



The Presbyterian Church of Saint David

1544 Grafton Street at Blowers,
Halifax, N.S. (by Memorial Library)

Minister: Rev. Kenn Stright
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. John Pace
Organist: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson
Clerk of Session: Murray Alary

WELCOME!

Service for the Lord's Day
December 26, 2010 11:00 a.m.
First Sunday after Christmas
**All who are able are asked to stand.*

God Calls Us to Worship

Organ Prelude *Meditation on Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

*The Entry of the Scriptures

*Call to Worship

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord
**because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the
great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown
them according to his mercy, according to the
abundance of his steadfast love.**

*Hymn "Good Christians, all rejoice" **141**

Prayers and Carols

What child is this **161 v.1**

What child is this: miracle of birth, full of innocence, potential, hope: we thank you that your advent restores in us optimism for the future. Without your arrival, our world remains stark and bleak: so we rejoice that in the coming of one so small and vulnerable, the flame of life is rekindled and love is re-born. And as we bring thanks for the coming child, so we also bring prayers for our world, as we say:

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.
O Come all you faithful **159 v.1**

O Come all you faithful: waken to the world into which the Christ-child comes, again and again. Poverty, exclusion, violence are

triumphant, and joy is set aside. Call to mind the child whose coming mirrors the pain of so many. See in the manger the hope of justice for all, and begin it in us, as we say:

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.

O little town of Bethlehem **165 v.1-2**

O little town of Bethlehem: we pray for you, a symbol of all that threatens just and peaceful living. Where religious zeal combines with political scheming, victims suffer only pain, fear and death. Call to mind the child whose coming knew that lethal combination of desires. See in the manger the hope of peace for all, and begin it in us, as we say:

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.

In the bleak midwinter **145 v.1-2**

In the bleak midwinter: we remember those for whom the winds bite coldest; the homeless on our streets; the lonely, without friends or family today; those who feel the bitterness of broken homes, of violence or of apathy; friends who mourn loved ones now departed. Call to mind the child whose coming came in a draughty, unwelcoming barn. See in the manger the hope of comfort for all, and begin it in us, as we say:

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.

Good Christians all rejoice **141**

239 Good Christians all rejoice, Christ our hope is coming to begin again God's work of love in us today. Thanks be to God, Amen. Assurance of Pardon

We Hear God' Word

First Reading: *Isaiah 63:7-9*
One: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: *Psalm 148*
One: Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

**All: Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!**

*Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!*

**Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them for ever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

*Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!*

*Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!*

*Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!*

**Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.**

*He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.*

Praise the LORD!

Gloria Patri (sung)

*Hymn "The first nowell" **136**

Conversation with the Young People: How was it?

Hymn "The first nowell" **136**

(the young people leave for church school during the singing of this verse)

Epistle: Hebrews 2:10-18

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

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

*Hymn "Unto us a child is born" **160**

Sermon "The Morning After ..."

We Respond to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

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

Affirmation of Faith

*I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel
begun in Bethlehem.*

**I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town;
and
whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the
world in towns both large and small.**

*I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no
room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from
my life today.*

**I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored
and the proud could never understand; whose life was
among common people, whose welcome came from
persons of hungry hearts.**

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:

**I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms,
whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only
wealth, who looked at persons and made them see
what God's love saw in them, who by love brought
sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up
to meet the strength of God.**

I confess our ever-lasting need of God:

**The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed,
the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love
for hearts grown cold.**

I believe in God who gives us the best.

**I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in
Bethlehem, for me and for the world.**

Offertory Prayer

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Come Lord Jesus, light of the world. Shine into our lives like the Bethlehem star - and reveal your truth and grace. Dawn on our darkness like the rising sun - and renew our faith and hope. Scatter the shadows with your Spirit's fire - and banish our shame and fear.

Fill us with the glory the angels sang, and let us live like beacons of your love...

Lord hear our prayer.

Loving God, we praise you for the prophets who told us to wait in hope, for the word you gave them has always come true. We praise you for the promise of one who would reveal to us the face of God, and show us the way to your kingdom, for a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us. In him we see your faithfulness, your promises, the entirety of your very nature made flesh. We praise and we thank in his name....

