

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

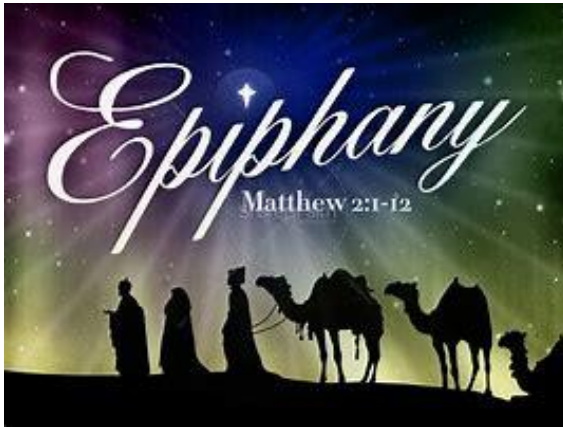
Est. 1786

208 MacLean St., New Glasgow

Nova Scotia B2H 4M9

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

Sunday, January 6, 2019



Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

Greetings and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you for being with us at First Church on this first Sunday of the calendar New Year. 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 come to worship with us.

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** #727 (vs. 1, 6)

Let there be light, let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather, let them be face to face;
let there be light; open our hearts to wonder, perish
the way of terror, hallow the world God made.

****Call to Worship**

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come.

People: Stand up, a new day is dawning,

Leader: a new year is born

People: fresh and clean.

Leader: Arise, shine for your light has come,

People: Emmanuel, God is with us

Leader: on every path we take,

People: no matter where we go.

Leader: Arise, shine for your light has come,

People: and the stars still shine

Leader: where Christ is present

People: and voices sing in praise!

****HYMN #174** Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

Prayer of Praise and Adoration **(unison)** **O God, we come before you as a people gathered to behold the Christ, a light dawned that cannot be extinguished. In this new year, we offer special thanks for this community of faith and your faithful presence. Help us to see more clearly your glorious light, that we will open our hearts to your reign on earth and dedicate our lives to your service. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Kyrie (*Strathdee*): Lord have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession (unison) **Lord, it's only a few days after the Christmas celebration and we are exhausted. People have come and gone; gatherings are winding down; we are being reminded of the "normalcy" of life returning to us. We don't want to go there just yet. We want to linger in the warmth of the season. Forgive us when we don't seem to feel your warmth in our lives all the time. Forgive us when we assign warmth only to Christmas, and then to Easter and seem to dwell on the mundane the rest of the time. Give us courage to live as people of the Light, those who find your comforting, encouraging presence in our lives at all times. Strengthen us for joyful service in your name. Amen**

Words of Assurance

****Passing of the Peace:** Rejoicing in the brightness of God's blessing,
let us share signs of peace.

One person: The peace of Christ with you.

Other person: And also with you!

***Hymn #376 Lord, the light of your love is shining** *(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) **As we open the pages of scripture this day, Loving God, we discover familiar phrases and well-known expressions. Help us as we seek to understand these words and find in them guidance for our life of faith. Comfort and challenge us to greater faithfulness and more dedicated discipleship as we contemplate these long-ago but ever-new words. Amen.**

Scripture: Responsive Psalm: Psalm 72: 1-7

1 Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

2 **May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.**

³ May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.

⁴ **May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he endure^[a] as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

⁶ **May he be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.**

⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

First Reading:	Isaiah 60: 1-6	pg. 570
The Letters:	Ephesians 3: 1-12	pg. 891
The Gospel:	Matthew 2: 1-12	pg. 738

Leader: The word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

Anthem A Babe Was Born (Winter's Child) *(Dan Damon)*

Sermon Epiphany Glory - It's Good for you

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 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 #173 We three Kings

The Offering

****Offertory #798** What gift can we bring (vs. 4)
What gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honour and praise!

****Prayer of dedication**

****Hymn #686** How firm a foundation

****Commissioning and Benediction**

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

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: Brent MacQuarrie
MacLean St. Ushers: John Zinck & Don Johnstone
James St. Ushers: Albert van de Pol & Theresa van de Pol
Office: Roger MacDonald
Scripture Reader: Sheila Dempster
Refreshments: Isabel Henderson & Brenda Zinck

It's Epiphany! The Greek word *epiphania* means "*manifestation*." An Epiphany is a sudden revelation or realization about the nature or meaning of something. In a happy set of circumstances, this year the Epiphany, January 6, falls on a Sunday. This is the day of the year that we celebrate the Incarnation of God into the person of Jesus Christ. From the Incarnation flows everything else in our faith: the teaching of Jesus Christ, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. Without the Incarnation, these things do not happen. Part of the power that comes from Epiphany is where it is placed in our liturgical season, for to get to Epiphany, we must go through Advent. We have gone through four weeks of fasting, repentance and darkness to get to the light of Epiphany.

And so, we begin 2019 with Epiphany. That's a good way for the church to be reminded that Christianity is a revealed religion.

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

PASSING THE PEACE: Perhaps you have wondered why we "Pass the Peace of Christ" during Sunday worship in church. "*Passing the Peace*" is an ancient tradition going back to the early church, whereby brothers and sisters in Christ share a hug or handshake, or a "*holy kiss*," as a sign of our love. Often the embrace is accompanied by a wish for the "*peace of Christ*" to be with another. (This is often said out loud as hugs or handshakes are exchanged.) It is also a sign that we have reconciled wrongs with one another and with anyone who might be holding something against us.

ATTENTION ALL GROUPS: Please get your year end reports in to the office as soon as you can. You can submit them by email if it's easier.

THANK YOU to Barb Biggar for filling in for me in the office, so I could go spend the holidays with family. *Sheila*

We have received memorial donations for Richard Hawley from Inez Hawley and from Irene Kirk for her niece, Lenora Lees.

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

Jan. 5 – Carillon Singers- Snow Angel at 7:00 pm at Trinity United Church. Tickets \$15.00 each.

Jan 7 – No C. Mair AMS meeting this month

Jan. 9 - E. MacKay/G. Reid AMS meeting here at 2 pm.

Jan. 16 -17 - - New Glasgow Blood Donor Clinics to be held at Summer Street Industries, New Glasgow on Wednesday, Jan. 16 from 12pm-3pm and 5pm-8pm. Also on Thursday, Jan. 17 from 12pm-3pm and 5pm to 8pm.



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