**January 21st, 2024**

**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

**THE APPROACH**

**\*\* Please Rise \*\***

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*\*Lighting the Christ Candle:**

One: The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**ALL: So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.** (Light the candle)

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

**\*\*Musical Introit - #662** “Those who wait on the Lord” vs.3

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.

**\*\*Call to Worship**

**\*\*Hymn #778 –** “Lord, you give the great commission” vs.1,3,5

1 Lord, you give the great commission,

**“Heal the sick and preach the word**.”

Lest the Church neglect its mission

and the Gospel go unheard,

help us witness to your purpose

with renewed integrity;

with the Spirit’s gift empower us

for the work of ministry.

3 Lord, you make the common holy:

“**This is my body, this is my blood**.”

Let us all, for earth’s true glory,

daily lift life heavenward,

asking that the world around us

share your children’s liberty;

with the Spirit’s gifts empower us

for the work of ministry.

5 Lord, you bless with words assuring,

“**I am with you to the end.”**

Faith and hope and love restoring,

may we serve as you intend,

and, amid the cares that claim us,

hold in mind eternity;

with the Spirit’s gifts empower us

for the work of ministry.

**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 #682 –** “Just as I am, without one plea” vs. 1,2,4,5

 1 Just as I am, without one plea,

but that thy blood was shed for me,

and that thou biddest me come to thee,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, though tossed about

with many a conflict, many a doubt,

fightings and fears within, without,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,

wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;

because thy promise I believe,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thy love unknown

has broken every barrier down.

Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

First Lesson: **Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

Epistle Lesson:   **1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

**Responsive** **Psalm 62:5-12**

ONE: For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honour; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

**ALL: Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.**
ONE: Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

**ALL: Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.**

ONE: Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.

**ALL: For you repay to all according to their work.**

**\*\*Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now will be, forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

Gospel Reading:  **Mark 1:14-20**

**Anthem:** “I Rest in God Alone”

**Sermon:** *“Fishers of Men!”*

**\*\*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 #472 –** “We are God’s people” vs. 1-4

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**

**\*\*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: The People Respond**

ONE: God, in your mercy.

**ALL: Hear our Prayer.**

**\*\*Hymn #645 –** “Follow Me, the Master said” vs. 1,3,4

1 Follow me, the Master said:

we will follow Jesus.

By his word and Spirit led,

we will follow Jesus.

Still for us he lives to plead,

at the throne will intercede,

offers help in time of need;

we will follow Jesus.

3. Though the way may dark appear,

we will follow Jesus.

He will make our pathway clear;

we will follow Jesus.

In our daily round of care,

as we plead with God in prayer,

with the cross which we must bear,

we will follow Jesus.

4. Ever keep the end in view;

we will follow Jesus.

All his promises are true;

we will follow Jesus.

When this earthly course is run,

and the Master says, Well done!

life eternal we have won;

we will follow Jesus.

**\*\*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**

**JANUARY MEETINGS:**

* **Today – 1:15 p.m. (approx.) -** Elders will meet after coffee hour
* **Sun., Jan. 28th – 12:15 p.m. –** The Board of Managers will meet after service

**Sat., Jan. 27th – 6:00p.m.** – Merigomish School House – The Carillon Singers present their annual toast to Scotland’s favorite son. “A Robbie Burns Evening”. Featuring music, poems, dancing, and a traditional Scottish meal along with guest musicians, “Heather’s Kitchen”. This is a 19+ event, cash bar available. Tickets - $40 each, can be purchased at LBR Variety, Chediac Furniture, from any Carillon or by emailing thecarillonsingers@gmail.com Doors open at 5:30, opening toast promptly at 6:00 p.m. Scottish dress encouraged!

**Reminder** – It is time to start preparing and submitting your reports for the Annual Meeting. The meeting date will be announced soon.

**2023 Receipts** - The 2023 receipts are available for pick up on Sunday or when the office is open. They can also be mailed if this is more convenient.

**A thank you note** has been received from the staff of the Department of Community Services on behalf of the grateful clients who received the gifts donated by the First Church congregation to the “Tree of Kindness” project. The gifts received are sincerely appreciated.



**Happy Birthday** to Lois MacLellan; Lois will celebrate her birthday Tuesday, Jan. 23rd.

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

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Scripture Reader –** Jennifer Thibeau

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office) – Fran Savage & Evie MacLellan

 James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

 MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Ellen Jardine

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