Lord hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus we thank you for our families, with all their tensions and awkwardness. Thank you for days that go well, when we feel proud and hopeful and warmly embraced. Thank you for times when we love them beyond question, and we see them strong and good and caring. And thank you for memories of courage and joy, when we see skills and values and character passing and growing from generation to generation. Heal us of hurts too long remembered, and childhood jealousies never released. Help us to see you in the faces around our table, to hear your voice in those family phone calls and to know your presence in comfortable silence - For you are Emmanuel, "God with us", at home with us, making every meal holy, and every family member a child of God...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, help us to see that the power of Christmas isn't exhausted with the music and the lights and the gifts and the food, but grows as slowly as a baby, to become a living treasure, a reservoir of peace and love, to sustain us, not only through December and into the holidays, but each and every day of the days you grant to us. Indeed, O Lord, bless us that we may see your presence with ever greater brightness and that we may ourselves become more and more like unto him whose birth we celebrate this season.

Lord hear our prayer.

Lord, hear our prayer too for those particular persons and those particular things that have been shared within this holy place today.

Lord hear our Prayer.

Gracious God, we ask all this knowing that you indeed hear us - for we pray as your son Jesus taught us, saying.... Our Father... The Lord's Prayer ("debts & debtors")

We Go Out to Serve God

*Hymn: *"Joy to the world"*

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*Benediction

*Choral "Amen"

Organ Postlude *In Dulci Jubilo* ~ JS Bach

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. Envelopes are also in the pews or in the Narthex. **We welcome** younger children to our services. **Parents, please note that a nursery room is available for nursing infants.** *An audio link broadcasts the service in this unsupervised room.* The welcoming elder this morning is Mac Mackay. The reader is Barry Cahill. Please join us for **Coffee Hour** this morning. Our host today is Marie Wamboldt.

THIS WEEK:

Fri. 10:00 am – 1:00 pm David's Place (Hall)

Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to Elizabeth's Baskets.

White Gift Sunday: A Resounding Success!

Saint David's Church School wishes to thank all pupils and parents and all others for the generous donations on White Gift Sunday. This year we received the largest amount ever recorded for this outreach (\$346.00), more than doubling last year's record giving. Your generosity enables your Church School to support local missions which especially minister to the needs of children and youth.

Prayer Group A family that prays together derives strength, solace, and inspiration from that act of worship. On Sunday, January 9, a prayer group will have its first gathering in the minister's study at 10 a.m. All are welcome to join in this special time of fellowship. If

you have any requests for prayers, please pass them along to Rev. Stright or Valerie Macdonald.

Telling Our Stories It is important for families to know each other and know 'their' story - and the same is true for the church. On Saturday, January 15 from 4-6 pm we will have a time of fellowship to share our stories about our spiritual journeys at Saint David's and enjoy a potluck supper together. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. All ages are welcome.

Hope Finds A Way

Even in the face of poverty, injustice and disaster, hope finds a way. For more than 60 years, our church has been serving people around the world through Presbyterian World Service & Development. Together with partners overseas and Canadians here at home, we work to restore human dignity, ease the pain of want and promote community cooperation as an expression of Christ's hope, peace, joy and love. Thanks to the support and faith in action of Presbyterians in Canada, we are providing people in need with education, healthcare, food, clean water, small loans, promoting human rights and supporting refugees throughout our global village. This year, thank you for remembering our brothers and sisters around the world. www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

Christmas Devotionals: All through the month of December, the PCC Web Daily Devotional features wonderful Christmas devotionals. Join more than 6000 subscribers around the world and enjoy devotionals each day from our Presbyterian Church, delivered free by e-mail to your inbox. Subscribe at <http://daily.presbycan.ca/email/subscribe.html> For those who wish to sign up to receive the daily bible reading by email, you may go to: http://www.biblesociety.ca/the_word_and_you/scripture_resources

Minutes for Mission NICARAGUA Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help connect congregations and individuals with mission partners in Canada and around the world through short term mission experiences. Cathy Finlay, a member of Leaside Presbyterian Church, participated in the Presbyterian Church in Canada's Fair Trade Study Tour to Nicaragua last year. The group

consisted of nine Canadians from across the country who were eager to see the tangible benefits of fair trade, and to experience first-hand the work of our Church. Cathy writes, "In addition to learning about fair trade, we saw our national church in action. While I have always financially supported *Presbyterians Sharing* and PWS&D, on this tour I saw first-hand how a donation affects real people."

Stewardship Moment I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. *John 13:24 NRSV*

PASTORAL CARE

Members of Saint David's requiring pastoral care are requested to contact one of the following:

Rev. Kenn Stright	office: 423 2660 home: 477 2870
Mrs. Valerie Macdonald	home: 455-1893

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David

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