



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 - Understanding the past to light the way forward

The Rev. Robinson Christian is a Doctoral student and a pastor in the Church of North India, a PCC partner. While researching material on the impact of the colonial legacy on preaching in India today, Robinson came across the Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis of Knox College in Toronto, author of "Decolonizing Preaching." Robinson and Sarah began to correspond, and International Ministries invited Robinson to study in Toronto for two months. This is what mission is all about. Together we learn from the past, and God illumines a new understanding today. As partners in the Global Church, how can we not engage in these challenging conversations, learning from one another how God works through us?
Presbyterians Sharing supports partnerships

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP - We pray that the hope of the Advent and Christmas season will awaken and refresh our faith in the God who is with us.

STEWARDSHIP - It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful. *David Steindl-Rast (1926 -), Catholic Benedictine monk*

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.



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.



*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.

Third Sunday of Advent - December 15, 2019

**Please stand if able*

GATHERING

Prelude: *Nocturne in F Sharp major, Op. 15 No. 2* - F. Chopin

Introit: *Kyrie from Mass for Three Voices* - William Byrd

*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.

We are preparing ourselves for the days

when the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

and rejoice with joy and singing. [Isa. 35:1]

*Advent Prayer: *(said together):*

O God, we hear your promise

and the assurance that it will be fulfilled.

Our hope is in you and we praise you.

Yet we yearn for the day when the hope will be realized,
when all shall see your glory,
when sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
God of hope, in our worship and in our lives,
help us to lift up your vision of peace and wholeness.
When you come to us in unexpected ways,
may we know you and rejoice in you,
through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn: Hail to the Lord's anointed 115
Lighting the Candle of Joy (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 35:1-10
One: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 146

¹ Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**
³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
⁴ **When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**
⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
⁶ **who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**
⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free;
⁸ **the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ **The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!**

*Hymn: 'Twas in the moon of wintertime 144
Community Conversation

The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

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: "The true meaning of Christmas"

*Hymn: Oh for a thousand tongues to sing 374

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem: *Glory to God in the Highest* - Donna DiBella

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

*Offertory Prayer

Announcements

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

SENDING

*Hymn: Hark! the herald angels sing 139

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

Postlude: *Dr. Gradus Ad Parnassum* - C. Debussy

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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 Phyllis Morrison. Our Scripture reader is Phyllis Morrison. Our Advent liturgy readers are the Harris family. Our refreshment host is Linda MacLeod.

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¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

One: The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, O Christ.
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**Introit:** *Kyrie from Mass for Three Voices* - William Byrd

*Kyrie eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.*

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Anthem:** *Glory to God in the Highest* - Donna DiBella

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## Announcements cont'd

### **PWS&D Advent & Candle-lighting Liturgies - Readers needed!**

Please speak to Phyllis Morrison to sign up for Dec. 22 or Christmas Eve, either 4 or 7 p.m. service.

### **THIS WEEK – December 15 to 22**

|                |                                                                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Today</b>   | 11 a.m. Worship<br>Gathering re young families Christmas plans after church    |
| <b>Tuesday</b> | 12:15 p.m. 20 minute Advent service                                            |
| <b>Friday</b>  | David's Place                                                                  |
| <b>Sunday</b>  | <b>No 9 a.m. service in December</b><br>11 a.m. Worship - 4th Sunday of Advent |

**Today** - Following the service, parents and others interested in **ministry with young families** will gather to continue to make plans for the Christmas Season. (This meeting was postponed from last week.)

### **The Presbyterian Church in Canada calendars for 2020.**

\$5.00 each. See Davida Mackay to purchase.

**Tuesdays at Saint David's - 12 noon - 2 pm** Doors are open to visitors, to enjoy the sanctuary, and to stay for a time of rest, relaxation or prayer. Thanks very much to the volunteers who make this happen. **Dec. 17** will be the last Tuesday for the season. **There will a 20-minute service at 12:15 p.m.** to which all are invited.

**This Christmas we are adopting 7 Families to give a hand up.** Our elves have been very busy checking with the parents to determine what is needed or a special wish. We have 130 tags with various requests for gifts, for both children and parents. Please consider taking one or more tags. As usual, you keep one part of the tag and put the other with your name and contact info in the box provided so that our elves know who will be providing the gift. **All gifts are to be returned by mid December** so that any outstanding shopping can be done before **wrapping day on December 21.** Help the congregation pull together to make Christmas a joyful time for our families. If you have questions please contact Paula Minnikin. You may obtain a tax credit for gifts

purchased or money donated by giving the receipts to Davida Mackay or your financial donation to Mac Fyfe by year's end.

**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 choral music.

### EDIT

At the end of November, \$15,056 had been received for Presbyterians Sharing, 75.3% of our target.

At the end of November, 2018, \$15,938 had been received, 80% of our target.

At the end of November, \$6,676 had been received for PWS & D.

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Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’”