



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

Minister: Kenn Stright

Clerk of Session: Valerie Macdonald

Organist: Nick Veltmeyer

WELCOME!

Service for the Lord's Day

September 17, 2017 Pentecost 15

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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God Calls Us to Worship



Prelude: Trio Sonata in C, Adagio - J.S. Bach

*The Entry of the Scriptures

*Call to Worship: *We are called to be the church, to love God and serve others. We gather as sisters and brothers in Christ, giving thanks for God's goodness, embracing each other in God's love, committed to living out that love in God's world. We worship God in joy and hope. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.*

*Hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King"

433

Prayer of Confession: *God of patience and forgiveness, we come before you in a time of confession. For the times when we have held on to our grudges rather than letting them go, forgive us, O God. For those times when we have wanted to seek revenge rather than seek peace and reconciliation, forgive us, O God. For those times when we let our anger get the better of our judgment and reason, forgive us, O God. For those times when we resist the call to live in love and practice forgiveness, forgive us, O God. For those times when we shut ourselves off from your love and guidance, forgive us, O God. Loving God, help us to let go of all that stand between us. Amen.* Assurance of Pardon

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Romans 14: 1 - 12

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

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 103** *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits- who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. *As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us, O God. Bless the Lord, all his works. Bless the Lord, O my soul. *from Isaiah 66: 13*

Hymn "Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands" 631

Community Conversation: *God Will Help Us Forgive*

Gospel: Matthew 18: 21 - 35

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

Hymn "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" 751

Sermon: **"TO FORGIVE IS TO BE FREE"**

We Respond to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem 

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

Offertory Prayer

Announcements

Prayers of the People Lord's Prayer (debts)

We Go Out to Serve God

*Hymn: "For the Healing of the Nation's" **736**

*Commissioning

*Benediction:

Choral Amen:

Postlude: Fugue in G major - J.S. Bach

Worship is now ended, let our service begin!

THIS WEEK – (September 17-24)

Today	9:00 am	Early service with communion
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer
	11:00 am	Traditional Service - we welcome the Rev. Jeanne M.M. Stright to the pulpit as Kenn attends the National Presbyterian reconciliation gathering in Pickering.
Friday		David's Place -
Sunday	9:00 am	Early service
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer
	11:00 am	Traditional service

Worship and Church Life committee is in need of more members. This year we lost two valued members. This committee meets once a month. Day and time are quite flexible. The committee oversees the worship service, music, Christian Education (Sunday School) Congregational Life, Pastoral Care for example. If you feel you could spare the time, we would appreciate your talents and ideas. Please see Phyllis Morrison or Colin MacPherson. Or call 429-4353 or email phyllismorrison115@gmail.com.

September 24 after worship we will be blessed to welcome the Al Sagherji family to a meet and greet following our regular morning worship during refreshment hour.

Calvin Presbyterian Church is hosting the PCC Atlantic Synod meeting October 16-18/2017 to which many elders and clergy from Atlantic Canada attend and may need billeting. Billets would need to stay at a home overnight Monday and Tuesday and need a light breakfast on Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Other meals are provided. Most will have their own transportation, but some may need to be transported to Calvin Tuesday and Wednesday morning- we would try to billet them as close to Calvin as possible. They would need to be picked up or met on Monday evening after the opening ceremony - between 9 and 10 pm. If anyone would be willing to help us out or have any questions, please contact Lilla Tanner at lftanner1@bellaliant.net or by phone - 902-869-0105.

The **Nova Scotia Youth Choir** will present a concert on Sunday, Sept. 24 at Grace United Church, 70 King St., Dartmouth at 7:30. Tickets (\$15) are available at the door and from the church office (902-466-3329).

On Saturday, September 30 at 2:00pm in the Round Church (2222 Brunswick Street), Matthew Vanderkwaak will share the fruits of his summer research project into the architecture of the Round Church entitled: "**Sacred Geometry: the Architecture of the Round Church, 1800-1827**"



Romans 14:1-12 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God;

while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Matthew 18:21-35 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."



PASTORAL CARE

Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact one of the following:

Kenn Stright office: 423-1944

Valerie Macdonald 455-1893

MISSION MOMENTS: September 17: Cultivating healthy communities In her community in Nicaragua, Sandra believed she was feeding her children wholesome, nutritious food. But the chips and soda that made up the bulk of their diets led to illness and delays in growth. Presbyterian World Service & Development supported community promoters are helping families like Sandra's improve their nutrition by discussing the benefits of locally grown, fresh produce and helping establish household gardens. Sandra now understands that a diet rich in fruits and vegetables is important for a healthy future. Today, her children are energetic and healthy. For Sandra, this project is the beginning of a brighter future for her family and community.

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP Pray for those attending the Healing and Reconciliation National Gathering in Pickering. Kenn is there as chaplain.

STEWARDSHIP It is a powerful practice to be generous when you are the one feeling in need. *-Allan Lokos, author*



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. Greeting you this morning is ----- . Our reader for this morning is Lisa Glennie. Our refreshment host is Davida Mackay.