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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**902-752-5691**

**First.church@ns.aliantzinc.ca**

**Reverend Andrew MacDonald**

**902-331-0322**

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**December 3rd, 2023**

**First Sunday In Advent**

***HOPE***

**THE APPROACH**

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

**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*\*MUSICAL INTROIT - #109 -** "All earth is waiting" vs.1

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*\*HYMN #122 –** “Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel” vs.1,5,6

1 Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel

and ransom captive Israel,

that mourns in lowly exile here,

until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

5 Oh come, thou Key of David, come

and open wide our heavenly home;

make safe the way that leads on high

and close the path to misery.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 Oh come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer

our spirits by thine advent here;

disperse the gloomy clouds of night

and death’s dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

**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: HOPE**

**Voice 1:** The prophets call and the psalmist sings to announce

that hope comes from God.

**Voice 2:** “O that you would tear open the heavens and come

down, so that the mountains would quake at your

presence.” (Isaiah 64) “We shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.” (Psalm 27)

**Voice 1:** The world cries for justice and transformation.

Advent summons us to watch, to wait and to hope. In

the destruction of the current order is the promise of a

new order beyond our imagination. Signs of hope are

all around us if we have the patience to wait and to see

them.

**Voice 2**: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

**All: Jesus Christ comes as the hope of the world.**

**Voice 2:** We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful

praise.

**All: We light this candle to bear witness to hope.**

***\*\*HYMN: #119 -*** *“Hope is A Star” vs. 1*

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.

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 64:1-9

**EPISTLE LESSON:**   1 Corinthians 1:3-9

**RESPONSIVE PSALM:** Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 (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 13:24-37

**ANTHEM –** “How Great Thou Art”

**SERMON:** *“HOPE!”*

**\*\*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: #110 -** “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,

born to set thy people free;

from our fears and sins release us;

let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation,

hope of all the world thou art,

dear desire of every nation,

joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver;

born a child and yet a king;

born to reign in us forever;

now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit

rule in all our hearts alone;

by thine all-sufficient merit

raise us to thy gracious throne.

**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: #124 -** “People in darkness”

1 People in darkness are looking for light.

Come, come, come Jesus Christ.

People with blindness are longing for sight,

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait

are days for the advent of LOVE.

2 People with sickness are praying for health,

Come, come, come Jesus Christ.

People in poverty want to have wealth,

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait

are days for the advent of HOPE.

3 People in trouble would like to be free,

Come, come, come Jesus Christ.

People with arguments want to agree,

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait

are days for the advent of PEACE.

4 People in sadness are trying to sing.

Come, come, come Jesus Christ.

Bells in the steeple are waiting to ring.

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait

are days for the advent of JOY.

**\*\*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

**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.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Donations have been received in loving memory of Raymond Webster from Heather (Jardine) Clark and from James Webster.

A donation has been received in loving memory of Graham Fraser from Pheobe Fraser and family.

 **Thank you!**

We hosted a very successful Talent Show Saturday night. Everyone had a good time, the music was fantastic and we raised $396.00. Thank you to Kevin Reid for organizing this event and to all who participated and those who supported our annual fundraiser. See you next year for the Third Annual Talent Show!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tues., Dec. 5th – 6:30 p.m. –** The Board of Managers will meet.

**Sun., Dec. 10th – 12:15 p.m.** - Session will meet after service.

**The Worship and Music Team** will be 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.

**Today - 2:30 p.m**. – The Trinitarians Choir presents “Nowell!! Sing Nowell!!” at Trinity United Church, New Glasgow. Admission – Donation at the door.

**Sun., Dec. 10th – 3:00 p.m.** – First Presbyterian Church, Hopewell is hosting a “Christmas Carol Song Service”. All welcome. Free will offering at the door.

**Sun., Dec. 10th – 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”.

**Sun. Dec. 10th 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.

**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.

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Scripture Reader –** TBA

**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.**

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**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