A picture containing candle, candelabrum

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**December 18th, 2022**

**Fourth Sunday In Advent**

***LOVE***

**THE APPROACH**

**Musical Prelude - Brass United – “**Shepherd’s Farewell” (arr. Craig Garner); “He is Born” (arr. Lawerence Eden); “Lo, How a Rose” (M. Praetorius)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Musical Introit - #122 -** "Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel" vs 1

Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel

and ransom captive Israel,

that mourns in lowly exile here,

until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn #125 –** “People, look east” vs 1,2,4,5

1 People, look east. The time is near

of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able:

trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love the guest is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad; though earth is bare,

one more seed is planted there:

give up your strength, the seed to nourish,

that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:

Love the rose is on your way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim

one more light the bowl shall brim,

shining beyond the frosty weather,

bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today:

Love the star is on the way.

5 Angels, announce when shouts of mirth

Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming

with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today:

Love the Lord is on the way.

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

# Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

# Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth,

# as it is in heaven.

# Give us this day our daily bread.

# And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

# And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

# For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

# forever. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle: LOVE**

Reader 1: We are people of love.

Reader 2: God has loved us so much that God has chosen to come as Immanuel, the God who is with us.

**People: We are free to love others, because God first loved us.**

Reader 1: The fourth candle of Advent invites us to reflect God’s love in our lives.

Reader 2: We light this candle so that we can see who we are called to love today.

*(Light the candle of love)*

Reader 1: Let us pray:

**People: Holy One, help us to know we are deeply loved and to share that same unconditional love with others. May our lives reflect the warmth and wonder of this flame. Make your church a place of love and acceptance in our community. Amen.**

**Hymn: #119 -** “Hope is A Star” vs. 1-4

1 HOPE is a star that shines in the night,

leading us on till the morning is bright

Chorus When God is a child

There’s joy in our song.

The last shall be first

and the weak shall be strong,

and none shall be afraid.

2 PEACE is a ribbon that circles the earth,

giving a promise of safety and worth.

3 JOY is a song that welcomes the dawn,

telling the world that the Saviour is born.

4 LOVE is a flame that burns in our heart,

Jesus has come and will never depart.

**Children’s Time**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayer of Illumination**

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

Epistle Lesson:   Romans 1:1-7

**Gloria Patri**

# Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning,

# is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Gospel Reading:  Matthew 1:18-25

**Special Music – Brass United –** “Still, Still, Still (trad. Austrian Carol, arr. D. Marlett)”

**Sermon:** *“Love Everywhere!”*

**Hymn: #128 -** “There’s a voice in the wilderness crying”

1 There’s a voice in the wilderness crying,

a call from the ways untrod:

prepare in the desert a highway,

a highway for our God!

The valleys shall be exalted,

the lofty hills brought low;

make straight all the crooked places

where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,

go up to the heights and sing!

Proclaim to a desolate people

the coming of their King.

Like the flowers of the field they perish,

like grass our works decay,

the power and pomp of nations

shall pass like a dream away,

3 but the word of our God is steadfast;

the arm of the Lord is strong;

God stands in the midst of nations,

and soon will right the wrong.

God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,

the lambs will gently hold,

to pastures of peace will lead them,

and bring them safe to the fold.

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

# I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn: #118** - “Hark the glad sound”

1 Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,

the Saviour promised long;

let every heart prepare a throne,

and every voice a song!

2 You come the prisoners to release

in Satan’s bondage held;

the gates of brass before you burst,

the iron fetters yield.

3 You come the broken heart to bind,

the wounded soul to cure,

to bring the treasures of God’s grace,

good tidings for the poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,

your welcome shall proclaim,

and heaven’s eternal arches ring

with your most honoured name.

**Sunday School Christmas Presentation**

**Benediction**

**Coral Response: Threefold Amen**

**Recessional**

**Postlude** – “**Brass United” -** Feliz Navidad (J. Feliciano, arr. T. Graf)

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All are welcome at First Presbyterian Church. We hope you experience the love of God and of this congregation as we worship, celebrate, and serve one another.

**IN MEMORIUM**

In memorium donations have been received in loving memory of:

* Elder Graham Fraser, from Phoebe Fraser and family
* Husband, Hugh Matheson from Catherine Matheson
* Parents, Melda and Roy MacGregor from Susan and Chuck Stallard, and
* Parents, Melda and Roy MacGregor from Janet and Brian Hiscott

**Chart, bubble chart

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**Christmas Greetings** are extended to everyone at

First Church from Ralph and Claire Foote.

**Congratulations** are extended to Christena (Clark) and Craig Murray who were married here at First Church yesterday. Best Wishes!

**Pictou County Food Bank** – With inflation, increasing costs of fuel to get to work or heat homes, the Food Banks in our region are experiencing a huge increase in numbers of those seeking assistance, in some cases, by as much as 25%. Donations are low. If you are able to contribute, items such as peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauces, canned fish and meats, cereals, personal hygiene and paper products are very useful items. Cash donations allow the food bank to purchase food and take advantage of sales. Any donations welcome.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MEETINGS THIS WEEK:**

* Session will meet after service today at 12:15 p.m.

**Wed., Dec. 21st, 7p.m.** – Blue Christmas Service

**Fri., Dec. 23rd – 7:00 p.m. at First Church** – Musique Royale will present Handel’s Messiah. Tickets are  $30 at the door, or $25 in advance (students $10) by contacting the church office or by visiting [www.musiqueroyale.com](http://www.musiqueroyale.com).

**Sat., Dec. 24th 7 p.m.** - Christmas Eve Service

**Sun., Dec. 25th – 11a.m.–** Christmas Day Service

**NOTE:** Our supply of paper products and sidewalk salt are getting low. If you can contribute to any of these items, it would be appreciated.

**NOTE:** As we return to normal routine with meetings, practices, or other events, please be reminded to check the calendar to ensure there are no double bookings of church facilities before you book an event.

**VOLUNTEER SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS**

**Scripture reader**: Brent MacQuarrie

**Lighting the Candle:** Gary Baudoux

**Ushers**: Sara Fullerton and Brent MacQuarrie

**Early Christian Educators**: Lynne Ann and Lois MacLellan

**Brass United Quintet**:

Brent MacQuarrie – Trumpet

Bob MacMillan – Cornet

Pat Craig – Mellophone

Fred Davison – Trombone

David Prince - Tuba

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

Organist: Clare Grieves

Office hours: Tues. to Fri. – 10 -1pm

Rev. MacDonaldoffice hours -Tues. to Thurs. 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