

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Est. 1786

208 MacLean St., New Glasgow

Nova Scotia B2H 4M9

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Sunday, December 24, 2018

Christmas Eve – 7:00 pm

Greetings and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you for being with us at First Church as we celebrate the birth of our Savior on this holiest of nights. Whether you are a long-time member of our congregation or whether you are a newcomer to our church family, we appreciate that you have incorporated this worship service into your own personal Christmas Eve tradition this year.

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

Prelude - Brass Ensemble

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 the four Advent Candles

Pastor: On this most holy night we light all four candles in our Advent wreath, and we are reminded to give thanks for the light of Hope, the

light of Peace, the light of Love and the light of Joy Christ brings in our world of pain and darkness.

The Christ Candle – (Pastor lights the Christ Candle)

Pastor: Now we light the Christ Candle, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We rejoice that the promise of God has been fulfilled in the coming of the Baby born in a manger.

People: **Thank you, God, for your light in this world through Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness.

All: **And the darkness has not overcome it. Thanks be to God.**

****Call to Worship**

Leader: Rejoice, for God is with us - Emmanuel

People: **In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.**

Leader: Now there is reason to hope, to live, to laugh, to live.

People: **God is truly with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels,

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.

Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze.

We too would thither bend our joyful footsteps.

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER (in unison): Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors." This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen

The Prophecy of the Messiah

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

****Carol #139** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Handbell Choir

The Preparations for the Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-5

****O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie,
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Anthem

In Bethlehem

B.D. Martin/J.M. Martin

Offering

Offertory Response (**unison**) **So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him. The King of Kings salvation brings. Let loving hearts enthrone Him. This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Haste, haste to bring him laud the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

Offertory Prayer

Jesus is Born

Luke 2:6-7

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

O Holy Night

Lighting the Candles throughout the congregation

Silent Night

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly Hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, is born!

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy Holy Face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth!

BENEDICTION

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her king.
Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

Postlude Music

*Please carefully extinguish your candles and give them
to the ushers at the doors.*

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/>

Participants in service:

Carrying the Bible: Kent Williams
MacLean St. Ushers: Mark & Jennifer Thibeau
James St. Ushers: Sara Fullerton & Fran Savage
Office: Murray Biggar
Scripture Readers: Phoebe Fraser, Norm McComb & Chet Fleming
Musical guests: The Brass Group
Soloist: Jodie Alcorn-Miller

*The picture on the cover of your bulletin is one of
our stained-glass windows.*

We are pleased to welcome the brass group and their gift of music for our service this evening. Members are: Andrew Alcorn (trumpet); Brent MacQuarrie (trumpet); Natalie Alcorn (french horn); Pat Craig (baritone); Elizabeth Dunbar (trombone); Robyn Alcorn- Martin (tenor sax) and David Prince (tenor sax). We also thank the musical gifts of Natalie and Jodie as they offer solos on horn and voice, respectively, during our service.

Dear friends:

Our prayer is that the spirit of Christ dwells richly in your heart during this Christmas season and that our love and friendship would be with you and yours in 2019.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and LOVE TO ALL

Morley & Joy