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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**208 MacLean St., New Glasgow, NS**

**902-752-5691**

[**First.church@ns.aliantzinc.ca**](mailto:First.church@ns.aliantzinc.ca)

**Reverend Andrew MacDonald**

**902-331-0322**

[**yick96@hotmail.com**](mailto:yick96@hotmail.com)

**December 12th, 2021**

**ADVENT 3 - JOY**

**THE APPROACH**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Musical Introit 114 –** Emmanuel, Emmanuel

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn #122 –** “Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel” (vs 1,3,6,7)

**Prayer of Confession and Pardon**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace**

**Hymn:**  **#121** – “Long ago, prophets knew” (all verses)

**Lighting the Advent Candle** (Insert)

**Advent Hymn – #119** “Hope is a star” (vs. 3)

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 12:2-6

**Epistle Lesson:** Philippians 4:4-7

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 3:7-18

**Anthem –** "There was a child in Galilee" (Janet Gadeski)

**Sermon:** "Joy!"

**Reaffirmation of Faith – Apostles’ Creed**

**Hymn: #124** “People in darkness” (all verses)

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayer of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: #123** – “My soul gives glory to God ” (vs. 1, 2, 5)

**Benediction**

**Recessional**

**Scripture Reader:** Brent MacQuarrie

**♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫♫**

Minister: Rev. Andrew MacDonald (c) 902-331-0322

Organist: Lloyd MacLean

Office hours: Tues. to Fri. – 10 -1pm

Rev. MacDonaldoffice hours -Tues. to Fri. 10-2 or by appointment

**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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASTORAL CARE:**

In order to provide support to the people of First Church, when you or a loved one is sick or in hospital, we encourage you to contact the church (902-752-5691), Reverend Andrew (902-331-0322) or Phoebe Fraser, Chair of the Pastoral Care Team (902-752-4728), to inform us directly. It is also important that you inform the hospital that you would welcome a visit from your minister and/or your Elder.

**F.A.I.R. HEARTS - UPDATE:**

On Dec. 7th, FAIR Hearts members met with Karen MacLean, the immigration caseworker at the office of Sean Fraser MP, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. Key questions were asked and Karen seemed very eager to obtain answers to our questions and assist us in bringing the AlQassMatte Family to Pictou County. Please keep this family in your thoughts and  prayers.

FAIR Hearts members from First Church are: Rev. Andrew MacDonald (902-331-0322), Sharon Mason (902-752-0724), Sara Fullerton (902-754-2142), and Brent MacQuarrie (902) 616-7787).

**UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS**

* Session will meet Tues., Dec. 14th, at 7:00 p.m.
* A donation has been received in loving memory of Graham Fraser from Phoebe Fraser.
* We extend our thanks to Jack Lewis for his ongoing support of First Church. Jack recently supplied and installed a new light over the MacLean St. entrance. We are grateful for his contributions.
* The annual Christmas Memory Tree fundraiser is winding down. The forms are available for pickup inside the sanctuary. The **deadline for requests will be December 15th.** If you would like to donate a ball(s), simply fill out the form and leave it, along with the donation, in the collection baskets. The Christmas Eve bulletin will list the names of those remembered and the donors.
* Coordinating with the New Glasgow Dept. of Community Services, we are doing an outreach project for Christmas. “**The Tree of Kindness**” at the front of the sanctuary, is decorated with paper ornaments. On each is a note naming a small, practical gift. If you can, please take an ornament, purchase the gift, and place it in one of the 2 baskets under the tree (1 female and 1 male basket). The baskets will be given to 2 clients (more if we have extra items) who are disabled and unable to work and have limited income. Useful items would be: toiletries, laundry or dish detergent, toilet tissue/Kleenex, dish cloths/towels, socks, hats, gloves, any other useful household or personal items. We will collect these gifts during Advent up to Sunday, Dec 19th.  For more information, please contact Sara Fullerton (902-754-2142) or the church office.
* Reverend Andrew is looking for 5 volunteer readers for the Christmas Eve service and also a family to light the Christ Candle at that service. If you are available to help, please contact Rev. Andrew ASAP.
* Thank You to those ushers who have volunteered for the months of December and January. We need volunteers for the upcoming year. Anyone wishing to usher (following COVID protocols), please contact Sharon Mason (902-752-0724) or leave your name at the office.
* Coffee Hour – We will host coffee hour after the service today and next Sunday, December 19th. We plan to resume coffee hour after the holidays, beginning January 9th, 2022, if Public Health Regulations allow.

Though there is no need to show Proof of Vaccination to attend services, any other gatherings such as coffee hour, meetings etc., do require Proof of Vaccination per Dept. of Health regulations. Cathy Lewis is coordinating this and asking for volunteers to supply cookies, muffins etc. for future Sundays.

* Clyde MacDonald has just published his 19th book entitled “Pictonians At Home and Afar”. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, there will be no formal book launch. If you’re interested in purchasing a copy of Clyde’s latest book, you can contact him at 902-755-4738 or [clydefinlay@me.com](mailto:clydefinlay@me.com). All proceeds from the sales of this book will be donated to the MS Society.

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