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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)

**January 12th , 2025**

**3rd Sunday after Christmas**

**First Sunday after the Epiphany**

**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 of the Christ Candle

**Introit – #797 –** “Shall we gather at the river” vs. 1

1 Shall we gather at the river,

where bright angel feet have trod,

with its crystal tide forever

flowing from the throne of God?

Yes, we’ll gather at the river,

the beautiful, the beautiful river,

gather with the saints at the river

that flows from the throne of God.

**\*\*Call to Worship**

**\*\*Hymn #176 –** “Songs of thankfulness and praise” vs.1,3,5

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise

Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,

God revealed by guiding star

to the sages from afar,

branch of royal David’s stem,

in your birth at Bethlehem:

anthems be to you addressed,

God in Christ made manifest.

2 God revealed at Jordan’s stream

God’s beloved Son supreme,

and at Cana, wedding guest,

in your power manifest,

God revealed in works divine,

changing water into wine:

anthems be to you addressed,

God in Christ made manifest.

3 God revealed in making whole

weakening limbs and fainting soul,

God revealed in valiant fight

quelling all the devil’s might,

God revealed in gracious will,

ever bringing good from ill,

anthems be to you addressed,

God in Christ made manifest.

5 Grant us grace to see you, Lord,

mirrored in your holy word;

may we imitate you still

and obey your perfect will,

that we like to you may be,

at your great Ephipany:

may your glory be confessed,

God in Chist made manifest.

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

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**

**\*\* Children’s Hymn #476 –** “Amigos de Cristo/Friends of the Lord”

Refrain:

Amigos de Cristo;

we’re friends of the Lord;

amigos de Cristo;

we’re friends of the Lord,

for we’ve been forgiven,

and we’ve been restored;

amigos de Cristo;

and we’re friends of the Lord.

1. Friends of the covenant

renewed each morn;

baptized and loving it,

we’ve been reborn.

Gift of the dove is ours forevermore.

Amigos de Cristo;

we’re friends of the Lord.

1. Born of a family

the young and old,

we’ll be on hand to see

new life unfold.

We understand the need to be made whole.

Amigos de Cristo;

we’re friends of the Lord.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

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

**Epistle Lesson**: Acts 8:14-17

**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 #684**

Glory to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever.  
Amen, amen, amen.

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**Anthem –** “Were you there on that Christmas morn”

**Sermon:** “Passing through the waters!”

**\*\*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: #401 –** “O Spirit of the living God” vs. 1-3,5

1. O Spirit of the living God,  
in all the fullness of thy grace,  
whereever human foot hath trod,  
descend on our rebellious race.  
  
2. Give tongues of fire and hearts of love,  
to preach the reconciling word;  
give power and unction from above,  
whene'er the joyful sound is heard.  
  
3. Be darkness, at thy coming, light,  
confusion order, in thy path;  
souls without strength inspire with might;  
bid mercy triumph over wrath.  
  
5. Baptize the nations: far and nigh  
the triumphs of the cross record;  
the name of Jesus glorify,  
till every kindred call him Lord.

**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:

ONE: Our hearts kneel before you, oh God.

**\*\*Hymn: #183 –** “Christ, when for us you were baptized”

1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,

God’s spirit on you came,

as peaceful as a dove, and yet

as urgent as a flame.

2 God called you the beloved Son,

called you the servant true:

sent you the kingdom to proclaim,

God’s holy will to do.

3 Straightway and steadfast until death

you then obeyed the call,

freely as Son of Man to serve

and give your life for all.

4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;

your cross on us be signed,

that likewise in God’s service we

may perfect freedom find.

**\*\*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**

**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.

A heart shaped stone with a white flower next to it

Description automatically generatedAn In-memorium donation has been received in loving memory of Donald Johnstone from Edna Fraser & Chet Fleming.

In memorium donations have been received in loving memory of Gary Baudoux from Ellen Jardine and Allan & Anne Rumley.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Today – 12:15 p.m. –** Session will meet after service.

**Sun.., Jan. 19th - 12:15 p.m. –** TheBoard of Managers will meet after service.

A birthday card with balloons and cakes

Description automatically generatedWe send birthday wishes to Ralph Foote who celebrates his birthday today, Jan. 12th. Happy birthday Ralph!!

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Reader:** Jennifer Thibeau

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office) – Brent MacQuarrie

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