**May 7th, 2023**

**5th Sunday of Easter**

**THE APPROACH**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

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

One: Lord, may this candle be a light for you to enlighten us in all our decisions, and may it be a fire for you to purify us from all pride and selfishness. May it be a flame for you to build warmth into our hearts towards our families, our neighbors and all    
those who meet us.

**ALL: Jesus Christ is the light that shines in our life, and no darkness shall overcome it. We shall not be afraid.**

(Light the candle)

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

**Musical Introit - “**Open our eyes, Lord” - vs.1

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn #676 –** “Jesus, lover of my soul” vs.1,2,4

1. Jesus, lover of my soul,

let me to thy bosom fly,

while the nearer waters roll,

while the tempest still is high:

hide me, O my Saviour, hide,

till the storm of life is past,

safe into the haven guide;

oh receive my soul at last.

1. Other refuge have I none;

hangs my helpless soul on thee.

Leave, ah! leave me not alone;

still support and comfort me.

All my trust on thee is stayed;

all my help from thee I bring;

cover my defenseless head

with the shadow of thy wing.

1. Plenteous grace with thee is found,

grace to cover all my sin;

let the healing streams abound;

make and keep me pure within:

thou of life the fountain art,

freely let me take of thee;

spring thou up within my heart,

rise to all eternity.

**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 #662 –** “Those who wait on the Lord” vs.1-3

1. Those who wait on the Lord

shall renew their strength;

they shall rise up on wings as eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint:

help us, Lord; help us, Lord, in your way.

2. Those who serve the suffering world

shall renew their strength;

they shall rise up on wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint:

help us, Lord; help us, Lord in your way.

3. Those who live the risen life

shall renew their strength;

they shall rise up on wings as eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint:

help us, Lord; help us, Lord, in your way.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

First Lesson: Acts 7:55-60

Epistle Lesson:   1 Peter 2:2-10

Responsive Psalm 31:1-5,15-16

**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:  John 14:1-14

**Anthem:**

**Sermon:** “*Be Not Afraid*!”

**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 #472** – “We are God’s people”

1. We are God’s people, the chosen of the Lord,

born of the Spirit, established by the word;

our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in him we stand:

oh let us live transparently,

and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

1. We are God’s loved ones, the bride of Chist our Lord,

for we have known it, the love of God outpoured;

now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:

oh let us share each joy and care

and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.

1. We are the body of which the Lord is head,

called to obey him, now risen from the dead;

he wills us be a family, diverse yet truly one:

oh let us freely give our gifts,

and so shall God’s work on earth be done.

1. We are a temple, the Spirit’s dwelling place,

formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God’s grace;

alone, we die, for on its own each ember loses fire:

yet joined in one the flame burns on

to give warmth and light, and to inspire.

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayers of the People: The People Respond**

One: God In Your Mercy

**ALL: Hear Our Prayer.**

**Hymn #482 –** “Christ is made the sure foundation” vs.1-3

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,

Christ the head and cornerstone,

chosen of the Lord, and precious,

binding all the church in one,

holy Zion’s help forever,

and her confidence alone.

2. All within that holy city

dearly loved of God on high,

in exultant jubilation

pour perpetual melody,

god the One-in-Three adoring

in glad hymns eternally.

3. To this temple, where we call thee,

come, O Lord of hosts, today:

with thy faithful lovingkindness,

hear thy servants as they pray,

and thy fullest benediction

shed within its walls always.

**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**

**Mon., May 8th** – Board of Managers will meet at 6:30 p.m.

**Tues., May 9th** – Session will meet at 6:30 p.m.

**This evening - 7:00 p.m.** - St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Westville presents “**An Enjoyable Evening of Music”.** Featuring a variety of talent including choirs and brass followed by a social time. Free will offering. Everyone welcome!

**May 20th – 8:00a.m. -Noon** – IOOF Moore Lodge, 500 Thorburn Rd., Thorburn, are holding a Pancake Breakfast. All welcome. Cost: Adults - $10; children 6-12 years - $6.; children 5 and under eat free.

**Sat., June 10th** **– Yard Sale** - Circle of Friends are requesting donations of used items which you no longer have use for, are in good condition and would be of interest to a yard sale enthusiast. Household items, Christmas decorations, books, etc, **NO CLOTHING** items please. All donations and help would be appreciated. Hoping to have a fun day!

**Sun., June 11th, 2:30p.m. – “Save the Date” -** The Trinitarians and Guests are hosting “A Spring Choral Concert” at Trinity United.

**Thurs., June 15th**, **10:00 a.m.** –The Pictou Presbyterial AMS will be holding their Annual Meeting at Camp Geddie. We would like to invite all members from disbanded Auxiliaries to be our guests. If you are interested in attending, please contact Mary Condon at marycondon@eastlink.ca or by calling 902-752-0296 by June 7th.

**Recognition of Graduates**: Parents, grandparents, and students - If you are or have a student graduating this year (high school, college, technical school or graduate school) and would like to share the news with the congregation, please let us know, we’d be happy to spread the word! You can call the church office (902-752-5691) or email the name of the graduate along with details i.e. school graduating from, degree obtained, brief description of future plans etc. We welcome news regarding our young people and their accomplishments. There is so much to celebrate!

This week we honour **Emily Sanderson**, daughter of Patty and Bob Henderson who has completed her 1st year at Holland College, PEI. Emily is enrolled in the 2-year Wildlife Conservation program.  She will be returning in Sept to complete her second year.

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Description automatically generatedWe extend our best wishes to Edna Fraser as she celebrates her birthday on Tuesday, May 9th. Happy Birthday Edna!

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Description automatically generatedWe need more ushers to help out on Sundays. If you are interested in being part of the rotating team, please contact Sharon Mason at 902-752-0724 or by email at [slmson60@gmail.com](mailto:slmson60@gmail.com)

**Monthly coffee time** – Coffee hour will be held the third Sunday of the month. Next coffee date is May 21st. For anyone who would like to host, please contact Cathy Lewis at 902-759-9649. If you need help setting up the coffee maker or have any questions, contact Cathy.

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS**

**Scripture reader**: Clarice Campbell

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office Entry) – Chet Fleming and Fran Savage

James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Clarice Campbell

**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

**RESPONSIVE PSALM**

**Psalm 31**

ONE: In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

**ALL: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.**

ONE: Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

**ALL: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name’s sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.**

ONE: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

**ALL: My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**

ONE: Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.