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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)

**September 15th, 2024**

**17th Sunday after Pentecost**

**238th Anniversary Service &**

**Communion Sunday**

**THE APPROACH**

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

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

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

**\*\*Entry of the Bible:**  Please rise

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

**\*\*Call to Worship**

**\*\* Entry of the Piper**

**Kirking of the Tartan**

**\*\*Hymn #333 –** “I sing the almighty power of God” **333**

1 I sing the almighty power of God

that made the mountains rise,

that spread the flowing seas abroad

and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained

the sun to rule by day;

the moon shines full at God’s command,

and all the stars obey.

2 I sing the goodness of the Lord,

that filled the earth with food;

God formed the creatures with a word,

and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,

where’er I turn my eyes,

if I survey the ground I tread,

or gaze upon the skies!

3 There’s not a plant or flower below

but makes thy glories known,

and clouds arise and tempests blow

by order from thy throne,

while all that borrows life from thee

is ever in thy care,

and everywhere that I could be,

thou, God, art present there.

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession - Rev Dr Joon Ki Kim**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace**

**\*\*Hymn #656 -** “Jesus, friend of all the children”

1. Jesus, friend of all the children

be my friend and guide;

take my hand, and ever keep me

by your side.

1. Step by step, oh lead me onward,

growing into youth,

wiser, stronger, still increasing

in your truth.

1. Never leave me nor forsake me;

always be my friend,

for I need you, from life’s dawning

to its end.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 43:1-7

**Responsive Psalm** **29**

**ONE:** Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour.

**ALL: The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

**ONE:** The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**ALL: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

**ONE:** The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, ‘Glory!’

**ALL: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

**\*\*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:**  Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**Anthem –** The Alcorn Family

**Sermon:** "In Good Company!" - **Rev Dr Morley Shaw**

**\*\*Hymn: #461 –** “Be thou my vision” vs. 1,2,4,5

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art,

thou my best thought in the day & the night,

waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,

I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord,

thou my great Father, thine own may I be,

thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

4 Riches I heed not, nor vain earthly praise,

thou my inheritance, though all my days;

thou and thou only, the first in my heart,

high King of heaven, my treasure thou art!

5 High King of heaven, when the battle is done,

grant heaven’s joy to me, O bright heaven’s Sun;

heart of my own heart, whatever befall,

still be my vision, O ruler of all.

**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**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation to the Lord’s Supper**

**The Invitation**

**Communion Hymn** **#543-** “O my Lord, I see thee” vs. 1-3

1 Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;

here would I touch and handle things unseen,

here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,

and all my weariness upon thee lean.

2 Here would we feed upon the bread of God,

here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven;

here would we lay aside each earthly load,

here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;

this is the heavenly table for us spread;

here let us feast, and, feasting, still prolong

this fellowship in thee, our living bread.

**Affirmation of Faith - Apostle’s 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.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:** BoP #564

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up you hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Prayer ending with

*. . . we join with the whole creation*

*to lift our hearts in joyful praise.*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes**

**in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer ending with

*. . . proclaim the mystery of the faith*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Prayer ending with … and the people say

**Amen.**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Communion Hymn #543-** “O my Lord, I see thee” vs. 4,5

4 Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear.

The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;

the bread and wine remove, but thou art here,

nearer than ever, still our shield and sun.

5 We have no help but thine, nor do we need

another arm but thine to lean upon;

it is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;

our strength is in thy might, thy might alone.

**\*\*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.

**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

***Kirkin of the Tartan***

**The Background**

Kirk is Scottish Gaelic for church, and a kirking is a ‘churching’ or a ‘blessing.’ Although plaids are worn throughout the world, only Scots wear the tartan. Scots look on the tartan as a multicolored bit of wool. To the Scots, a tartan is steeped in history, saturated with the blood of martyrs, and interwoven with sentiment and tradition.

A clan is a family, and Scots wear the tartan of their clans or families with pride and a sense of history. Each Scottish tartan is distinctive, registered in Scotland and unchangeable. Scottish literature referred to the tartan as early as the 1200s.

The English King prohibited the wearing of the tartans, the kilt, and the playing of the great highland pipes in 1746. This happened after the defeat of the clans and Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden Moor. Anyone caught wearing the tartans or playing the pipes was put to a horrible death. All Scots were required to make the following oath on pain of death. The oath was enforced by an Act of Parliament on August 11, 1746. The oath reads:

*I swear, as I shall answer to God on the Great Day of Judgement. I have not, and shall not have in my possession, any gun, sword, or arms whatsoever, and never use any tartan plaid or any part of the Highland garb and, if I do so may I be accursed in my undertakings, family and property, may I never see my wife, nor children, nor father, mother, or relations; may I be killed in battle as a fugitive coward and lie without Christian burial in a foreign land, far from the gravs of my forefathers and kindred; may all of this come upon me if I break this oath.*

The repeal of this proscription or prohibition occurred in 1782. This is a translation of the Gaelic proclamation:

*This bringing before all the sons of Gael that the King and Parliament of Britain have forever abolished the act against the Highland dress that came down to the clans from the beginning of the world to the year of 1746. This must bring joy to every Highland heart. You are no longer bound down to the unmanly dress of the Lowlander. This is declaring every man, young or old, commons or gentle, that they may, after this, put on and wear the trews, the little kilt, the doublet and hose, along with the tartan kilt, without fear of the law of the land or the jealousy of enemies.*

The Kirking of the Tartans reflects a tradition of the Church of Scotland, the mother church of the Presbyterian Church. The actual Kirkin of the Tartans was instituted by Dr. Peter Marshall in April of 1941 as a worship service to remember and honor those of Scottish blood that have given so much in the centuries past. This time of blessing reflects a far older tradition, that of the Old Testament practice of the annual renewal of the Covenant. Once a year the people of God would come together, in one place, to renew their commitment to worship and to show obedience to God’s commandments. At this time the entire book of Deuteronomy was read. The people would receive blessings for obedience and cursings for disobedience. They committed themselves and their families, their talents and treasures to worship and to serve the Lord for another year.

Following the lead of Dr. Peter Marshall the unified services of prayer spread to the British Isles by the St. Andrew’s Society in support of the British War Effort. Thus the Kirkin of the Tartan comes to us today.

**The Raising of the Tartans**

The Convener calls for the Procession of the Tartans. This is the official commencement of the Kirkin of the Tartans.

Leading the procession and carrying the Holy Bible into the Kirk is the Beadle. This person was in charge of the Kirk’s copy of the Holy Scriptures. This was a very high honor and carried many responsibilities including the safekeeping of the Kirk’s Bible. In many small Kirks the Beadle had charge of the only copy of the Bible. Elder Don Gibson is the Guard of Honor to the Beadle. They stand, with the Convener, at the front, to receive the Parade.

Second to the Beadle and Guard of Honor comes the Piper. The bagpipe is the national instrument of Scotland and dates from the early 1400s. The music of the pipes has been heard on the battlefields of the world, at celebrations of coronations, weddings, and funerals. It is one of the few musical instruments to be accorded the title of ‘instrument of war.’ Today it serves as the instrument of peace and grace from our Lord.

The Ministers come next in the procession. Once the Bible has been placed in its cradle, the Beadle and the Guard of Honor escort the ministers to their places on the dais. They take their place of honor on the dais.

The first banner in the procession is that of the Cross of St. Andrew, the true flag of Scotland. It is in honor of the patron saint of Scotland – Saint Andrew. This flag is carried by the President of the Society and accompanied by the First Lady of the Society who carries the Flag of the United States of America. The Lion Rampant – the Royal flag of a free Scotland comes next carried by an honored member of the Society. The procession continues with the various flags, banners, and indicators of the clans in attendance. The President will proceed to take his place of honor on the dais.

During the ‘Raising of the Tartans’ the Convener and Guard of Honor will recognize each clan and tartan in attendance. They will begin with the banners and kilts of the Scottish American Society in attendance. They will next pass among all members of the Kirk to recognize those clans in attendance. The celebration of the blessing is the culmination of this ceremony.

**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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Mon., Sept. 16th, 7:00 p.m. –** St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, 105 Coleraine St., Pictou, presents Musique Royale – 39th Summer Festival – tickets available on line or at the door.

**Tues., Sept. 17, 2024, 7:00** – “**An Introduction to the Bible”: A Study on Paul’s Letters to the Corinthians** is being offered at First Presbyterian Church, Stellarton, starting Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (a second group to meet on Wednesday evenings starting September 18th at another location). These 10 Sessions are for those who would like a better understanding of these important letters.  If there is enough interest, an afternoon class on Tuesdays or Wednesdays might be possible. For more information or to register, contact Rev. Grant Johnston, Course Leader: [grant.johnston@live.com](mailto:grant.johnston@live.com), or call or text: (905) 867-1914. Participants will receive a complimentary copy of the New Testament, Good News version.

**Fri., Sept 27th, 7 p.m.** - Plan to attend a Variety Concert at Middle River Church, Rocklin. Free will admission. Fudge & water will be for sale.

**RESERVE THE DATE** - Sun., Dec. 1st - 3pm. - Middle River Church, Rocklin will be holding an Old Fashion Christmas Concert, lots of old time Christmas carols and songs.  More info to follow ....

**Wed. and Fri. mornings – 10:30-11:30 a.m. -** Chair Yoga is being offered at First Church, in the Upper Hall. For more information contact Monica Beltram at [info@monicafit.ca](mailto:info@monicafit.ca)

**USHERS:** Main Door (Office) - Clarice Campbell

James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Ellen Jardine

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

**CELEBRATING HER BIRTHDAY**

**THIS WEEK:**

Tomorrow, Sept. 16th – Clarice Campbell - Happy Birthday Clarice!!

Autumn is coming!!!

