A cross with a blue sky and clouds in the background

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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)

**March 10th, 2024**

**4th Sunday in Lent**

**THE APPROACH**

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

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

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

**One:** On this fourth Sunday of Lent, we overhear a nighttime conversation between Jesus and a Pharisee named Nicodemus.

**All: Jesus says we must be born anew and born of the Spirit. With Nicodemus we ask, “How can these things be?”**

**One:** But maybe it’s not all about understanding these mysteries. Maybe it’s about hearing, believing and sharing the good news with our words and our actions.

**All: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”** (Light the candle)

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

**\*\*Musical Introit - #617 -** “Nothing can trouble”

Nothing can trouble,  
nothing can frighten.  
Those who seek God shall  
never go wanting.  
God alone fills us.

**\*\*Call to Worship**

**\*\*Hymn #39 –** “God of mercy, God of grace”

**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 #768–** “Sometimes a healing word is comfort” vs.1,3,5

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9

Epistle Lesson:   Ephesians 2:1-10

**Responsive** Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

ONE: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever.

**ALL: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

ONE: Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

**ALL: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.**

ONE: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

**ALL: And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.**

**\*\*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:  John 3:14-21

**Anthem:** “O Love that will not let me go”

**Sermon:** "God's Gift of Grace!"

**\*\*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 #314 --** “God is love: come heaven, adoring”

**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 #758 –** “Christ’s is the world”

**\*\*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** – Session will meet after service today.

**Sun., Mar 17th** – Coffee hour followed by the Annual Meeting after morning service.

**Sun., Mar. 24th, 2:30 p.m.** – We will worship with the residents of Riverview Residential Centre

**EASTER SERVICES:**

**Thurs., Mar. 28th, 6:00 p.m.** – Maundy Thursday Service

**Good Friday, Mar. 29th** – Joint service at the Kirk (time to be announced)

**Easter Sun., Mar. 31st** – Sunrise Service – 6:00 a.m.; Easter Sunday Service and Communion at 11:00 a.m.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Bella Smith. Bella passed away March 3rd. She will be sadly missed by all of us at First Church.



This week we send our best wishes to Vivian Ingham as she celebrates her birthday on Tuesday, March 12th. Happy Birthday Vivian!

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Scripture Reader:** Clarice Campbell

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office) – Sherry Greene

James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Ellen Jardine

**EARLY CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS**: Lynne Ann and Lois MacLellan