



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

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MISSION MOMENTS - The gift of giving

As we reflect on giving and receiving this Christmas, let us give thanks for Presbyterians across Canada who are living out the gospel message through their generous gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. Together, we put our faith into action by equipping congregations, ministries and presbyteries; engaging in evangelism, outreach and discipleship; embracing local, national and international mission work; living out God's call to justice; empowering youth; engaging in healing and reconciliation and creating new faith communities – and so much more! Every gift is a gift of hope. Every gift changes lives. This Christmas we will once again celebrate the greatest gift of all —Jesus Christ our Lord—whose example of giving inspires our own. *Presbyterians Sharing is making a difference*

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP - We pray for our church partners around the world as we prepare to welcome the Prince of Peace.

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*

Saint David's is on Facebook and Twitter. Search in the platform for "Saint David's Presbyterian Church Halifax." If you click on "follow" on the church's page in either Facebook or Twitter, you will get updates from the church in your feeds.

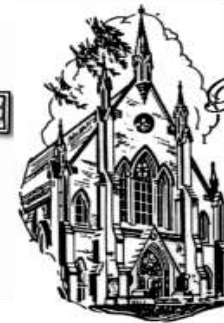


Breastfeed.

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.



*The
Presbyterian
Church of
Saint
David*

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

Interim Moderator: Iona MacLean

Clerk of Session: Valerie Macdonald

Accompanist: Brogan Cameron; **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 22, 2019

**Please stand if able*

GATHERING

Prelude: *French Suite No. 2 in C Minor: Allemande* - J. S. Bach

*The Entry of the Scriptures

*Call to Worship:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Advent means "coming."

In Advent we celebrate the coming of Christ.

The Lord will give [us] a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child

and shall bear a son,

and shall name him Immanuel (God is with us.)

[*Isa. 7:14*]

*Advent Prayer: (*said together*):

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock!

Stir up your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved. [Ps. 80:1-3]
We wait with hopeful hearts for the coming of Emmanuel,
God-with-us,
and for the day when all is set right through him.
As we prepare to celebrate the Child's holy birth,
let us like Joseph hear your word, O God, and obey it,
and so welcome the One
who saves us from our sins,
Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: Once in royal David's city 166

Lighting the Candle of Love (See Insert)

EQUIPPING

Responsive 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 7:10-16
One: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn: What child is this 161
Community Conversation

The Letters: Romans 1:1-7
The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25
One: The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sung Response: 812 in Book of Praise
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Sermon:
*Hymn: The hands that first held Mary's child 158

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
Anthem: *Song for the Leaves of Life and the Water of Life* - Vaughan Williams
*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: *Sonata in D Major, Op. 28 No. 15 ("Pastoral"), 1st mvmt* -
Beethoven

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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 Don Knox. Our Scripture reader is Johannah Roberts. Our Advent liturgy readers are Marlo and Derek Pace. Our refreshment host is Nicole Watkins Campbell.

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THIS WEEK – December 22 to 29

Today	11 a.m. Worship
Tuesday	4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service involving Sunday School 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service for all
Wednesday - Merry Christmas!	
Friday	David's Place
Sunday	No 9 a.m. service in December 11 a.m. Worship - 1st Sunday of Christmas

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 and young people. Later service will include the lighting of the Christ Candle and Christmas hymns and readings.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada calendars for 2020. Each month features delightful art done by Presbyterian children and young people from across the country. \$5.00 each. See Davida Mackay to purchase.

Announcements cont'd

Your Mission Gifts to November 30 - Thank you!

Presbyterians Sharing (supporting theological education, congregational resources, mission in Canada and overseas): **\$15,056** (75.3% of our \$20,000 target. At same date 2018, \$15,938 or 80% of target received.)

Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) (supporting emergency relief and community development globally): **\$6,676** received

Your donation makes a difference!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the **special appeal** this fall. We received **more than \$2000** in just the first two weeks.

If you didn't get a chance to contribute and would still like to, you have several options:

- a Special Christmas Appeal envelope can go in the offering plate on Sunday morning or Christmas Eve
- you can use any separate envelope, or
- you can donate online at Canada Helps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-presbyterian-church-of-st-david/> (we are listed as Saint David's Presbyterian Church).

However you choose to support the church's work, please let us know that your donation is part of the Special Appeal.

By December 8, we had reached 70 percent of our offering goal (for operating expenses) for 2019. We would love to close that gap.

The funds from offering help us continue to share God's love with our neighbours and our church community through our programs and ministry. As a community, we run David's Place, support the poorest in our city through Sunday Suppers and Out of the Cold, and inspire people in the downtown through word and music.

Please consider whether you can help us achieve our offering goal before the end of the year.

Again, thank you.

May the joy and peace of the Christ Child be yours through the Christmas season and in the New Year.

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

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**Introit:** *Tollite Portas (Gregorian Chant)*

*Tollite portas, principes, vestras:  
et elevamini, portae aeternales:  
et introibit rex gloriae.*

Lift up your heads, O ye gates:  
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors:  
and the King of glory shall come in.

**Anthem:** *Song for the Leaves of Life and the Water of Life - Vaughan Williams*

Unto him that overcometh  
shall be given of the Tree of Life  
which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

On either side of the river groweth the Tree of Life,  
the Leaves of the Tree are for thy healing.

In the midst of that fair City  
flows the river of Water of Life clear as crystal.

Who so will,  
let him take of the Water of Life freely.

Whoso drinketh of this water shall never thirst.  
Take thou the Leaves of the Tree of Life.

So shalt thou enter in through the Gates of the City.