

PASTORAL CARE

Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact

Valerie Macdonald 455-1893

Iona MacLean 404-6108

MISSION MOMENTS: Gifts that make a difference

As we reflect on giving and receiving gifts this Christmas, let us give thanks for Presbyterians across Canada who are making a difference through their gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing!* Together, we are supporting inner city missions, equipping congregations, encouraging children and youth, enabling congregational renewal and development, supporting theological education, maintaining international partnerships, sending mission staff – and so much more! Together, we are making mission and ministry happen in Canada and around the world. This Christmas Eve, we anticipate celebrating the greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ our Lord – whose example of giving inspires our own.

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we pray that Christians in Israel and Palestine who gather to worship in joy and peace.

STEWARDSHIP A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.

-Proverbs 18:16



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.



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

Interim Moderator: Iona MacLean

Clerk of Session: Valerie Macdonald

Organist: Nick Veltmeyer



WELCOME!

4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2017



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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Introduction and Welcome - Angels and the Birth of Christ
Lighting of the Christ Candle (see insert)

The Angel Visits Mary

First Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

Narration

*Hymn: *The angel Gabriel from Heaven* **156**

The Angel Visits Joseph

Second Reading: Matthew 1: 18-24

Narration

*Hymn: *The Cherry Tree Carol* (See Insert)

The Journey to Bethlehem

Third Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Narration

*Hymn: *O little town of Bethlehem* **164**

Shepherds and Angels

Fourth Reading: Luke 2:8-16

Narration

*Hymn: *While shepherds watched* **138**

*Hymn: *Angels we have heard on high* **147**

Presentation of gifts

Closing Prayer

Postlude: *Joy to the world* -N. Veltmeyer

Luke 1: 26-38 During Elizabeth's sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you."

But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, "What does this mean?"

The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of

King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end."

Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am a virgin!"

The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. God can do everything!"

Mary said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.

Matthew 1:18-24 The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins."

All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel." This name means "God is with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph married Mary. But he did not have intimate relations with her until she gave birth to the son. And Joseph named the son Jesus.

Luke 2:1-7 At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register. This was the first registration taken while

Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own towns to be registered.

So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.) While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

Luke 2:8-16 That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Savior was born in David’s town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.”

Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying:

“Give glory to God in heaven,
and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God.”

Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about.”

So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph.

The Cherry Tree Carol



Jo-seph was an old man And an old man was he,



When he mar-ried Ma - ry In the land of Gal-i - lee

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2. And as they were walking
Through an orchard so good,
Where were cherries and berries
As red as any blood | 6. Then bowed down the highest
tree
Unto his Mother's hand;
See, Mary cried, see, Joseph,
I have cherries at command. |
| 3. O then bespoke Mary,
With words both meek and mild,
Pluck me one cherry, Joseph;
For that I am with child. | 7. O eat your cherries, Mary,
O eat your cherries, now;
O eat your cherries, Mary,
That grow upon the bough. |
| 4. Go to the tree, Mary,
And it shall bow to thee,
And the highest branch of all
Shall bow down to Mary's knee. | 8. As Joseph was a-walking
There did an angel sing;
And Mary's child at midnight
Was born to be our King. |
| 5. Go to the tree, Mary,
And it shall bow to thee;
And you shall gather cherries
By one, by two, by three. | |