



PASTORAL CARE

Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact

Valerie Macdonald 455-1893
Iona MacLean 404-6108

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

MISSION MOMENTS - Seeking justice for all

Through gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*, The Presbyterian Church in Canada is working to sow seeds of hope and respond to the justice imperatives of the gospel. God calls us to name injustices, walk with vulnerable people and work with others for the common good. Over the years, Justice Ministries has prepared responses to overtures or motions adopted by General Assembly. These range from statements on genetics, health care, sanctuary for refugees, violence in computer games, the growing gap between rich and poor in Canada and, more recently, inclusion for Presbyterians who are members of the LGBTQI community, the opioids crisis and forced labour. Through Justice Ministries, our church walks with Indigenous peoples on the path towards healing and reconciliation, partners with ecumenical agencies, produces resources and leads workshops on vital justice issues. As followers of Jesus, we are a people of hope.

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP - Pray for those who are in recovery for addiction, that they might know God's healing touch.

STEWARDSHIP - For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. *John 3:16*



! 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.



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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 23, 2018

**Please stand if able*

GATHERING



Prelude

Introit: *Advent Prose (Rorate Coeli)* - Anonymous

*The Entry of the Scriptures

*Call to Worship:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour . . .

**for the Mighty One has done great things for us,
and holy is his name.**

*Prayer of Approach

*Hymn: Creator of the stars of night

111

Lighting the Candle of Love (See Insert)

EQUIPPING

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

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

RESPONSIVE READING: Luke 1:47-55

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ **for the Mighty One has done great things for me,**

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ **He has shown strength with his arm;**

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ **he has filled the hungry with good things,**

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ **according to the promise he made to our ancestors,**

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

*Hymn: ‘Twas in the moon of wintertime 144

Community Conversation

The Gospel: Luke 1:39-45, 56

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

*Hymn: The angel Gabriel from heaven 156

Sermon: "What God wants for Christmas"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem: *Countless Prayers of Faithful People* - 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: Angels from the realms of glory 146

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

Postlude

~~~~~

### **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 Valerie Macdonald. Our Scripture reader is Mac Mackay. Our Advent liturgy readers are Siobahn and Mairi Harris. Our refreshment hosts are Nancy Tindall and her sister Robyn Clarke.

### **THIS WEEK – December 16 to 23**

|               |                                                                                                     |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Today</b>  | 11 a.m. Worship<br>Noon Refreshments                                                                |
| <b>Monday</b> | 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service involving Sunday School<br>7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service for all |
| <b>Friday</b> | David's Place                                                                                       |
| <b>Sunday</b> | 11 a.m. Worship - 1st Sunday of Christmas<br>No 9 a.m. Service                                      |

**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.

**First Sunday of Christmas - Sunday, December 30, 11 a.m. Worship**  
Come adore the New-Born King with Christmas hymns and readings. All ages welcome.

**The Epiphany of our Lord - Sunday, January 6, 11 a.m. Worship**

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

**A special thanks** to Catherine Read and Jane Reardon for once again supplying the poinsettias and Norfolk pines and doing all the downstairs decorating. We've received many remarks about how lovely the church looks. And thank you to Janice Waite who stepped up to help me do the balcony garland and lights. ~ Phyllis

but in prayerful conversation  
and a simple, "Let it be".

What gift, now, and whenever  
life feels barren, hope consumed,  
to recall that once a woman  
welcomed God within her womb.  
We see better now, and always,  
faith, responsive, making room,  
because once a woman, Mary,  
welcomed God within her womb.

## Announcements cont'd

**Presbyterians Sharing** (*our share of the wider mission and ministry of the church in Canada and throughout the world*) - Donations up to December 16 are **\$16,801** or **84%** of our \$20,000 target. Please give generously as you are 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 **\$906**. 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,

With the Advent season upon us I thought I might send out a short note on behalf of Presbyterian World Service and Development. As some of you may know, I am the Atlantic representative for 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 thought I would 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)

~~~~~

In Memoriam: It is with deep sadness and regret that we share the news that Peggy Corkum has died. Please keep her family in your prayers. She had planned to spend Christmas with them in the US.

~~~~~

**Micah 5:2-5a**

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

**Luke 1:39-45, 56**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.



**Introit:** *Advent Prose (Rorate Coeli)* - Anonymous

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord,  
neither remember iniquity forever:

Thy holy cities are a wilderness,  
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:  
Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,  
and we all do fade as a leaf:  
and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;  
thou hast hid thy face from us:  
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,  
and my servant whom I have chosen;  
that ye may know me and believe me: I even I, am the Lord,  
and beside me there is no Saviour:  
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,  
my salvation shall not tarry:  
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:  
Fear not, for I will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God,  
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

**Anthem:** *Countless Prayers of Faithful People* - Thurlow Weed

Countless prayers of faithful people  
weighted in a cumbrous world  
found an answer as an angel  
met an open-hearted girl.  
Not a master of a palace  
where the airs of empire swirl,  
not a young or hardened warrior  
but an open-hearted girl.

All the years of desperate longing  
of a people to be free  
found an eloquent expression  
in her simple, "Let it be".  
Not in battle or in barter  
for a Caesar's guarantee,