**January 29th, 2023**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**Communion Sunday**

**THE APPROACH**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:** (Please rise if you are able)

ONE: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous 3light.   
Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**ALL: O Come Lord, and light our path, show us Your way!**

(Light the candle)

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

**Musical Introit -#413** "Come, let us join our cheerful songs" v.1,2

1. Come, let us join our cheerful songs  
   With angels round the throne;  
   Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,  
   But all their joys are one.

2. “Worthy the Lamb that died,” they cry,  
 “To be exalted thus!”  
“Worthy the Lamb,” our hearts reply,  
“For He was slain for us!”

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn #467 –** “Praise, my soul, the god who crowns you” v.1,2,4

1. Praise, my soul, the God who crowns you,

crowns with mercy all your days;

bless the God whose good surrounds you,

rescues, heals, forgives, reclaims.

Hallelujah, hallelujah,

all within me, bless and praise.

1. Praise God’s mighty works of justice,

for, as far as east from west,

God removes transgression from us

and restores the sore-oppressed.

Hallelujah, hallelujah,

may the Holy One be blest!

4. Praise the Lord in highest heavens,

mighty ones who do God’s will;

angels, cry through all dominions,

Hallelujah, hallelujah,

praise your Maker, O my soul.

**Prayer of Adoration, Confession and Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace**

**Hymn #**373 – “Jesus loves me this I know”

1 Jesus loves me, this I know,

for the Bible tells me so,

little ones to him belong,

they are weak, but he is strong.

Chorus Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me, this I know,

as he loved so long ago,

taking children on his knee,

saying, Let them come to me.

3 Jesus loves me still today,

walking with me on my way,

wanting as a friend to give

light and love to all who live.

Childrens’ Time

**Prayer of Illumination**

First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

Second Lesson:   1 Corinthians 1:18-31

**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.

Third Lesson:  Matthew 5:1-12

**Anthem –** “You have called me by name”

**Sermon:** *“* My God has become my Strength!*”*

**Hymn #389**  – “Breathe on me, breath of God ”

1 Breathe on me, breath of God;

fill me with life anew,

that I may love what thou dost love

and do what thou wouldst do.

2 Breathe on me, breath of God,

until my heart is pure,

until with thee I will one will

and do and to endure.

3 Breathe on me, breath of God,

till I am wholly thine,

until this earthly part of me

glows with thy fire divine.

4 Breathe on me, breath of God,

so shall I never die,

but live with thee the perfect life

of thine eternity.

**Offertory Prayer**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation to the Lord’s Supper**

**The Invitation**

**Communion Hymn** **#543 -** “Here, O my Lord, I see thee” v.1,2,3

1. Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;

here would I touch and handle things unseen,

here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,

and all my weariness upon thee lean.

2 Here would we feed upon the bread of God,

here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven;

here would we lay aside each earthly load,

here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;

this is the heavenly table for us spread;

here let us feast, and, feasting, still prolong

this fellowship in thee, our living bread.

**Affirmation of Faith - Apostle’s Creed**

# 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.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And also with you**.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them to the Lord**.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

ONE: So now, with all the apostles and prophets, and that great cloud of witnesses who live forever with you in the heavenly kingdom, we join our voices in thanksgiving and in praise to you saying:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

ONE: Therefore, today we gather in remembrance of the sacrifice that was made for our sakes. We have set aside this bread and this wine, as a celebration feast, a meal of remembrance. In doing so we also give praise and thanksgiving to you Lord God, as we proclaim the great mystery of faith:

**ALL: Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

ONE: Let us join together as we lift up our voices and say the prayer that our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray when he said:

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Communion Hymn #543 -** “Here, O my Lord, I see thee” v.4,5,7

4 Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear.

The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;

the bread and wine remove, but thou art here,

nearer than ever, still our shield and sun.

5 We have no help but thine, nor do we need

another arm but thine to lean upon;

it is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;

our strength is in thy might, thy might alone.

7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,

yet, passing points to that glad feast above,

giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,

the Lamb’s great bridal feast of bliss and love.

**Benediction**

**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**

**Today, Sun., Jan. 29th** – Mark Thibeau will continue Bible Study sessions in the Session Room.

**Mon., Jan. 30th, 6:30 p.m.** – the Board of Managers will meet.

**Thurs., Feb. 2nd, 6:00 p.m.** – The Worship and Music Team will meet in the Session Room.

**Sun., Feb. 26th** - **The Annual Meeting** is set for Sun., Feb. 26th following the morning service. Deadline for reports is February 1st.

**Condolences:** On behalf of the Session and Congregation, we would like to extend our deepest condolences to Marion Hayden and her family on the passing of her husband Jack Hayden.

On behalf of all of us at First Church, we would like to thank Keith MacDonald for his many years of service to the church and in particular his years as Chair of the Board of Managers. We recognized Keith at our coffee hour last Sunday and thank him once again.

**The 2023 envelopes and 2022 receipts** are ready for pickup on Sunday or from the office.

**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 take advantage of sales. All donations welcome.

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS**

**Scripture reader**: Mark Thibeau

**Ushers**: Chet Fleming and David Johnstone

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

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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