



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
January 2, 2011 11:00 a.m.
**All who are able are asked to stand.*

God Calls Us to Worship

Organ Prelude

*The Entry of the Scriptures

*Call to Worship

All: Call to worship:

One: God of the past

who has fathered and mothered us

we are here to thank you

God of the future

who is always ahead of us

we are here to trust you

God of the present

here in the midst of us

we are here to praise you

God of life

beyond us within us

we rejoice in your glorious love

*Hymn "Come in, come in, New Year" **808**

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

One: Lord Jesus Christ, you came to a stable when most looked in a palace;

All: you were born in poverty when we might have anticipated riches;

King of all the earth, you were content to visit one nation.

From beginning to end you upturned our human values and held us in suspense.

Come to us, Lord Jesus.

**Do not let us take you for granted
or pretend that we ever fully understand you.**

Continue to surprise us

**so that, kept alert,
we are always ready**

to receive you as Lord and to do your will.

(Silent prayer)

The Prayer of Confession ends with the Lord's Prayer

(Parts of the above prayer adapted from:

Donald Hilton: Anthology for the Christian Year, p46)

One: Lord have mercy. All: Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Assurance of Pardon

We Hear God's Word

*Hymn "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet" **496 v.1**

First Reading: *Jeremiah 31:7-14*

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

Responsive Reading: *Psalms 147:12-20*

One: Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

All: Praise your God, O Zion!

For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.

**He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with
the finest of wheat.**

He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

He hurls down hail like crumbs-- who can stand before his cold?

**He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his
wind blow, and the waters flow.**

He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

**He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do
not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!**

239

Gloria Patri (sung)

*Hymn "Jesus, friend of all children" **656**

Conversation with the Young People: Resolutions!

Hymn "Jesus, friend of all children" **656**

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

Epistle: *Ephesians 1:3-14*

Gospel: *John 1:1-9, 10-18*

One: *The Gospel of the Lord.* **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**
*Hymn “*New songs of celebration render*” **62**
Sermon “*A New Beginning*”

We Respond to God’s Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
Offertory Anthem
*Doxology: “*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow*” **830**
Dedication of Offering

The New Year Covenanting Service

Confession of Faith: (Together) God has come to us. The Lord spoke to the people of Israel and entered into covenant with them. From Israel came Jesus Christ, the Son of God, bringing salvation through a new covenant entered by faith. The Lord continues to come to us by the Holy Spirit, God present in the world, and Guide to the church, the new Israel. (from: *Living Faith*)

The traditional Wesley Covenanting Invitation:

Minister: Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honourable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ. Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

Congregation:

Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things. Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.
Lord, make me what you will.
I put myself fully into your hands:
put me to doing, put me to suffering,
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing.

**I freely and with a willing heart
give it all to your pleasure and disposal.**

Minister: It was the tradition on Covenanting Sunday to direct the gathered congregation to not only consider the new beginning God in Christ was calling them to but to them commit such to writing. Listen to the traditional words:

You are advised to make this covenant not only in your heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing. Therefore, with all reverence, lay the service before the Lord as your act and deed. And when you have done this, sign it. Then keep it as a reminder of the holy agreement between God and you that you may remember it during doubts and temptations.

We Go Out to Serve God

*Hymn: “*Standing at the portal*” **811**
*Commissioning and Benediction
Go in peace.
And may Christ be a bright flame before you,
a guiding star above you,
a kindly shepherd behind you,
a supporting strength beneath you.
(*An old Irish blessing*)
*Choral “Amen”
Organ Postlude

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 Davida Mackay. The reader is Phyllis Morrison. Please join us for **Coffee Hour** this morning. Our host today is Valerie Macdonald.

THIS WEEK:

Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 -10:30 am Fitness Classes

Thurs. 7:30 pm Choir Practice

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

What goes up must come down, so join members of the Saint David's Auxiliary in un-decorating on Saturday, January 8 at 10 am. Cider, hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

Minutes for Mission CANADA: Presbytery of Winnipeg

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support new ministries across Canada, including Trinity Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg. The congregation initially worshipped in a local movie theatre, but found that, while it was a highly visible and comfortable location, it made participatory worship challenging. So the congregation has moved to a small church near the University of Manitoba until their new building is completed. Over the past year, a building committee has worked hard to assess community and congregational needs, and an architect has been contracted. Rev. Matthew Brough shares, "There is a great sense of excitement at Trinity, and a strong belief that God can use a small group of people to accomplish great things."

Stewardship Moment Stewardship is living into a vision of mission in a concrete way. ~ *Anonymous*

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

Our Vision: A Worshiping, Sharing, Welcoming Community

Office & Mailing Address: 1537 Brunswick St., Halifax, NS B3J 2G1

Telephone: (902) 423-1944

Minister (Rev. Kenn Stright): stdavids.stright@bellaliant.com

Office (Laura Calvi): stdavids.office@ns.sympatico.ca

Organist (Tristan Cleveland-Thompson): stdavids.music@bellaliant.com

Web site: www.saintdavids.ca