

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

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**Reverend Andrew MacDonald**

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**February 25th, 2024**

**2nd Sunday in Lent**

**THE APPROACH**

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

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*\*Lighting the Christ Candle:**  **Please Rise**

One: On this second Sunday of Lent, we hear Jesus teaching about the suffering and rejection that he would endure on his way to the cross.

**All: Like Peter, we resist this teaching. We prefer an easier way without struggle and suffering.**

One: But Jesus does not hold back. He tells us that to become his followers we need to deny ourselves and take up our cross.

**All: May God help us as we learn more of what it means to be friends and followers of Jesus.** (Light the candle)

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

Prayers of the People: (The People Respond)

One: Lord

**ALL: Hear the cries of our hearts.**

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

**\*\*Musical Introit - #777 -** “Send me, Lord”

**\*\*Call to Worship**

**\*\*Hymn #353 –** “Hail, our once-rejected Jesus”

1. Hail, our once-rejected Jesus!

Hail, our Galilean King!

Once you suffered to release us,

all God’s saving grace to bring.

Faithful servant, holy Saviour,

once you bore our sin and shame;

by your merits we find favour;

life in given through your name.

1. Lamb of God, for us appointed,

all our sin on you was laid;

by Almighty Love anointed,

full atonement you have made.

Now your people are forgiven

through the virtue of your blood;

opened is the gate of heaven;

you are now our peace with God.

1. Jesus, heavenly hosts adore you,

where in glory you abide;

every knee shall bow before you,

reigning at your Father’s side.

There for sinners you are pleading;

there our place you now prepare,

always for us interceding

till in glory we appear.

**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 –** “What a friend we have in Jesus” – Guest soloist - Angela Cromwell

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

First Lesson: **Genesis 17:1-7,15-16**

Epistle Lesson:   **Romans 4:13-25**

**Responsive** **Psalm 22:23-31**

ONE: You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

**ALL: For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.**

ONE: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**ALL: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live for ever!**

ONE: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

**ALL: For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.**

ONE: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

**ALL: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

**\*\*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:  **Mark 8:31-38**

**Anthem:** “Just a closer walk with Thee” - Guest soloist - Angela Cromwell

**Sermon:** *“Get behind me”*

**\*\*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 #675 --** “Precious Lord, take my hand”

Precious Lord, take my hand,

lead me on, let me stand;

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night,

lead me on to the light,

take my hand, precious Lord, lead me on.

2 When my way is drear,

precious Lord, linger near;

when my life is almost gone,

Hear my cry, hear my call;

hold my hand lest I fall;

Take my hand, precious Lord,

lead me home.

3 When the darkness appears

and the night draws near

and the day is past and gone,

at the river I stand,

guide my feet, hold my hand;

take my hand, precious Lord,

lead me home.

**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**

**\*\*Hymn #328 –** “This is my Father’s world”

1 This is my Father’s world,

and to my listening ears

all nature sings, and round me rings

the music of the spheres.

This is my Father’s world:

I rest me in the thought;

of rocks and trees, of skies and seas

God’s hands the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Maker’s world;

the birds their carols raise;

the morning’s light, the lily white,

declare their Maker’s praise.

This is my Maker’s world;

God shines in all that’s fair;

in the rustling grass God’s footsteps pass,

God speaks to me everywhere.

3 This is my Saviour’s world;

O let me not forget

that though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Saviour’s world;

the battle is not done;

Jesus, who died, shall be satisfied,

the earth and heaven are one.

**\*\*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**

**Today** – We will be worshipping with the residents of Ivey’s Terrace this afternoon at 2:30. Please join us if you can.

**Our sympathies** are extended to Keith and Shirley Cruickshank and their family on the passing of Keith’s brother Myron Cruickshank.

**Thank You from Emma**: “I would like to thank those who were responsible for my pre-birthday celebration. Thank you for the cake, flowers, cards and lunch. Everything was lovely! Emma” (Today is actually Emma’s birthday – Best Wishes Emma!)

**Thank you** to all who helped with snow removal following the major snowstorms we had this month; in particular to Gary Ross, Larry, Sharon, and Michael.



This week we celebrate the birthdays of:

* Emma Campbell - today
* Claire Foote – today
* Alvin Sinclair – Feb. 29th
* Choir - Along with Emma, 4 other members of the Choir celebrated birthdays this month, Lynn Simpson (12th) , Sharon Mason (21st) , Diane Bagnell (23rd) and Clare Grieves (24th).

**Mar. 3rd - Annual Reports Due** – If you have not already done so, please submit your reports for the Annual Report by Mar. 3rd. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Mar. 17th.

**Message from Atlantic Synod** - Canada Youth is back, under a new name: LIFT (Living In Faith Together).  LIFT is a national gathering for high school students (grade 9-12), young adults (19-25), and leaders (18+). It will be held July 3-7, 2024, hosted at Brock University in St. Catharines, ON (just outside Niagara Falls). The theme this year is 'Audacious Hope' and is based on the Bible Verse 2 Corinthians 3.12. We are hoping to send a group from the Atlantic Synod. Please fill out this “interest form” for yourself or potential participants from your congregation so the planning team can work on arrangements, including transportation and financial assistance. The form does not require you to go on LIFT but is to help us with some logistics in planning.  <https://forms.gle/7F9KSnwxhtsWcgqWA>

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Scripture Reader –** Sharon Mason

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office) – Jane Williams

James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Ellen Jardine

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