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**December 4th, 2022**

**Second Sunday In Advent**

***PEACE***

**THE APPROACH**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Musical Introit - #112** "Prepare the way of the Lord"

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God.

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn #126 –** “On Jordan’s bank” vs 1-3, 5

1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry

announces that the Lord is nigh;

awake and hearken, for he brings

glad tidings of the King of kings.

3 For thou art salvation, Lord,

our refuge and our great reward;

without thy grace, we waste away,

like flowers that wither and decay.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,

whose advent sets thy people free,

whom, with the Father, we adore,

and Holy Spirit, evermore.

**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: PEACE**

Reader 1: We are people of peace.

Reader 2: God seeks justice and compassion. God listens to the cries of the vulnerable and longs for wars to cease.

**People: We pray God’s peace is at work in our hearts, our homes, our neighbourhoods and the world.**

Reader 1: The second candle of Advent reminds us that we are called to live as people of peace.

Reader 2: We light this candle as an invitation to work for justice and peace

*(Light the candle of peace)*

Reader 1: Let us pray:

**People: Holy One, help us to fan the flame of peace. May our lives reflect the warmth and wonder of this candle. Make your church a place of peace and sanctuary in our community. Amen.**

**Hymn: #119** “Hope is A Star” vs. 1,2

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.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

Epistle Lesson:   Romans 15:4-13

**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 3:1-12

**Anthem**

**Sermon:** *“Give Peace A Chance!”*

**Hymn: #129 -** “Prepare the way, O Zion”

1. Prepare the way, O Zion: your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Oh blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.

1. He brings God’s rule, O Zion; Christ comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

Oh blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.

1. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Saviour’s rule embrace,

and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

Oh blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.

**Offertory Prayer**

**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: #115** - “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” vs. 1,3,5

1 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed,

great David’s greater Son;

hail, in the time appointed,

his reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression,

to set the captives free,

to take away transgression

and rule in equity.

3 He shall come down like showers

upon the fruitful earth,

and love, joy, hope, like flowers,

spring in his path to birth.

Before him on the mountains

shall peace, the herald, go,

and righteousness, in fountains,

from hill to valley flow.

5 O’er every foe victorious,

Christ on his throne shall rest,

from age to age more glorious,

all-blessing and all-blest:

the tide of time shall never

his covenant remove;

his name shall stand forever -

that name to us is Love.

**Benediction**

**Coral Response: Threefold Amen**

**Recessional**

**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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MEETINGS THIS WEEK:**

* The Board of Managers will meet Mon., Dec. 5th at 6:30 p.m.
* Session will meet next Sun., Dec. 11th, after service at

12:15 p.m.

**Today – 2:30** – We will worship this afternoon with the residents of Glen Haven Manor. Please join us if you can.

**Today 2:00-4:00p.m.** -St. John the Baptist Catholic Women’s League, High St., is hosting a sit-down Christmas Tea and Bake Sale including raffles and craft tables featuring local artisans. Admission-$5.00, $2.00 for children.

**Sat., Dec. 10., 2 p.m**. - Sharon St. John United Church, Stellarton, presents an afternoon of seasonal music in a swing/big band format by the APC Big Band, an 18-piece group with members from Antigonish, Pictou and Colchester counties. Free will offering. Light refreshments served mid-point of the concert.

**December 17th, 2022 - 9:30am 1:30 p.m.** – “Last Minute Christmas Craft Sale” at Bethel Church Hall, Pictou Landing. Free will admission  to be donated to the Pictou County Fuel Fund.

The annual Christmas Memory Tree fundraiser is taking place again this year. The forms are available inside the sanctuary. **Deadline for requests will be December 18th.** If you would like to donate a ball(s), fill out the form and leave it, along with your donation, in the collection baskets. (To lessen the chance of missing a name(s), please limit your requests to 5 per form.) The names of those remembered and the donors will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

**Pictou County Food Bank** – As you know, with costs of everything rising due to 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%. Understandably donations are currently 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 and are very useful items. Cash donations allow the food bank to purchase food and take advantage of sales. Any donations welcome.

We are participating in the “Tree of Kindness” project again this year. If possible, we will fill 3 baskets this year. The baskets will be delivered to the Dept. of Community Services Dec. 19th to distribute to single, disabled, Income Assistance clients. Please take a tag(s) from the tree, purchase then place in the baskets under the tree. The gifts will be gathered during the 4 Sundays of Advent. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Fullerton 902 -754-2142. **Suggested items for the baskets:**

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| **Personal Hygiene:**  Towels (bath, hand towels, facecloths)  Toothbrush  Toothpaste  Deodorant  Razors  Shave lotion  Shampoo  Hand soap; Body wash  Kleenex  Toilet tissue | **Household:**  Dish cloths; tea towels  Dish soap  Disinfecting wipes  Manual can opener  Paper towel  Laundry soap  **Useful items:**  Pens  Pocket calendars | **Treats:**  Hot chocolate  Boxes of chocolates  Candy  Cookies  **Warm items:**  Hats  Socks  Gloves |

**Dec. 23rd – 7:00 p.m. at First Church**  – Musique Royale will present Handel’s Messiah. Annually, it is the single most popular classical music presentation performed worldwide. British conductor Harry Castle will lead an ensemble of historical performance specialists, both orchestra and vocalists, 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),   A highlight of this concert will be a sing-along Hallelujah Chorus where audience members can join in the singing, with scores provided.

\*\*Over the years we have been lucky to have members of the congregation supply paper products and sidewalk salt. Our supplies are getting low. If you can contribute to any of these items, it would be appreciated.

**VOLUNTEER SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS**

**Scripture reader today**: Mark Thibeau

**Lighting the Candle**: Jennifer and Mark Thibeau

**Ushers**: Sara Fullerton and Brent MacQuarrie

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

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** – We still need people/families to light the Advent Candle next Sunday, Dec. 11th. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Andrew or the office.

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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