

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**208 MacLean St., New Glasgow, NS**

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**Reverend Andrew MacDonald**

**902-331-0322**

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**December 10th, 2023**

**Second Sunday In Advent**

***PEACE***

**THE APPROACH**

**\*\*PLEASE RISE\*\***

**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*\*MUSICAL INTROIT - #109 -** All earth is waiting" vs 2

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*\*HYMN #145 –** “In the bleak mid-winter” vs. 1,3,4

1 In the bleak mid-winter;

frosty wind made moan;

earth stood hard as iron,

water like a stone;

snow had fallen, snow on snow,

snow on snow,

in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

3 Angels and archangels

may have gathered here,

cherubim and seaphim

thronged the air;

but his mother only,

in her maiden bliss,

worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

4 What can I give him,

poor as I am?

If I am a shepherd,

I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man,

I would do my part;

yet what can I give him - give my heart.

**PRAYERS OF APPROACH 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 THE ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE**

**Mark and Jennifer Thibeau**

***\*\*HYMN: #119 -*** *“Hope is a star” vs.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 40:1-11

**EPISTLE LESSON:**   2 Peter 3:8-15

**RESPONSIVE PSALM:** Psalm 85:1-2,8-13 (INSERT)

**\*\*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 LESSON:**  Mark 1:1-8

**ANTHEM –** “Redeeming Love” Brian Bowden

**SERMON:** *“Peace!”*

**\*\*REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH—APOSTLES 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.

**\*\*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.

**OFFERTORY**

**\*\*DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above Ye Heavenly Host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**\*\*HYMN: #125 -** “People, look east” vs. 1,4,5

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.

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.

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

**\*\*CORAL RESPONSE: THREEFOLD AMEN**

**\*\*RECESSIONAL**

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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

**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.

**PASTORAL CARE:**

In order to provide support to the people of First Church, when you or a loved one is sick or in hospital, we encourage you to contact the church (902-752-5691), Reverend Andrew (902-331-0322) or Cathy Lewis, Chair of the Pastoral Care Team (902-759-9649), to inform us directly. It is also important that you inform the hospital that you would welcome a visit from your minister and/or your Elder.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**The Worship and Music Team** are featuring special music prior to morning services during the 4 Sundays of Advent.  Refreshments will be served at the rear of the Sanctuary from 10:30 a.m. to the start of service.  Hope you can join us.

**EVENTS HAPPENING TODAY:**

* **12:15 p.m.** - Session will meet after service.
* **3:00 p.m.** **–** “Christmas Carol Song Service”. All welcome. Free will offering at the door. Hosted by First Presbyterian Church, Hopewell
* **2-4 p.m.–** Saint John the Baptist Catholic Women’s League Christmas Tea and Sale will take place at the church hall, 390 High St., New Glasgow. $5.00/person ($2 for children). Featuring lunch and bake sale, raffles, crafts, “Bill’s Fruitcake” and “Chef Mark’s Gourmet Supper”.
* **2-4 p.m.** – “Inner Voice” are hosting a concert at Stella Maris Church, Pictou, ‘Inner Voice & Friends’ in support of the Stella Maris Oil Fund and the Food Bank. Performing: Erika Sloane, Pam LeBlanc, John and Joyce Willems, Special Guests: “Out on the Weekend”. Donations welcome.

**Advent and Christmas Eve** – Rev. Andrew is looking for volunteers to read and to light the candles. If you can help, please contact Rev. Andrew or the office.

**The Christmas Memory Tree** fundraiser is taking place again this year. Forms are available in the sanctuary. **Deadline - December 15th.** If you would like to donate a ball(s) in memory of a loved one, complete the form and leave it, along with your donation, in the collection plate. (To avoid 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.

**The Tree of Kindness** will be sponsored by the Worship and Music team once again. The past couple years, the congregation of First Church has filled baskets with essential items to be donated to Income Assistance recipients. We hope to fill baskets for 2 men and 2 women. The project will run for the first 3 Sundays of Advent [Dec. 3-17]. Gift tags with items noted on the back of the tag are hung on the tree. If you can, please take a tag or 2, purchase the gifts and place them in the baskets under the tree. The baskets will be collected on Dec. 17th and delivered to Community Services for distribution before Christmas. Thank you for your support.



We send our best wishes to Jack Marshall who will celebrate his birthday Wed., Dec. 13th. Happy Birthday Jack!!

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Scripture Reader –** Sharon Mason

**Candle Lighting** – Rev. Andrew, Natalie and Bridgette

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office) – Jane and Keith MacDonald

 James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

 MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Ellen Jardine

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

**\*\*If you have a notice for the bulletin, please ensure it is submitted to the office by 9:00 a.m. Thursday morning.**