



PASTORAL CARE

Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact

Valerie Macdonald 455-1893

Iona MacLean 404-6108

MISSION MOMENTS: Equipping and nurturing future church leaders Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* equip and nurture future church leaders who in turn will equip and nurture others to witness faithfully in the world. In 2017, 18 students graduated from our three theological colleges – Knox College in Toronto, The Presbyterian College in Montreal and Vancouver School of Theology and St. Andrew's Hall in Vancouver. These colleges provide a strong academic and practical foundation to prepare students to serve our congregations. The PCC supports ministry candidates and their presbyteries as they work to discern the candidate's call. In 2017, 16 candidates attended the PCC's Guidance Conference, which helps participants recognize their abilities, strengths and weaknesses and develop a plan of growth as they move forward. Together, we also encourage and support new clergy who have just begun their ministries.

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP This Advent, we give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development global partners empowering vulnerable communities as they discover the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ.

STEWARDSHIP For it is in giving that we receive
-St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), Italian Roman Catholic friar and preacher.



I Breastfeed.

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 Mac Mackay. Our reader for this morning is Phyllis Morrison. Our refreshment hosts are Jackie and Sara Kinley.



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

Interim Moderator: Iona MacLean

Clerk of Session: Valerie Macdonald

Organist: Nick Veltmeyer

WELCOME!

Service for the Lord's Day

December 17, 2017 Third Sunday of Advent

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

Mailing Address: 36061 RPO Spring Garden Halifax, NS B3J 3S9

Organist: (Nick Veltmeyer) nick.veltmeier@gmail.com

Office: stdavids.office@ns.sympatico.ca Telephone: (902) 423-1944

Web site: www.saintdavids.ca

GATHERING



Prelude:

*The chimes and The Entry of the Scriptures

*Call to Worship: [from *Living Faith 10.1* & *Psalms 126:3*]

God has prepared for us things beyond our imagining.

Our hope is for a renewed world

and for fullness of life in the age to come.

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Hymn: "On Jordan's bank"

126

*Prayer of Approach: [based on Isaiah 61]

**We will greatly rejoice in you, O Lord,
our whole being shall exult in you, our God;
for you have clothed us with the garments of salvation,
you have covered us with robes of righteousness.
As the earth brings forth plants,
as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so you, O God, will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For your great gift of hope we praise you in Jesus'
name.**

Advent Liturgy - **The Candle of Joy** Kinley-Case Family

EQUIPPING

Prayer for Illumination: O God of the weak, O God of the lowly,
O God of the righteous, O shield of your people, **speak now
through your Word.**

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

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

Responsive Reading: Psalm 126

*When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.*

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'**

*The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.*

**Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

*May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.*

**Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

Hymn: "People look East" 125

Community conversation:

From the letters: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

Hymn: "There's a voice in the wilderness crying" 128

Sermon: **The Voice in the Wilderness**

We Respond to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

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

Offertory Prayer

Announcements

Prayers of the People

SENDING

Hymn: "Prepare the way, O Zion" 129

Benediction

Postlude:

Our worship continues with our service in the world.

THIS WEEK – (dates)

Today	9:00 am	Early service with communion
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer
	11:00 am	Traditional Service – Sunday School
	12:00 pm	Refreshments
Friday		David's Place -
Sunday	11:00 am	Traditional service –

From the Finance Committee: As of December 9th, Presbyterian Sharing has received \$19,076, 95% of our \$20,000 target.

If you are making a donation to Saint David's Church and you want your tax receipt dated in 2017, then your last opportunity is to place your donation through the letter slot in the north west passage door before 2 pm on Friday December 29th.

St. David's will again support families for Christmas. We have a tree with gift tags for some of the gifts and needs of the four

families we will help this year. Feel free to take a tag (leave your name on part of it) and make the purchase on the tag. Return your unwrapped item to the church by **Sunday, Dec. 17** with its tag attached. Volunteers will finalize shopping, wrap everything, and prepare to deliver food and gifts the week of Dec. 18, with a wrapping party to be held at **10 am on December 21st**. Contact Nicole Watkins Campbell if you have questions. 902-422-5878. Members of the congregation who would like to prepare and deliver 20 brown bag lunches to the Out of the Cold Shelter can contact Nicole Watkins Campbell, 422-5878 to finalize arrangements. We are scheduled for the **first Saturday night of each month until the end of April**.

On **Sunday, December 17** the Nova New Horizons band program will present its annual Metro based Christmas Concert at the Sea King Club on CFB Shearwater in Dartmouth starting at **7:30 p.m.** The admission price is \$10.00 per person and \$5.00 for young children.

A King's Christmas 2017 - Paul Halley and the University of King's College Chapel Choir present their 10th annual feast of seasonal song and story, this year with guest narrator Rev. Canon Dr. Gary Thorne. Described by the Chronicle Herald as "annual magic", A King's Christmas is a celebration that brings audience and performers fully into the profound beauty and poignancy of Christmas. Two performances on **Sunday, December 17: 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm** in the Cathedral Church of All Saints, 1330 Cathedral Lane, Halifax. Tickets and information at www.ukings.ca/concerts.

To Bethlehem With Kings 2017 – Nick Halley and Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir offer their 8th annual presentation of beautiful carols for Christmas, ancient and modern, performed by a choir of boys (age 6 and up) and men in the European tradition. The concert also features the Maritime Brass Quintet and Paul Halley accompanying on the great Cathedral pipe organ. This will warm the cockles of your heart! **Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 pm** in the Cathedral Church of All Saints, 1330 Cathedral Lane, Halifax. Tickets and information at www.capellaregalis.com

The Longest Night Service will be at First Baptist Church on **Thursday, Dec. 21st at 7 pm**. This will be a joint service with St. David's, St. Andrew's, St. John's and First Baptist representatives. In the busyness of the Season some may wish to take a time for a quieter, more reflective service. All are welcome.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

I Thessalonians 5:16-24 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the

coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

John 1:6-8, 19-28 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.