**A group of candles with text

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**902-752-5691**

[**First.church@ns.aliantzinc.ca**](mailto:First.church@ns.aliantzinc.ca)

**Reverend Andrew MacDonald**

**902-331-0322**

[**yick96@hotmail.com**](mailto:yick96@hotmail.com)

**December 24th, 2023**

**Fourth Sunday In Advent**

***LOVE***

**THE APPROACH**

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

**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*\*MUSICAL INTROIT - #109** "All Earth is Waiting" vs 4

4 In lowly stable

the Promised One appeared;

yet feel his presence

throughout the earth today,

for he lives in all Christians

and is with us now;

again, with his coming

he brings us liberty.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*\*HYMN #121 –** “Long ago, prophets knew” vs. 1,2,4

1.Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew.  
Come to make all things new;  
Bear his People's burden,  
Freely love and pardon.  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!   
When he comes,  
When he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?

2. God in time, God in man,  
This is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man,  
Born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes,  
When he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?

4. Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes!  
Jesus comes!  
We will make him welcome!

**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: Love**

**Brent MacQuarrie and Sara Fullerton**

***\*\*HYMN: #119 “Hope is A Star” Vs. 4***

4 LOVE is a flame that burns in our heart,

Jesus has come and will never depart.

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST LESSON:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

**EPISTLE LESSON:**   Romans 16:25-27

**RESPONSIVE PSALM:** Psalm 89:1-4, 20-26

ONE: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**ALL: I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

ONE: You said, ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: “I will establish your descendants for ever, and build your throne for all generations.”’

**ALL: I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.**

ONE: The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.

**ALL: I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.**

ONE: My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

**ALL: I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.**

ONE: He shall cry to me, “You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!”

**\*\*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:**  Luke 1:26-38

**ANTHEM – “Christmas Medley”**

**SERMON:** *“LOVE!”*

**\*\*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: #138 -** “While Shepherds watched” vs. 1,3,4,6

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,

all seated on the ground,

the angel of the Lord came down,

and glory shone around.

3 To you, in David’s town, this day

is born of David’s line

a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,

and this shall be the sign:

4 The heavenly babe you there shall find

to human view displayed,

all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,

and in a manger laid.

6 All glory be to God on high,

and to the earth be peace;

good will henceforth from heaven to earth

begin, and never cease!

**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: #156 - “The angel Gabriel from heaven” vs. 1,2,3,4**

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,

his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;

All hail, said he, O lowly maiden Mary,

most highly favoured lady: Gloria!

2 For know a blessed mother you shall be,

all generations praise continually,

your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold

most highly favored lady: Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,

To me be as it pleases God, she said,

my soul shall laud and magnify

God’s holy name,

most highly favored lady: Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born

in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,

and Christian folk throughout the world

will ever say:

most highly favored lady: Gloria!

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

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

**\*\*RECESSIONAL**

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

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** would like to thank all the musicians and those who came to church early to enjoy the special music prior to morning services during the 4 Sundays of Advent. The feedback has been very positive; we hope to do it again next year.

**Pictou County Fuel Fund –** The ‘PCFF’ provides short term assistance to those facing the prospect of an unheated home during the winter months. If you or someone you know needs heating assistance, call

1-902-616-4328 (heat) or visit the website [www.PictouCountyFuelFund.ca](http://www.PictouCountyFuelFund.ca)

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* The congregation extends Christmas Birthday greetings to Keith Cruickshank and Evie MacLellan who celebrate their birthdays tomorrow, Christmas Day!
* Chet Fleming will celebrate his birthday Thurs., Dec. 28th. Happy Birthday Chet!!



* Happy 61st Anniversary wishes are sent to Ralph and Claire Foote who will celebrate their anniversary on Wed., Dec. 27th.

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Scripture Reader –** Sara Fullerton

**Candle Lighting** – Brent & Sara

**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

A star in the sky

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Christmas Memory Tree - 2023**

**First Presbyterian Church**

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B2H 4M9

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yick96@hotmail.com

**Remembrance by:** **In Memory of:**

Gary and Jackie Ross Mary and Russell Ross; Jack and Phyllis Miller

Ellen Jardine Grandparents Harris and Ellen Fraser and parents Harry and Kay Jardine

Lois MacLellan Husband John and son, Scott

Kevin and Terry Reid Parents Charles (Chuck) Melvin Reid and Shirley Agnes Reid

Phoebe Fraser Ethel Porter, Blanche Steeves and Lilian Ross

Phoebe Fraser and Family Elder Graham Fraser

Marion J. MacNeil Parents Daniel and Lottie Fraser; sister Emma MacCulloch; brother James A. Fraser; Husband Cecil A. MacNeil

Ron and Sharon Mason Parents Lloyd and Joyce Mason and Bill and Betty Wilson; Wilfred Marshall

**Remembrance by:** **In Memory of:**

Ian Semple Dave and Vi Semple

Arnold and Georgina MacFarlane In memory of loved ones

Russell MacIntosh and Family Marian MacIntosh

Rev. Andrew Grandparents Chrissie and

Natalie and Bridget Johnny A. MacMillan; Grandparents Rannie, Gloria and Raymond; and uncle Angus MacDonald

Natalie & Bridge Frankie

Bob & Agnes MacDonald Chrissie & Johnny A. MacMillan and Angus Bruce MacDonald

Lori, Daniel, Natalie and Bridget Grandpa Bob Caughey

Clarice Campbell Deceased family members

Edna Fraser and family Robert J. (Bob) Fraser,

Parents Clifford & Lalia Sinclair and mother-in-law, Jennie Fraser

John and Brenda Zinck Merton and Marion MacKinnon and Rollie and Linnie Zinck

Betty Smith and family My husband Brad Smith; Parents of my husband Brad, Marjorie & John Smith; and my parents Evelyn & Murdock Campbell, and our daughter Pam Flanagan

Jane and Don Taylor Dad, Lennie Rhyno, sister Dawne Mair and in honour of my mom, Charlotte Rhyno

Parents, Ephraim and Marjorie Taylor

Janet and Gord Hardy Parents Kay and Harry Jardine and Lorna and Ken Hardy

Jane and Keith MacDonald Eileen (MacDonald) Williams; Dorothy and Ferguson MacDonald; Evelynne and Norman Cuthbertson and Vernon Milligan

Janet and Brian Hiscott Melda and Roy MacGregor;

Annie and George Fraser;

Pearl and Eldred Baudoux;

Lola and Rev. Roy MacKenzie; Betty and Doug Fraser; Audrey and Raymond MacQuarrie

Susan and Chuck Stallard Melda and Roy MacGregor;

Annie and George Fraser;

Pearl and Eldred Baudoux;

Lola and Rev. Roy MacKenzie; Betty and Doug Fraser; Audrey and Raymond MacQuarrie

Keith and Shirley Cruickshank Parents Kenneth and Laura Cruickshank and brother Grant Cruickshank and Neil and Tresse MacDonald

Robyn and Larry MacLeod All family members and friends

Brent MacQuarrie and Parents Raymond and Audrey MacQuarrie; Parents Fred Fullerton, Betty

Sara Fullerton Fullerton Graham and Walter Graham

Lynne Ann MacLellan Scott MacLellan and John MacLellan and Berma Marshall

Shirley MacDonald Parents Robert & Isabel Fraser

Bob Kowalski Wife Doreen; son Paul; sister Tosha MacMillan; brother Joseph Cormier

Catherine Matheson Hugh Matheson

Scott Grant Peter & Anna Grant and Doug & Marina Matheson

Betty, Berta and Chet Fleming Parents Tena and Chester Fleming