

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Est. 1786

208 MacLean St., New Glasgow

Nova Scotia B2H 4M9

902-752-5691 first.church@ns.aliantzinc.ca

## Sunday, December 23, 2018

4th Sunday in Advent - Love



*Welcome in the name of the living God, in the name of the beloved Son,  
Jesus Christ, and in the name of the Spirit who gives us life.  
If you are a visitor, you are invited to sign our guest book.*

*Worship begins with the music of the prelude.  
Please silence all electronic devices*

(\* indicates standing, as you are able)

## THE APPROACH

Organ Prelude

Entry of Choir and Minister

Welcome and Announcements

\*\*Introit

**\*\*Please rise as the Bible enters**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called  
Emmanuel.

Lighting of the Candle of Love:

Reader: As we light our advent candle

**People: We thank you for the love you give.**

Reader: As we prepare for Christmas time

**People: Light of the world, shine on us.**

Reader: As we seek to worship you

**People: Shed love in our hearts.**

Reader: To all the people who don't know you,

**People: Light of the world, shine through us.**

Reader: In this world of pain and darkness,

**People: Help us to share your love.**

Reader: In our service here today,

**People: Light of the world, light the way.**

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Leader: God has done great things for us!

**People: God's love is heralded in the promise of Christ.**

Leader: Holy is God's name!

**People: God's promises are fulfilled in the coming of Christ.**

Leader: God's mercy extends from generation to generation.

**People: God's salvation is offered in the gift of Christ.**

**\*\*HYMN #122 Oh come, oh come Emmanuel**

Prayer of Praise and Adoration **(unison) In-breaking God, as Christmas draws near, it's hard for us to settle down; it's difficult for us to focus on your word. Come to us this morning and shock us out of our Christmas complacency. Open us to the transforming love of the one for whom we are waiting. Grant us the faithfulness of Mary and Elizabeth, that we may respond with a full-throated "Yes" to all that is coming. We come this morning in expectation, in joy, and in more than a bit of fear, for all of this will mean for us. Give us ears to hear and hearts to receive your message of transforming grace. Amen**

Change my heart, O God" (*Eddie Espinoza*): Change my heart, O God, make it ever true; change my heart, O God, may I be like you. You are the Potter, I am the clay; mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true; change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

Prayer of Confession (unison) **Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about your reordered world – a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with you, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who bring us peace. (Silent confession...)**

Words of Assurance

**\*\*Passing of the Peace:** Christ came to bring us peace. As we share signs of love and peace with one another, let us be Christ's people of peace.

One person: The peace of Christ with you.

Other person: **And also with you!**

**\*Hymn #123** My soul gives glory to my God *(children come forward during singing of last verse)*

Children's time *(children go to class following story)*

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

Prayer of Illumination (unison) **God of all peace and joy, send your Spirit to this place to bless this our reading of your word that it may be a lamp to our feet and a light unto our path. Amen**

Scripture:	First reading:	Micah 5: 2-5a	pg. 712
	Second Reading:	Luke 1: 46b-55	pg. 781
	The Letters:	Hebrews 10:5-10	pg. 915
	The Gospel:	Luke 1: 39-45	pg. 782

Leader: The word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

**Anthem**

Sermon    The Burden of Birthdays

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer: We ask all this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is our hope, our peace, and our joy; and who taught us to pray especially in times of greatest need, this family prayer.....

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

\*\*Hymn            **#118**    Hark the glad sound

The Offering

\*\*Offertory        **#145**    In the bleak mid-winter (vs. 4)

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

\*\*Prayer of dedication

\*\*Hymn            **#128**    There's a voice in the wilderness crying

\*\*Commissioning and Benediction

\*\*Sending Forth    **#793**            Amen, amen, amen

Postlude

---

Supply Minister:            Rev. Dr. Morley Shaw (h) 902-755-5505  
Interim Moderator:        Rev. Lorne MacLeod (h) 902-695-2817  
Organist:                    Lloyd MacLean  
Office hours:                Tues. & Wed. – 10-1; Thurs. & Fri. – 9-12  
Website:                     <http://pccweb.ca/first-newglasgow/>

Carrying the Bible: Kent Williams  
MacLean St. Ushers: Gary Ross & George Bellefontaine  
James St. Ushers: Heidie & Bert Meyer  
Office: Chet Fleming  
Scripture Reader: Clarice Campbell  
Refreshments: Jean McComb, Lynn Simpson & Carol Pettipas

*The Poinsettia placed in the sanctuary last Sunday  
is in loving memory of Robert (Bob) Fraser  
by Edna and family.*

Today is the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**. During Advent we are focusing on aspects of Advent – Hope, Peace, Joy & Love. How can you enter into the story this year in a new way? Invite your neighbours so they can experience the new life that Jesus brings. Pray that First Church will be able to effectively share the hope, peace, joy & love of Christmas.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We have received a memorial donation** from Joan Fukes in loving memory of Peg, Edgar, Bill and Mile Fukes.

**We have received a memorial donation** from Karen Garner (niece, daughter, sister) in loving memory of Katherine Stewart, Vera and Arnold Campbell & Glen Campbell.

**2019 Offering Envelopes** are available in the Upper Hall. The weekly and monthly ones are there. If you don't presently get envelopes and would like to, please contact the office.

Following the Pictou County Council of Churches prayer roster, we are asked to pray for the congregation of Lighthouse Ministries and their pastor, Gordon Wheeler.

2019 Presbyterian Church in Canada wall calendars have arrived! The pictures are beautiful, with pictures of stained-glass windows from across Canada. They are available at the office during regular office hours for \$4.00 each.

## U P C O M I N G   E V E N T S

**Dec. 23 -** Sounds of Joy concert at Trinity United Church at 7:00 pm.



**Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve** Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm with special musical guests and the Children's Handbell Choir.

**Dec 25.** - the Annual Community Christmas Dinner will be served once again this year on Christmas Day from Noon to 2pm at St George's Anglican Church, 199 Temperance St. Tickets are free (used to make sure we have enough food prepared) and can be purchased by calling the church office at 902 752-4551. If no answer leave a voice message and your ticket will be reserved.

**Mission Statement:** *But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple. Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don't take yourself too seriously – take God seriously.*

*Micah 6: 8-The Message*

