



PASTORAL CARE

Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact

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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 - Empowering rural women

In Africa, women comprise about 60 per cent of the agricultural labour force. But structural barriers and social norms prevent many women farmers from making decisions about agricultural practices on their farms. To rise above hunger, it is essential that women are able to make choices about land, resources and which crops to grow. With the help of PWS&D, this transformation is taking place in Kamisimbi County of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In a place where many farming families struggle to meet their food needs, PWS&D provides seeds and training in conservation agriculture and encourages women to take the lead in agricultural decision-making. Empowering rural women translates to better food security and the improved well-being of communities.

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP - We thank God for financial and prayer support received from congregations for Presbyterians Sharing in 2019.

STEWARDSHIP - When we think of stewardship we start with the point that everything – even the air that we breathe – is not ours; it is given to us. *Mike Graves, professor of preaching*

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.



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.

First Sunday of Christmas - December 29, 2019

**Please stand if able*

GATHERING

Prelude: *Canon in D* Pachelbel



Introit:

*The Entry of the Scriptures

*Call to Worship:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
who is Christ the Lord.

**Let our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour,
who has done great things for us.**

Glory be to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace and goodwill to all.

*Prayer of Adoration: *(said together):*

We bless and adore you, O Christ,

Son of God, yet born of Mary;

Son of God, yet our brother;

Eternal Word, yet a child without speech;

clothed in glory, yet wrapped in bands of cloth;
Lord of heaven and earth, yet laid in a manger;
strong in your weakness,
glorious in your humility,
mighty to save.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Hymn: Good Christians all rejoice 141

EQUIPPING

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

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

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 148

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

² **Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!**

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded, and they were created.

⁶ **He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹ **Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!**

¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² **Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.**

Praise the LORD!

*Hymn: A holy baby

345 vv 1-5

Community Conversation

The Letters: Hebrews 2:10-18

The Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

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

Sermon: "Matthew's Christmas story: the hope and the nightmare"

*Hymn: It came upon the midnight clear 148

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem:

*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: *Sonata in E flat Major, Op 7, No. 4, 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 Nancy Tindall. Our Scripture reader is Anne Sommerville. Our refreshment host is. Dorothy Jackson.

**We welcome** Whitney Canning as guest preacher today. Whitney is the Camping and Youth Consultant for the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces and the Executive Director of Camp Geddie. She is a candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and is close to completing her studies. She is also an elder at St. Andrew's, Dartmouth.

**Announcements cont'd**

**THIS WEEK – December 29 to January 5**

|              |                                                                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Today</b> | 11 a.m. Worship<br>Noon Refreshments                                               |
| Friday       | David's Place                                                                      |
| Sunday       | 11 a.m. Worship - Celebrating The Epiphany of our Lord<br><b>No</b> 9 a.m. Service |

We extend the sympathy of the congregation to Donna Miller and family on the recent death of her mother, Norma MacLeod, in Cape Breton.

**Note:** The **9 a.m. Communion** services will resume on **January 12**.

**Happy New Year!**

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Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us,
and the great favour to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely";
and he became their savior

⁹ in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

The Massacre of the Infants

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

The Return from Egypt

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

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