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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**Reverend Andrew MacDonald**

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**December 22nd, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

***Love***

**THE APPROACH**

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

**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**\*\*Musical Introit - #124** "People in darkness" vs. 1

1 People in darkness are looking for light.

Come, come, come Jesus Christ.

People with blindness are longing for sight,

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait

are days for the advent of LOVE.

**Call To Worship**

**\*\*Hymn #156 –** “The Angel Gabriel from heaven”

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,

his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;

All hail, said he, O lowly maiden Mary,

most highly favoured lady: Gloria!

2 For know a blessed mother you shall be,

all generations praise continually,

your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold

most highly favored lady: Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,

To me be as it pleases God, she said,

my soul shall laud and magnify

God’s holy name,

most highly favored lady: Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born

in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,

and Christian folk throughout the world

will ever say:

most highly favored lady: Gloria!

**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: LOVE-** The Fagan Family

**One:** As we prepare for Christ’s coming, we remember that Christ modelled love by seeking justice for those on the margins.

**All: We come with a desire to love everyone, even when it’s hard.**

**One:** We light the fourth candle of Advent, a symbol of God’s love, which knows no boundaries.

***(Light the candle of love)***

**One:** May the light of this candle inspire us to act towards our neighbours near and far in loving and justice-seeking ways.

**All: Holy One, we love because You first loved us. By the power of your Spirit, commit us to love in action in service of our neighbors. Affirm within us a dedication to show your love to the world, in both word and deed. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.**

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

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.

2 PEACE is a ribbon that circles the earth,

giving a promise of safety and worth.

3 JOY is a song that welcomes the dawn,

telling the world that the Saviour is born.

4 LOVE is a flame that burns in our heart,

Jesus has come and will never depart.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Micah 5:2-5

**Epistle Lesson:**   Hebrews 10:5-10

**\*\*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 1:39-55

**Anthem**

**Sermon:** “Love!”

**\*\*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 sitsat 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: #123 -** “My soul gives glory to my God” vs 1,2,4,5

1. My soul gives glory to my God.

My soul pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness

in many marvelous ways.

1. My God had done great things for me;

yes, holy is this name.

All people will declare me blessed,

and blessings they shall claim.

1. From age to age to all who fear,

such mercy love imparts,

dispensing justice far and near,

dismissing selfish hearts.

1. Love casts the mighty from their thrones,

promotes the insecure,

leaves hungry spirits satisfied;

the rich seem suddenly poor.

1. Praise God, whose loving covenant

support those in distress,

remembering past promises

with present faithfulness.

**Call to the Offering**

**Offertory Prayer**

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

**ONE:** Embrace them with your compassion and strength to persevere.

**ALL: Hear our prayer.**

**\*\*Hymn: #118 -** “Hark the Glad Sound”

1 Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,

the Saviour promised long;

let every heart prepare a throne,

and every voice a song!

2 You come the prisoners to release

in Satan’s bondage held;

the gates of brass before you burst,

the iron fetters yield.

3 You come the broken heart to bind,

the wounded soul to cure,

to bring the treasures of God’s grace,

good tidings for the poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,

your welcome shall proclaim,

and heaven’s eternal arches ring

with your most honoured name.

**\*\*Benediction**

**\*\*Choral 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

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**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 Nora-Jean and Paul Jardine;

-Melda and Roy MacGregor from Janet & Brian Hiscott and Susan & Chuck Stallard

-Lolly & Gerald McLean by Shaun McLean

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Today – Fourth Sunday of Advent – 10:30-10:55 a.m.** – Please join us for coffee and refreshments before today’s service while we enjoy special music from Justin Savage and Keith MacDonald. Join us if you can!

**Sun., Dec. 29th** – We will celebrate Holy Communion.



* This week we extend special birthday wishes to Evie MacLellan and Keith Cruickshank who celebrate their birthdays on Christmas Day!!
* We also extend birthday greetings to Chet Fleming who celebrates his birthday, Sat., Dec. 28th!
* Congratulations to Ralph & Claire Foote who celebrate 62 years of marriage on Fri., Dec. 27th!

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Reader:** Mark Thibeau

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office) – Albert & Theresa

 Van de Pol

 James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

 MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Ellen Jardine

**Early Christian Educators:** Lynne Ann & Lois MacLellan