



PASTORAL CARE

Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact

Valerie Macdonald 455-1893
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Our Vision

A Worshipping, Sharing, Welcoming Community

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

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MISSION MOMENTS - A learning experience in rural Ontario

In the book of Acts, the disciples traveled far and wide to share the good news of Christ. Through the Rural and Remote Ministry Grant, seminary students are able to gain ministry experience in a rural and remote congregation during the summer. Emily Webb, a Master of Divinity student, participated in a recent placement opportunity at Knox Presbyterian Church in Bayfield, ON. Through this opportunity, Emily was able to develop skills in leading Sunday worship, preaching and pastoral care. Emily's enthusiasm for mission and worship was a blessing to Knox Bayfield and, in turn, the congregation provided a supporting and encouraging summer placement for Emily.

Presbyterians Sharing supports seminary students

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP - Pray that God is with churches as they prepare Christmas baskets for their communities. May receiving families and our congregations join together to experience the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent and prepare for the coming of the Lord.

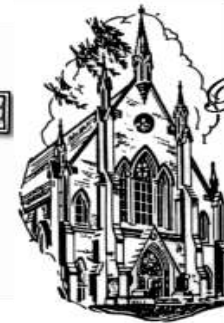
STEWARDSHIP - We should travel light and live simply. Our enemy is not possessions, but excess. *John Stott (b. 1921) Anglican clergyman*



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.



*The
Presbyterian
Church of
Saint
David*

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

Interim Moderator: Iona MacLean

Clerk of Session: Valerie Macdonald

Interim Organist: Ian Bent; **Choral Director:** Simon Blake

WELCOME!

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.

Third Sunday of Advent - December 16, 2018

**Please stand if able*

GATHERING

Prelude

Introit: *Alma Redemptoris Mater* - Anonymous composer

*The Entry of the Scriptures

*Call to Worship:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

*Prayer of Approach

*Hymn: Hail to the Lord's anointed 115

Lighting the Candle of Joy (See Insert)

EQUIPPING

Prayer for Illumination



First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

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

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,

**for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of
salvation. And you will say in that day:

**Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.**

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

*Hymn: Hope is a star 119

Community Conversation

The Letters: Philippians 4:4-7

The Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

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

*Hymn: Herald! Sound the note of judgement 117

Sermon: "From judgement to joy"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem: *In the winter's early darkness* - Thurlow Weed

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

*Offertory Prayer

Announcements

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

SENDING

*Hymn: Joy to the world 153

*Benediction (... *be with you all. And also with you.*)

Postlude

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**Our worship continues with our service in the world.**

**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 Colin MacPherson. Our Scripture reader is William Nickerson. Our Advent liturgy readers are William Nickerson and Elizabeth Cameron. Our refreshment hosts are Sally Fyfe and Davida Mackay.

**THIS WEEK – December 16 to 23**

|              |                                                                    |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Today</b> | 11 a.m. Worship<br>Noon Refreshments                               |
| Friday       | David's Place                                                      |
| Sunday       | 11 a.m. Worship - 4th Sunday of Advent<br><b>No</b> 9 a.m. Service |

**Christmas Families** - The Angel Tags for gifts are available on the tree in the entry--fill in and place part with your name in the box. All new and unwrapped gifts to be delivered **by December 18** to Saint David's or 543 Tower Rd. All cash donations sent by cash or cheque **by December 19** to Mac Fyfe or via e-mail transfer to SaintDavidChristmas@minnikin.ca **December 22, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** is wrapping, delivery and fellowship day. Our focus this year continues to be offering a *hand up* along with the *hand out* of Christmas groceries and gifts. Thank you for your support.

**Christmas Eve Services - 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.** Come celebrate the birth of Christ at the time of your choosing. Early service will involve the children. Later service will include the lighting of the Christ Candle and Christmas hymns and choral music.

**We need readers** for the PWS&D liturgy and lighting the Christ Candle on Dec. 24, 7 p.m. Please speak to Phyllis if you would take part. Thanks.

**The 9 a.m. Communion services will resume on January 13.**

On **Tuesday, December 18** 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.

You who gave birth, amazing nature, to your sacred Creator:  
Virgin prior and following, taking from the mouth of Gabriel that Hail!  
have mercy on our sins.

**Anthem:** *In the winter's early darkness* - Thurlow Weed

In the winter's early darkness,  
through the days of failing light,  
travelers may delay a journey  
or may learn to read the night.

Turning on a steady axis,  
cold and burning, black and bright,  
heaven tells a faithful story  
of the coming of the Light.

As we recognize the patterns,  
as we turn a certain way,  
even when the path is darkest  
we are faced to greet the day.

## Announcements cont'd

Delve into the positive power of Advent and Christmas. **Concert of 100 Candles** offers a chance to go slow during a fast time. Blackwood Duo (Peter-Anthony Togni and Jeff Reilly) and Janelle Lucyk perform Christmas favourites in a new interpretation, like O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Coventry Carol and Silent Night, as well as new and award-winning work by Reilly and Togni. This Musique Royale concert takes place at Saint David's Church, **Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

**Presbyterians Sharing** (*our share of the wider mission and ministry of the church in Canada and throughout the world*) - Donations up to December 2 are **\$16,334** or **82%** of our \$20,000 target. Please give generously as able.

**Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D)** (*the emergency relief and development work in various parts of the world*) - Donations to PWS & D up to December 2nd, 2018:

General donations total **\$901**. African Relief donations total **\$350**.

*Thank you for your ongoing support of these important funds toward Christ's work in the world.*

### **A note to congregations re PWS&D:**

Greetings to Our Atlantic Synod,  
I am the Atlantic representative for Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D). If you have any questions about the ongoing work of PWS&D or would like me to speak to your group or church I am available and happy to do so. It is always a joy to share the work of this wonderful organization with others!

I also highlight their **Gifts of Change** catalogue for the 2018-2019 year. It is filled with ideas and projects around the world designed to help others. If you would like to see a copy of it, it is easily accessed at: <https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/donate/gifts-of-change/>

Wishing you all the peace, joy, love and hope of the advent season and blessings in 2019.

Rev. Amanda Henderson-Bolton

Kirk of St James [902-894-5382](tel:902-894-5382)

[revamanda@pei.aibn.com](mailto:revamanda@pei.aibn.com)

### **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

### **Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **Luke 3:7-18**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”  
<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”  
<sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”  
<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”  
<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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Introit: *Alma Redemptoris Mater* - Anonymous composer

Latin - Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes,
et stella maris, succurre cadenti surgere qui curat populo:

Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem:
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud Ave, peccatorum
miserere.

English - Loving Mother of the Redeemer, who remains the gate by which
we mortals enter heaven,
and star of the sea, help your fallen people who strive to rise: