**March 2nd , 2025**

**Last Sunday before Lent**

**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 –** “Make a joyful noise” vs. 1 (Linnea Good)

Chorus

Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with with a song!

Verse 3

Ages through endless ages,

Seasons of endless years,

the love of our Maker ever shall endure.

Worship your God with a song!

**\*\*Call to Worship**

**\*\*Hymn #490 –** “God of grace and God of glory” vs.1,3,5

1 God of grace and God of glory,

on thy people pour thy power;

crown thine ancient church’s story;

bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage

for the facing of this hour,

for the facing of this hour.

3 Cure thy children’s warring madness,

bend our pride to thy control;

shame our wanton, selfish gladness,

rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal,

lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal.

5 Save us from weak resignation

to the evils we deplore;

let the search for thy salvation

be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

serving thee whom we adore,

serving thee whom we adore.

**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 #299 –** “Holy, holy, holy” vs. 1-3

1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!

early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,

casting down their golden crowns

around the glassy sea,

cherubim and seraphim,

falling down before thee,

who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,

though our eyes in sinfulness

thy glory may not see

only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,

perfect in power, in love and purity.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Exodus 34:29-35  page 68

**Epistle Lesson**: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  page 880

**Responsive Psalm 99**

**ONE:** The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

**ALL: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool.  Holy is he!**

**ONE:** Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.

**ALL: He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.**

**ONE:** O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

**ALL: Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.**

**\*\*Gloria Patri #684**

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 9:28-43 Page 792

**Anthem**

**Sermon:** "Blinded by the light!

**\*\*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: #194 –** “Come, let us to the Lord our God” vs. 1,2,4,6

1 Come, let us to the Lord our God
with contrite hearts return;
our God is gracious, nor will leave
the desolate to mourn.

2 His voice commands the tempest forth,
and stills the stormy wave;
and though his arm be strong to smite,
'tis also strong to save.

4 Our hearts, if God we seek to know,
shall know him and rejoice;
his coming like the morn shall be,
like morning songs his voice.

6 So shall his presence bless our souls,
and shed a joyful light;
that hallowed morn shall chase away
the sorrows of the night.

**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:** The People Respond

ONE: God, in your mercy,

**ALL: Hear our prayer.**

**\*\*Hymn: #376 -** “Lord, the light of your love is shining”

1 Lord, the light of your love is shining

in the midst of the darkness, shining;

Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us.

Set us free by the truth you now bring us.

Shine on me; shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine;

fill this land with the Father’s glory;

blaze, Spirit, blaze, set you hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow;

flood the nations with grace and mercy;

send forth your word, Lord,

and let there be light!

2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence,

from the shadows into your radiance;

by your blood I may enter your brightness.

Search me, try me, consume all my brightness.

Shine on me; shine on me.

3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness,

so our faces display your likeness,

ever changing from glory to glory:

mirrored here may our lives tell your story.

Shine on me; shine on me.

**\*\*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

**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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Meetings** – There are no meetings scheduled for this week.



We extend our sincere condolences to Ron Jones and his family on the loss of his father Wes Jones. Mr. Jones passed away Feb. 15th.



**Tues.., Mar. 4th** – Russell MacIntosh will celebrate his birthday. Happy Birthday Russell!

 

 **Fri., Mar. 7th** – Jack and Judy Marshall will celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary. Congratulations!!

**Fri., Mar. 7th – 1:00 p.m.** - World Day of Prayer service will be held at Bethel Church Hall, Pictou Landing. A time of fellowship will follow the service. Everyone welcome. Please register with Mary Condon by email: marycondon@eastlink.ca or by calling Mary at

902-752-0296.

**Sun., Mar. 30th** – The Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Mar. 30th. Please submit your reports ASAP.

**Thank you message from Emma:**

“I wish to thank those responsible for the lovely reception for my 100th birthday last Sunday. I wish to thank all who came, brought gifts, cards, flowers, provided food, decorations, certificates etc. I met friends I had not seen for some time. Thank you all very much!

Emma”

**Note**: We have received additional copies of Norman Munro’s books “Where Two or Three are Gathered”. If you know of someone who would enjoy a copy, please feel free to take one.

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Reader:** Clarice Campbell

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office) – Louise Gillis

 James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

 MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Ellen Jardine

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