**March 27th, 2022**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**THE APPROACH**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle: Please Rise**

ONE: As we now bring fire to this candle wick, making it glow with light, may we also bring the fire of love, to this time of prayer and worship.

May this candle send forth dancing rays, like sunrise on the most glorious morning, and may these rays of light, encircle us and all your children, dear Lord, with your love and peace.

**All: Come, Lord, and grant us peace.**

ONE: Let us now prepare our hearts to worship almighty God.

**Musical Introit - #575 –** Lead me, Lord

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn #371 –** “Love devine, all loves excelling”

**Prayer of Adoration, Confession and Lord’s Prayer**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace**

**Hymn:**  **#669** – “And Jesus said, our God is like a shepherd”

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Joshua 5:9-12

**Epistle Lesson:** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**Solo –** “If I have been a source of pain” (Sara M. deHall/Pablo Sosa)

**Sermon –** “Ambassadors For Christ!”

**Hymn: #197 -** “Forty days and forty nights”

**Offertory Prayer**

**Reaffirmation of Faith – Apostles’ Creed – Please rise**

**Prayer of the People**

**Hymn: #307** - “God of the sparrow, God of the whale”

**Benediction**

**Recessional**

**Scripture Reader:** Clarice Campbell

**Ushers –** Clarice Campbell and Cathy Lewis

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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

**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:**

The AlQasseMatte Family completed their interviews with Canadian Immigration officials in Turkey on Jan. 19 and have been approved to come to Canada. This is absolutely wonderful news after their 8 year wait as refugees. There are still several more steps that must be completed such as medicals that must be completed for each family member, passports issued by the Canadian Government and arrangements made for transportation to Canada. Hopefully these steps will be completed in the next few months, however a time frame is unknown at this time.

Fundraising continues in order to meet our commitment of financially supporting the family for their 1st year in Nova Scotia. If you would like to make a monetary donation to FAIR Hearts it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the church office or a member of FAIR Hearts (Sara Fullerton, Brent MacQuarrie, Sharon Mason or Rev Andrew).  Through generous donations of furnishings and other household items from the congregation and the Pictou County community, we now have all that is required for furnishings and household items.  Financial donations to support them in their 1st year, however, are still required.

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**

**Mon., Mar. 28th –** FAIR Hearts committee will meet at 7 p.m. in the Upper Hall.

**Income Tax Returns** - For the 26th year, Larry Ingham is preparing tax returns for low-income seniors. You can reach Larry at 902-752-1639.

**IN MEMORIAM**

A donation has been received from Catherine Matheson in memory of her husband, Hugh Matheson.

**USHERS**

Ushers for the month of March are Clarice Campbell and Cathy Lewis and for the month of April, Brent MacQuarrie and Sandra Arthur. Except for August when the church is closed for vacation, we need volunteers for the rest of the year. If you would be interested in helping out, please contact Sharon Mason (902-752-0724) or leave your name at the office.

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We extend birthday greetings to Donald Johnstone today. Donald will celebrate his birthday, March 29th.

**PAR**

For many years, **PAR** (Pre-Authorized Remittance Plan) has been a convenient option for making regular donations to the church. It ensures your donations continue when you are away, or, as we learned this past 2 years, when the church is closed due to COVID. For the church, it provides a regular, dependable flow of contributions. The forms for **PAR** are available on Sundays or through the office. The funds are debited from your bank account on or about the 20th of the month. For those who like to put something in the offering tray, cards are available, or drop your envelope marked PAR in the tray. If you have any questions, contact the office for more information.