

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**902-752-5691**

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

**Reverend Andrew MacDonald**

**902-331-0322**

**yick96@hotmail.com**

**July 14th, 2024**

**8th Sunday after Pentecost**

**THE APPROACH**

**\*\*Please rise\*\***

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

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

**One:** Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. **All: If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.** (Light the candle)

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

**\*\*Musical Introit - #575 -** "Lead me, Lord"

Lead me, Lord, lead me in your righteousness;

make your way plain before my face,

for it is you, and you, God only,

who makes me dwell in safety.

**\*\*Call to Worship**

**\*\*Hymn #787 –** “The Kingdom of God is justice and joy”

1. The kingdom of God

is justice and joy

for Jesus restores

what sin would destroy;

God’s power and glory

in Jesus we know,

and here and hereafter

the kingdom shall grow.

1. The kingdom of God

is mercy and grace;

the prisoners are freed,

the sinners find place,

the outcast are welcomed,

God’s banquet to share,

and hope is awakened

in place of despair.

1. The kingdom of God

is challenge and choice;

believe the good news;

repent and rejoice!

His love for us sinners

brought Christ to his cross,

our crisis of judgement

for gain or for loss.

1. God’s kingdom is come,

the gift and the goal,

in Jesus begun,

in heavens made whole;

the heirs of the kingdom

shall answer his call,

and all things cry, “Glory!”

to God all in all.

**Prayer of Adoration, Confession and the 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 638 -** “Take time to be holy”

1 Take time to be holy; speak oft with thy Lord.

Abide in him always, and feed on his word.

Make friends with God’s children,

help those who are weak,

forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

2 Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;

spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.

By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;

thy friends in they conduct his likeness shall see.

3 Take time to be holy; let him be thy guide,

and run not before him, whatever betide.

In joy and in sorrow, still follow thy Lord,

and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.

4 Take time to be holy; be calm in thy soul,

each thought and each motive

beneath his control.

Thus led by his Spirit to fountains of love,

thou soon will be fitted for service above.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson:** 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12-19

**Epistle Lesson:** Ephesians 1:3-14

**Responsive Psalm 24**

**ONE:** The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

**ALL: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?**

**ONE:** Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

**ALL: They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

**ONE:** Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is the King of glory?

**ALL: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.**

**ONE:** Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

**ALL: The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.**

**\*\*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 6:14-29

**Anthem**

**Sermon:** "Beware of treacherous gifts!"

**\*\*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: #722 –** “Lord, whose love”

1 Lord whose love through humble service

bore the weight of human need,

who upon the cross, forsaken,

offered mercy’s perfect deed:

we, your servants, bring the worship

not of voice alone, but heart,

consecrating to your purpose

every gift that you impart.

2 Still your children wander homeless;

still the hungry cry for bread;

still the captives long for freedom;

still in grief we mourn our dead.

As, O Lord, your deep compassion

healed the sick and freed the soul,

use the love your Spirit kindles

still to save and make us whole.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,

till your love’s revealing light

in its height and depth and greatness

draws upon our guickened sight,

making know the needs and burdens

your compassion bids us bear,

stirring us to tireless striving

your abundant life to share.

4 Called by worship to your service,

forth in your dear name we go

to the child, the youth, the aged,

love in living deeds to show;

hope and health, good will and comfort,

counsel, aid and peace we give,

that your servants, Lord, in freedom

may your mercy know, and live.

**Offertory**

**\*\*Doxology #79**

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:** Blessed are you, O God.

**ALL: For all your goodness to us.**

**\*\*Hymn: #12 –** “Lift up the gates eternal” vs.1-4,7

Refrain: Lift up the gates eternal; lift up your voices:

 the King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.

1. See, all the earth is God’s, its people and nations;

God built it on the deeps and laid its foundations.

1. Who can go up this mountain, who stand in praising?

Those who are pure, who come with clean hands upraising.

1. They shall receive forgiveness and have God’s blessing

if they search for God, their Saviour confessing.

1. Come, lift your voices high; be lifted to glory;

the Lord our God approaches, come, shout the story.

7. Who is this King of glory of whom we’re singing?

Our God, the Lord of Hosts, the victory is bringing.

**\*\*Benediction**

**\*\*Coral Response: “**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.

**Recessional**

**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.

Today, we welcome our friends from St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, “The Kirk”, who will be worshipping with us for the month of July. Thank you for joining us today.

**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**

**Sun., July 21st – Reminder** – Though we appreciate donations for the Food Bank every day, the third Sunday of the month is “Food Bank Sunday”.

**Coffee Hour - Sun., July 21st –** For this month only, rather than our usual coffee hour, we are hosting a congregational BBQ and potluck in the Upper Hall before we close for summer vacations in August. Please see the bulletin insert for more details.

**Sun., July 28th – 2:30p.m.** – We will worship with the residents of Ivey’s Terrace.

**Chair Yoga -** Chair Yoga is being offered here at First Church, in the Upper Hall, Wednesdays 1-2p.m. For more information contact Monica Beltram at info@monicafit.ca

**BIRTHDAYS**

**Friday, July 19th** - Thisweek we celebrate the birthdays of Marion Johnstone and Rev. Gerald Thompson. Happy Birthday to both of you**!**

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office) - Chet Fleming

 James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

 MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Ellen Jardine

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

 \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

**Church Finances**

The Managers and Trustees wish to inform the congregation that church offerings have continued to decline over the past several months. While it is expected offerings do decline during the summer months, this is now a regular occurrence. This is largely due to our congregation getting smaller and smaller. Fundraising along with ongoing efforts to reduce expenses have helped to support our financial situation but obviously not to the extent necessary.

As a result, the Trustees, in response to requests from the Church Treasurer, have transferred funds from church investments in order to meet these current and ongoing financial obligations. Such transfers have now occurred more than once.

This past week, $30,000 has been transferred to the church operating account to see us through the summer months. This information is provided to illustrate the seriousness of our current financial status as our investments will not last forever.

As always, your ideas and thoughts on this matter are welcomed. So, feel free to share by contacting the Minister or members of the Board of Managers or Trustees.