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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**Reverend Andrew MacDonald**

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**December 1st , 2024**

**First Sunday of Advent**

***HOPE***

**THE APPROACH**

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

**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*\*Entry of the Bible**

**\*\*Musical Introit - #124** "*People In Darkness*" *vs. 2*

2 People with sickness are praying for health,

Come, come, come Jesus Christ.

People in poverty want to have wealth,

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait

are days for the advent of HOPE.

**Call To Worship**

**\*\*Hymn #120 –** “Lo! Christ Comes with Clouds”

1 Lo! Christ comes with clouds descending,

Lamb of God for sinners slain;

thousand thousand saints attending

swell the Lord’s triumphant train.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

God appears on earth to reign.

2 Every eye shall now behold thee

robed in awe and majesty;

we, who scorned and mocked and sold thee,

pierced and nailed thee to the tree,

deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,

shall the true Messiah see.

3 Now redemption, long awaited,

see in glorious life appear!

All God’s creatures freed from groaning,

sounds of liberation hear:

Hallelujah, hallilujah, hallelujah!

See the day of God appear.

4 Evermore let all adore thee,

high on thine eternal throne;

crowns and empires fall before thee:

thou shalt reign and thou alone.

Come , Lord Jesus; come Lord Jesus;

come Lord Jesus!

Claim all glory for thine own.

**Prayers of Approach 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**

**Lighting the Advent Candle:**

**HOPE**

**One:** As we enter the season of Advent, we remember God’s call to seek justice in the world God loves.

**All: We come longing for a brighter future for all.**

**One:** We light the first candle of Advent, a symbol of God’s hope, which shines in the darkness.

***(Light the candle of hope)***

**One:** May the light of this candle ignite a fire within your people, who are often afraid or hesitant to work for change.

**All: Holy One, strengthen us by your Spirit to commit ourselves to walking with those who are oppressed and marginalized. May our actions reflect your hope, which transforms your world. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.**

***\*\*Advent Hymn: #119*** *“Hope is a star” vs. 1*

1 HOPE is a star that shines in the night,

leading us on till the morning is bright

Chorus When God is a child

There’s joy in our song.

The last shall be first

and the weak shall be strong,

and none shall be afraid.

**Children’s Hymn: #114** *“Emmanuel! Emmanuel!” x2*

 Emmanuel, Emmanuel,

 his named is called Emmanuel.

 God with us, revealed in us,

 his name is called Emmanuel.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Jeremiah 33:14-16

**Epistle Lesson:**   1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

**\*\*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 21:25-36

**Anthem – “***To a maid whose name was Mary***”**

**Sermon:** *“Hope!”*

**\*\*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: #110 -** “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,

born to set thy people free;

from our fears and sins release us;

let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation,

hope of all the world thou art,

dear desire of every nation,

joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver;

born a child and yet a king;

born to reign in us forever;

now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit

rule in all our hearts alone;

by thine all-sufficient merit

raise us to thy gracious throne.

Call to the Offering

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayers of the People- The People Respond**

**ONE:** Lord In Your Mercy

**ALL: Hear our Prayer!**

**\*\*Hymn: #122 -** *“O come, o come Emmanuel” vs. 1,3,5*

1 Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel

and ransom captive Israel,

that mourns in lowly exile here,

until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

3 Oh come, thou Wisdom from on high,

and order all things far and nigh;

to us the path of knowledge show,

and cause us in her ways to go.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

5 Oh come, thou Key of David, come

and open wide our heavenly home;

make safe the way that leads on high

and close the path to misery.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

**\*\*Benediction**

**\*\*Choral Response**: -116 - “Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding” vs.50

5. Honour, glory, might and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit
while eternal ages run.

**\*\*Recessional**

**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.



In memorium donations have been received in loving memory of Donald Johnstone from:

* Phoebe Fraser
* John & Brenda Zinck
* Staff of St. Andrew’s Consolidated School, Mulgrave, c/o Karen Lundrigan

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MEETINGS:**

* **Sun., Dec. 8th –** Session will meet after service.
* The Board of Managers will not meet during the month of December.

**Today – First Sunday of Advent – 10:30-10:55 a.m.** – Following the success of this event last year, we are once again hosting pre-worship coffee time. Coffee and refreshments will be served while we enjoy special music. There will be different performers each week, today, Don Haggart will perform. Next Sunday, “Brass United” (Brent and Friends) will perform. Please join us if you can!

**The Christmas Memory Tree** is now set up in the sanctuary. If you would like to donate a ball(s) in memory of a loved one, complete the form and leave it, along with your donation, in the collection plate. (To avoid missing a name(s), please limit your requests to 5 per form.) The names of those remembered and the donors will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. **Deadline - December 15th.**

**The Tree of Kindness** is once again being sponsored by the Worship and Music team. The past couple years, the congregation of First Church has filled baskets with essential items to be donated to Income Assistance recipients. We hope to fill baskets for 2 men and 2 women. The project will run for the first 3 Sundays of Advent [Dec. 1-15]. Gift tags with items noted on the back of the tag are hung on the tree. If you can help, please take a tag or 2, purchase the gifts and place them in the baskets under the tree. The baskets will be collected on Dec. 17th and delivered to Community Services for distribution before Christmas. Thank you for your support.

**Today– 2:00 p.m.** – Middle River Church (59 E. Fraser Crossroads, Middle River) will be hosting an “Old Fashioned Christmas Concert”. Featuring James & Samuel Lawrence, Margaret Weir, Katie Marshall and The Cheery Chimes. Donations to our hat, scarf and mitten tree will be gratefully accepted. Hot cider and Christmas cookies will be served.

**Sun., Dec.  8th, 2:00-4:00p.m.** - The Catholic Women’s League of St. John the Baptist Church, 390 High Street, New Glasgow, are once again hosting their annual **Christmas Tea and Sale**, featuring tea, sandwiches and sweets, a large bake table, raffles and more.  Admission $5 adults, $2 children.  Hope to see you there!!

**Tues.., Dec.  10th, 2:30-3:30p.m. -** St. George’s Anglican Church, 199 Temperance St., New Glasgow, is hosting “Holiday Harmonies: A Christmas Celebration”. Keltic Chorus presents the Accapella Ladies Chorus and other musical guests, a sing along and Christmas goodies. Please join us for an afternoon of music and cheer! Free will offering.

**Thank You!**

The Variety Concert held at First Church last Saturday evening was a huge success; raising close to $600.00 while we enjoyed an evening of great entertainment. The Board of Managers would like to thank the performers, everyone who attended the concert, Marilyn Johnstone and all who helped serve the refreshments and in particular we thank Kevin Reid for his tireless efforts to coordinate the performers and advertise this annual event and ensure it continues to be an evening of fun and fellowship. Thank you everyone!

**NOTICE RE COLLECTION PLATES**: Due to the ongoing rise in cases of COVID in the county, we have resumed the process we previously had in place with respect to the weekly collection. Collection plates will be located at the back and front of the sanctuary for your safety.

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Ushers**:

**Main Door** (Office) – Albert & Christa Van de Pol

 **James St.** – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

**MacLean St.** (Main Entrance steps) – Ellen Jardine

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

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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