

**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 17th, 2024**

**5th Sunday in Lent**

**THE APPROACH**

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

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

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

**One:** On this fifth Sunday of Lent, we discover a troubled Jesus in prayer as he contemplates his death on the cross.

**All: We are grateful for the prayers of Jesus and for the times in the gospels when Jesus prayed.**

**One:** In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed, “Remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.”

**All: And so we pray, as Jesus taught us, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”** (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 #496 –** “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet”

Refrain:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet

and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet

and a light unto my path.

1. When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way,

still you’re there right beside me,

and nothing will I fear as long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end.

1. I will not forget your love for me,

and yet my heart forever is wandering.

Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side,

and I will love you to the end.

**Prayer of Adoration, Confession and Lord’s Prayer**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace**

**\*\*Hymn #205–** “O love, how deep, how broad, how high”

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,

how passing thought and fantasy,

that God, the Son of God, should take

our mortal form for mortals’ sake.

2 For baptizing us, for us he bore

his holy fast and hungering sore;

for us temptations sharp he knew,

for us the tempter overthrew.

3 For us he prayed; for us he taught;

for us his daily works he wrought:

by words and signs and actions, thus

still seeking not himself, but us.

4 For us to wicked hands betrayed,

scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,

he bore the shameful cross and death,

for us gave up his dying breath.

5 For us he rose from death again;

for us he went on high to reign;

for us he sent his Spirit here

to guide, to strengthen and to cheer.

6 All glory to our Lord and God

for love so deep, so high, so broad,

the Trinity whom we adore

forever and forevermore.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Epistle Lesson:**   Hebrews 5:5-10

**Responsive Psalm 51:1-12**

**ONE:** When the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

**ALL: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

**ONE:** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement.

**ALL: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

**ONE:** You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**ALL: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**ONE:** Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**ALL: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

**ONE:** Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**ALL: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

**\*\*Gloria Patri**

**Gospel Reading:**  John 12:20-33

**Anthem:** “If I have been the source of pain”

**Sermon:** "The Day Will Surely Come!"

**\*\*Reaffirmation of Faith – Apostles’ Creed**

**\*\*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.

**Offertory**

**\*\*Doxology**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayers of the People: The People Respond**

**One:** God in your mercy,

**ALL: Hear our prayer.**

**\*\*Hymn #197 –** “Forty days and forty nights”

1 Forty days and forty nights

thou wast fasting in the wild;

forty days and forty nights

tempted, and yet undefiled.

2 Should not we thy sorrow share

and from the worldly joys abstain,

fasting with unceasing prayer,

strong with thee to suffer pain?

3 Then if Satan on us press,

Jesus, Saviour, hear us call!

Victor in the wilderness,

grant we may not faint nor fall!

4 So shall we have peace divine;

holier gladness ours shall be;

round us, too, shall angels shine,

such as ministered to thee.

5 Keep, oh keep us, Saviour dear,

ever constant by thy side;

that with thee we may appear

at the eternal Eastertide.

**\*\*Benediction** - Go Now in Peace (Don Besig)

Go now in peace

Never be afraid

God will go with you each hour of every day

Go now in faith

Steadfast, strong, and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love,

And show you believe

Reach out to others

So all the world can see.

God will be there

Watching from above

Go now in peace,

In faith, and in love

Amen, amen, amen.

**Coral Response**

**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** – Coffee hour and the Annual Meeting will take place after service today.

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

**Apr. 19th -May 19th** – Mark Thibeau will be leading a 6-week video Bible Study titled “In the Footsteps of the Saviour – Following Jesus through the Holy Land”, hosted by Max Lucado. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the form outside the office door.

**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.

A donation has been received in loving memory of Bella Smith from Phoebe Fraser.

**NOTE**: - Coffee Hour is the 3rd Sunday of the month. As you know, we gratefully accept donations for the Food Bank any time, in particular, we ask that you bring a donation for the Food Bank Cart on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Thank you in advance.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Rachael Robitaille. Rachael passed away in Halifax on Jan. 7th, 2024.

A card with a bow and roses

Description automatically generatedCongratulations are extended to Sandy and Marion MacIntosh who celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary, Friday, Mar. 15th. We hope you had a wonderful celebration!

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Scripture Reader:** Brent MacQuarrie

**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