service for the Lord's Day**

**July 23, 2017 Pentecost 7**

*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.*

## Our Vision

***A Worshipping, Sharing, Welcoming Community***

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## GATHERING



Prelude:

\*The Entry of the Scriptures

Call to worship: *In the beginning God created all things, and God saw that they were good. At our beginning, God created us - unique and irreplaceable, loved and wanted by God, known and treasured by God even before we were created.*

\*Hymn: Morning has Broken

A time of Confession: *God, it is hard to express the brokenness we experience. We know the disconnect we experience with the world around us, **craving a few moments in the summertime to feel the soil and breathe the air and splash in the sea. Deep sighs surround us. We know our silent sanction as we wreck havoc on the tender balance of the ecosystem that supports us, we fear pollution and global-warming and the loss of precious species. We can no longer ignore the groaning of the earth, even as the creation is caught up in the labour pains of new birth, waiting and eager for humanity to find its way forward to a new day. Spirit of God, groaning in creation, attune our spirits to your cries and the cries of all creation longing for liberation and the renewal of planet Earth. Amen.***

### PROCLAIMING

First Reading: **Genesis 28: 10-19a**  
*One: The Word of the Lord* **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 148** ♦ *Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!* ♦ **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!** ♦ *Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!* ♦ **Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!** ♦ *Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.* ♦ **He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.** ♦ *Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,* ♦ **fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!** ♦ *Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!* ♦ **Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!** ♦ *Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!* ♦ **Young men and women alike, old and young together!** ♦ *Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. Praise the Lord!*

\*Hymn: For the beauty of the earth **434**  
 Community Conversation: The call of creation  
 Minutes of Appreciation: Clerk of Session

From the letters: **Romans 8:12-25**  
 Gospel: **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**  
*One: The Gospel of the Lord.* **All: Praise to you, O Christ**  
 \*Hymn: Let all things now living **338**  
 Sermon: **Can you hear creation groaning?**

### RESPONDING

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings  
 \*Doxology: *"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"* **830**  
 Offertory Prayer: God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for all in need, including all creatures on planet Earth. **With all creation, we bless our Creator.**  
 Announcements:  
 Prayers of the People Johannah Roberts  
 The Lord's Prayer (please use 535 in the Book of Praise)

### SENDING

\*Hymn: This is my Father's world **328**  
 \*Benediction: \*Choral amen  
 Postlude: *Trumpet Flourish from Voluntary in F* - William Walond (1719-1768)



**Worship is now ended let our service begin!**  
**Summer services are as follows (10:30 am):**  
 July 23 at Saint David's  
 July 30/Aug 6 at First Baptist  
 Aug 13, 20 and 27 St. Andrew's

**Genesis 28:10-19a** Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of

God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place--and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

### **Romans 8:12-25**

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh -- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;* for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the

glory of the children of God. *We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.* For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, '*An enemy has done this.*' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. *Let anyone with ears listen!*"