**April 3rd, 2022**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**THE APPROACH**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle: Please Rise**

ONE: Father in heaven, the light of Jesus will disperse the darkness of hatred and sin.  As we light this candle, let the light of your truth guide us to your kingdom, inflame our hearts with your grace, keep us in the warmth of your truth, fill our hearts with your divine love, and let us strive to bring your peace to all the world.

**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 #** - **214 – “**All glory, laud and honour”

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

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace**

**Hymn:**  **#651 –** “Guide me, O thou great Redeemer”

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson: Isaiah 43:16-21**

**Epistle Lesson:   Philippians 3:4-14**

**Gospel Reading:  John 12:1-8**

**Anthem –** “Lord Jesus, think of me” (trans. Allen W. Chatfield/Daman’s Psalter)

**Sermon –** “While Martha Served”

**Hymn: #240 -** “Rock of ages”

**Offertory Prayer**

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

**Prayer of the People**

**Hymn: #211** - “Take up your cross”

**Benediction**

**Recessional**

**Scripture Reader:** Chet Fleming

**Ushers –** Brent MacQuarrie and Sandra Arthur

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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**

**Tues., Apr. 5th –** The Board of Managers will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Hall.

**Sun., Apr. 10th** – Session will meet at 12:30 p.m. after service

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES:**

* **Maundy Thursday** – Apr. 14th – 7 p.m. – A Taize Service (Upper Hall)
* **Good Friday –** Apr. 15th –Please join us on Good Friday, April 15th, for a Service of Hymns, Scripture, and Reflection.  The congregations of First Presbyterian Church and St Andrew’s, the Kirk, will be joining together for this service at 3 p.m. The significance of this time of day is that many scholars believe it was at 3 p.m. when Christ died on the cross.
* **Sunrise, Easter Sunday,** Apr. 17th, 8 a.m. – Laurie Park, weather permitting

**USHERS**

Ushers for the month of April are Brent MacQuarrie and Sandra Arthur. We are in need of volunteers. If you would be interested in ushering, please contact Sharon Mason (902-752-0724) or leave your name at the office.

**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.

**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.

**JOB POSTINGS**

The Synod of the Atlantic Provinces has 2 roles to fill. Both are full time, 3-year contract positions for Synod Camping and Youth Consultant and Director of Synod Camp, Camp Geddie. For details, visit the Synod website or contact the office.