**February 5th, 2023**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

**THE APPROACH**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

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

One: One: Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night’, even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

**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 - #27 -** "As the deer" vs. 1

As the deer pants for the water  
So my soul longs after you  
You alone are my heart’s desire  
And I long to worship you  
You alone are my strength, my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart’s desire  
And I long to worship you.

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn #764 –** “There’s a spirit in the air”

1. There’s a spirit in the air,

telling Christians everywhere:

“Praise the love that Christ revealed,

living, working, in our world!”

1. Lose your shyness, find your tongue,

tell the world what God has done:

God in Christ has come to stay.

Live tomorrow’s life today!

1. When believers break the bread,

when a hungry child is fed,

praise the love that Christ revealed,

living, working, in our world.

1. Still the Spirit gives us light,

seeing wrong and setting right:

God in Christ has come to stay.

Live tomorrow’s life today!

1. When a stranger’s not alone,

where the homeless find a home,

praise the love that Christ revealed,

living, working, in our world.

1. May the Spirit fill our praise,

guide our thoughts and change our ways,

God in Christ has come to stay.

Live tomorrow’s life today!

1. There’s a Spirit in the air,

calling people everywhere:

praise the love that Christ revealed,

living, working, in our world.

**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**

**Hymn #377**  – “Come, children, join to sing”

Come, children, join to sing - Hallelujah, amen!

Praise to our sovereign king hallelujah, amen!

Let all with heart and voice

saved by God’s gracious choice,

now in this place rejoice - Hallelujah, amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high - Hallelujah, amen!

Let praises fill the sky Hallelujah, amen!

Christ calls his people’s friends;

lost, out-cast he defends

with love that never ends - Hallelujah, amen!

Loud now our voices raise Hallelujah, amen!

No power can still our praise - Hallelujah, amen!

On heaven’s blessed shore,

God’s goodness we’ll adore

singing for-evermore - Hallelujah, amen!

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-9

Epistle Lesson:   1 Corinthians 2:1-12

**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 5:13-20

**Anthem –** “Go down, Moses”

**Sermon:** *“*Speak Softly!*”*

**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.

**Hymn: #321 -** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” vs. 1,2,4

1 Praise to the Lord,

the Almighty who rules all creation.

My soul, praise God

who alone is your health and salvation.

Come, all who hear,

sisters and brothers draw near,

joining in glad adoration.

2 Praise to the Lord,

who in all things so wondrously reigning

hides you with sheltering wings,

ever gently sustaining.

Have you not seen

how your heart’s wishes have been

granted through God’s kind ordaining?

4 Praise to the Lord,

and with all that is in me adoring,

all who have life and breath,

come with glad praises outpouring!

Let the Amen sound from God’s people again:

now and forever adoring!

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn: #639** - “We are marching/Siyahamba”

We are marching in the light of God (sung 4 times)

We are marching in the light of God

We are marching in the light of God

We are marching in the light of God

We are marching, ooo,

We are marching in the light of God. (2x)

**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**

**Sun., Feb. 12th – 12:15** – Session will meet after church.

**Sun., Feb. 26th** - **The Annual Meeting** is set for Sun., Feb. 26th following the morning service. Reports due immediately.

**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 etc., the Food Banks are experiencing an increase in numbers of those seeking assistance. 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.

**PAR**

Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), is a convenient option for making regular, uninterrupted donations to the church, ensuring your donations continue when you are away or when the church is closed. Forms are available on Sundays or through the office. If you are interested and have any questions, contact the office for more information.

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS**

**Scripture reader**: Chet Fleming

**Ushers**: Brenda and John Zinck

**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