



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



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.

Christmas Eve - December 24, 2019, 7 p.m.

**Please stand if able*



Prelude: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

Introit: *Hodie Christus Natus Est (Gregorian Chant)*

*The Entry of the Scriptures

*Call to Worship:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Come to the manger, see the child Jesus, God's own Son.

Welcome this heavenly guest, given as a baby,

so that we can see and know how much God loves the world.

**Let our carols of praise ring out in thanks to God,
for it is Christmas Eve and, in Jesus, God is with us.**

Let us worship God.

*Prayer of Adoration: (said together)

Loving and generous God, we praise and thank you

for the joys of this Christmas:

the music and the singing,

the gathering of family and friends,

The Christmas Spirit

The Christmas spirit
is that hope
which tenaciously clings
to the hearts of the faithful
and announces
in the face
of any Herod the world can produce
and all the inn doors slammed in our faces
and all the dark nights of our souls
that with God,
all things are still possible,
that even now
unto us
a Child is born!

~ Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem* [Copyright 1980 Westminster Press,
Copyright 1985, 1987 Ann Weems]



! 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.

and of your people in this place,
the gifts we give and receive.
We thank you most of all for your great gift to us,
the gift born this night—your child Jesus.
May Christ's Spirit of love fill our hearts to overflowing.
May Christ's Spirit of peace be upon everyone, everywhere.
Glory be to you, O God, forever. Amen.

*Hymn: O come, all ye faithful 159

Lighting the Christ Candle (See Insert)

Reflection: *What do I want for Christmas?*

The Prophets: Isaiah 9:2-7

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

*Hymn: O little town of Bethlehem 165

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-7

Reflection: *O Lord, you were born!*

*Hymn: Away in a manger 149

The Gospel: Luke 2:8-14

Reflection: *Wouldn't it be grand to be an angel?*

The Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

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

Reflection: *Holding*

*Hymn: Angels we have heard on high 147

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem: *In the Bleak Midwinter* - Gustav Holst

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

*Offertory Prayer

Christmas Prayer:

Response: L> In everything we do, let us say

All> **"Glory to you, O Lord! Alleluia!"**

*Hymn: Silent night 154

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

Postlude: *Prelude and Fugue No. 15 in G Major, WTC I* - J. S. Bach

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The Reflections offered tonight are from *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Ann Weems.

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

**We welcome** all who are worshipping here tonight! If you are here for the first time, please sign the Guest Book at the main entrance. Thank you to our Scripture and Christ Candle readers.

**First Sunday of Christmas - December 29** - Service at 11 a.m.

Come adore the New-Born King with Christmas hymns and readings. Guest preacher will be Whitney Canning, Executive Director of Camp Geddie and Consultant for Camping and Youth for the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces. Whitney is a candidate for ordained ministry and is an elder in St. Andrew's, Dartmouth. All ages welcome to the service.

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

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Introit: *Hodie Christus Natus Est (Gregorian Chant)*

Hodie Christus natus est:

Hodie Salvator apparuit:

Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,

laetantur Archangeli

Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Alleluia.

Today Christ is born:

Today the Savior appeared:

Today on Earth the Angels sing,

Archangels rejoice:

Today the righteous rejoice, saying:

Glory to God in the highest.

Alleluia.

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*May you know God's peace, hope and joy at Christmas and in the New Year!*

### **Isaiah 9:2-7**

- 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
- 3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### **Luke 2:1-7**

- 1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 3 All went to their own towns to be registered.
- 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.
- 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
- 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
- 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### **Luke 2:8-14**

- 8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
- 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
- 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
- 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

### **Luke 2:15-20**

- 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”
- 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.
- 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;
- 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
- 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
- 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.