

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

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**Reverend Andrew MacDonald**

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**January 5th , 2025**

**2nd Sunday after Christmas**

**Ephiphany**

**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

**Introit – #161 –** “What child is this” vs. 3

3 So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;

come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings;

let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high;

the virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy for Christ is born,

the babe, the son of Mary.

**\*\*Call to Worship**

**\*\*Hymn #170 –** “What star is this”

1. What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King,
glad tidings of our God to bring.

2. 'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
'From Jacob shall a star proceed,'
and lo! the Eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord's command.

3. O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.

4. To God the Father, God the Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One,
may every tongue and nation raise
an endless song of thankful praise.

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

**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**

**\*\* Children’s Hymn #150 –** “Jesus, our brother, kind and good”

1. Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

2. 'I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
'I carried his mother uphill and down;
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;
I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

3. 'I,' said the cow, all white and red,
'I gave him my maner for his bed;
I gave him hay to pillow his head;
I,' said the cow, all white and red.

4. 'I,' said the sheep, with curly horn,
'I gave him my wool for is blanket warm,
he wore my coat on Christmas mom;
I,' said the sheep, with curly horn.

5. 'I,' said the dove, from rafters high,
'I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;
I,' said the dove, from rafters high.

6. Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Jeremiah 31:7-14

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

**Responsive Psalm** 147:12-20

**ONE:** Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

**ALL: For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.**

**ONE:** He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

**ALL: He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.**

**ONE:** He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

**ALL: He hurls down hail like crumbs— who can stand before his cold?**

**ONE:** He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

**ALL: He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

**ONE:** He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances.

**ALL: Praise the Lord!**

**\*\*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:**  John 1:10-18

**Anthem –** “The virgin Mary had a baby boy”

**Sermon:** “Gathered Together!”

**\*\*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: #158–** “The hands that first held Mary’s child” (Tune 510)

1. The hands that first held Mary’s child

 were hard from working wood,

 from boards they sawed and planed and filed

and splinters they withstood.

This day they gripped no tool of steel,

they drive no iron nail,

but cradled from the head to heel our Lord,

newborn and frail.

1. When Joseph marveled at the size

of that small breathing frame,

and gazed upon those bright new eyes

and spoke the Infant’s name,

the angel’s words he once had dreamed

poured down from heaven’s height,

and, like the host of stars that beamed,

blest earth with welcome light.

1. “This child shall be Emmanuel,

not God upon the throne

but God with us, Emmanuel,

as close as blood and bone.”

The tiny form in Joseph’s palms

confirmed what he had heard,

and from his heart rose hymns and psalms

for heaven’s human word.

1. The tools which Joseph laid aside

a mob would later lift

and use with anger, fear and pride

to crucify God’s gift.

Let us, O Lord, not only hold

the Child who’s born today,

but, charged with faith, may we be we bold

to follow his way.

**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: Response

ONE: Our hearts kneel before you, oh God.

**ALL: Receive our humble prayers.**

**\*\*Hymn: #172 –** “As with gladness men of old” vs. 1,2,4,5

1 As with gladness men of old

did the guiding star behold;

as with joy they hailed its light,

leading onward, beaming bright;

so, most gracious Lord, may we

evermore be led to thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,

Saviour, to thy lowly bed,

there to bend the knee before

thee, whom heaven and earth adore,

so may we with willing feet

ever seek thy mercy seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare

at thy cradle rude and bare,

so may we with holy joy,

pure and free from sins alloy,

all our costliest treasures bring,

Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

4 Holy Jesus, every day

keep us in the narrow way,

and when earthly things are past,

bring our ransomed souls at last

where they need no star to guide,

where no clouds of glory hide.

5 In that heavenly country bright

need they no created light:

thou its light, its joy, its crown,

thou its sun which goes not down;

there forever may we sing

hallelujahs to our King.

**\*\*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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**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 and Gary Baudoux by Brent MacQuarrie and Sara Fullerton

-Ethel Porter, Lilian Ross and Blanche Steeves by Phoebe Fraser

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sun., Jan. 12th – 12:15 p.m. –** Session will meet after service.

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

**Today – 3:00 P.M. – Trinity United Church -** The Carillon Singers and special guests present their annual “Olde Christmas Concert: Snow Angel”. Featuring Anne Janelle, cellist and singer songwriter and James Hill, one of the world’s foremost ukelele virtuosos. Mulled cider and light fare will be served following the concert. Doors open at 2:30; tickets $25.00.

**Thank You First Church Congregation!**

Your kindness and generosity greatly exceeded our goal for the Tree of Kindness project this year.  We were able to fill 4 baskets, 9 large gift bags and 2 small gift bags for clients of the Department of Community Services. In the spirit of Advent, your kindness and generosity gave them hope and joy. Thank you, Sara Fullerton



We extend birthday wishes to Shirley Cruickshank who celebrates her birthday today, Jan. 5th and Phoebe Fraser who will celebrate her birthday, tomorrow, Jan. 6th. Happy birthday ladies!!

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Reader:** Sharon Mason

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office)

 James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

 MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Ellen Jardine

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

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