

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland Streets
Sydney, NS
www.bethelpresbyterianchurch.ca
Sunday, March 6th, 2016



Mission Statement

Our vision is to be a local community of believers where:

- Jesus Christ is head;
- The Bible has the ultimate authority as the true, infallible and complete Word of God;
- Salvation through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and belief in His finished work on the cross is preached;
- The Gospel of Christ is spread in our community, our nation and around the world in both work and action;
- Believers encourage each other and hold others in higher regard than themselves so that each may use the gifts God has given him/her to the glory of God.

Minister

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Fourth Sunday in Lent
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Organ Prelude

Announcements

Reader

Richard MacAulay

Linda Greaves

We Gather Together – Our Approach to God

Call to Worship

LEADER: We are here today because of what Christ has done for us and to be equipped to carry out his ongoing ministry of reconciliation.

ALL: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

LEADER: For in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting our trespasses against us, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

ALL: So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; so sisters and brothers entreat everyone on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God.

LEADER: Let us worship the God of reconciling love.

Prayer of Adoration & Approach

Gracious God, as we continue our Lenten journey to the cross, we thank you that Calvary is not the end of the road, but simply the pathway to deeper, fuller life. We rejoice that in Christ we can dare to face the truth about ourselves because we know the deeper truth of your reconciling love – a love revealed in the father running to welcome his wayward son home with outstretched arms, a love that prompted your own Son to willingly stretch out his arms on the cross, a love that surrounds us even now as we gather in Christ's name. We ask that the love revealed in Christ would be experienced anew in our worship this morning so that we may leave this place with transformed hearts and imaginations, eager to be ambassadors for Christ and his message of reconciling love. OUR FATHER... Amen.

Hymn # 452

Jesus, stand among us

Prayer of Confession

LEADER: Gracious God, through Christ's death on the cross, you forgive us our sins and accept us into your family as your beloved children, but we confess that we don't always live as though we are all included in the circle of your reconciling love.

ALL: Often we refuse your guidance and stubbornly choose to go our own way, convinced that our way is the path to true happiness. Then when we lose our way or do something we regret, we refuse to believe that you could forgive us and love us still. Instead, we condemn ourselves as worthless and treat ourselves as outcasts.

LEADER: At other times, we are so proud of the way we live that we condemn those whom we are convinced are unworthy of your love and acceptance. In so doing, we refuse to accept them as our brothers and sisters and cut ourselves off from them and from you.

ALL: Forgive us, great God of reconciling love, and grant that in the midst of the uncertainties of this life we may grow in the certainty of your constant love for us and for all people. Hear us now as we silently confess our sins to you. Enable us to hear and accept your word of forgiving love and transforming grace...

(silent prayer)

LEADER: In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We hear from God's Word

O. T. Lesson	Joshua 5: 9-12	(p. 154)
Responsive Psalm #	32	(p. 395)
Hymn # 373	Jesus loves me, this I know	
Children's Story	Why does Jesus love us?	
Litany for Fourth Sunday in Lent		David Butler
N.T. Epistle Lesson	2 Corinthians 5: 16-21	(p. 819)
N.T. Gospel Lesson	Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32	(p. 740)
Sermon	Love for the Son	

Our Response to God

Hymn # 640 Softly and tenderly

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

Almighty and all-loving God, we thank you for creating each one of us with unique personalities and gifts to use in your service. Give us ears to hear your call – whether we are hearing your call for the first time or whether you are re-issuing your call to us anew. Give us the courage and faith we need to be true ambassadors for Christ and instruments of his reconciling grace. We pray for those in special need of your counsel and guidance in their lives: We pray for those who are struggling with the whole question of vocation. Give them a spirit of discernment to distinguish your way and a spirit of trust to follow you in that way. We pray for those who have lost their sense of purpose and feel they have no gift or talents worth sharing or using. Help them to discover the

good news that we have all been given gifts and talents in Jesus Christ. Help us as a community to affirm one another's gifts. We pray for those who face the frustration of knowing they have gifts and talents to share but who are unable to share them because of prejudice and circumstances beyond their control:

- Women and men who have lost their jobs because of cut backs and restructuring or are precariously employed or underemployed;
- Women and men who are living in limbo in camps and temporary shelters, uprooted from their homes and livelihoods because of natural disasters, war and violence, and persecution;
- Women and men, young people, seniors, indigenous people and visible and other minorities, whose gifts are devalued and unappreciated due to prejudice and discrimination.
- Women and men survivors of sexual abuse, rape and human trafficking;
- Those we name now in the silence of our own hearts...
(silent prayer)

In the midst of these people's discouragement be their strong advocate through your Holy Spirit. Help us to root out all traces of discrimination so that our life together can point to the new humanity you envision in Jesus Christ. We pray for our nation as we seek to discern what it means to be Canadian in today's world. Give us a new vision and help us discern our unique role as a nation among nations on the world stage. Give us a new vision of our role as your people in the larger world. Help us to fulfill our calling as ambassadors for Christ and as partners in his ministry of reconciliation. Give us the courage to pick up our crosses and follow Christ in his way of self-giving love. Give us the grace to serve and love him best of all, for it is in Jesus' name we pray...)

minister will conclude prayer...)

Offering & Offertory

Anthem

We bow down

Paris arr. Larson

Doxology (#830)

Prayer of Dedication

We go out in Service to the Lord

Hymn # 644

May the mind of Christ my Saviour

Benediction & Choral Amen

Postlude

WELCOME We welcome everyone to this service of worship this Lord's Day and pray that this will be a time of blessing for all. Everyone is invited to a time of fellowship in the hall following the service. On duty today are Sara, Heather and Ann MacQueen.

Nursery

Today: Nancy MacDonald and Angela Gillespie

Next Sunday: Carol MacLeod and Lisa MacKenzie

Sunday School Shepherd

- Carol Ferguson

Greeter at the Choir Door

- Gordon Ferguson

Greeter at the North Door

- Duncan K. MacLeod

Readings for next week

Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3: 4b-14; John 12: 1-8

This Week

Tonight

On Sunday evening, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. Grace Fellowship Church is having a free showing of the movie "The War Room" The film is described as ``a compelling faith drama`` from the creators of FIREPROOF and COURAGEOUS. Recently it became the No. 1 movie in U.S. theatres. Everyone is invited to this fun and inspirational family night. There will be no charge nor will there be an offering taken, so come and enjoy an evening out with family and friends. Grace Fellowship Church is located at 3 Meadowbrook Dr. in Sydney Mines. For more information call 902 736-9499 or email gracefellowshiparp@gmail.com.

Monday Study during Lent

Max Lucado: Grace

Monday, March 7 th	(5)	Confession
	(6)	The Life is Fragile
Monday, March 14 th	(7)	The Grace Shaped Life

Saturday, March 12th

We will once again have a Winter Fun Day on the Saturday when March Break begins (2-4) – a time for us to relax and have some fun together. All are invited to come!!!

There will be no Sunday School classes next **Sunday, March 13th** because of March break. Classes will resume on March 20th.

LENTEN "SOUP & SPIRIT"

NOON HOUR LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 Noon - 1:00PM

St. George's Hall, Nepean St, Sydney

Come & enjoy a nice warm bowl of soup & listen as community program leaders educate on what is happening within their organizations and the community. Free Will donations for the lunch will be used to cover the cost of the meals and surplus monies will be donated to the Homeless Shelter for Men & Transition House.

SPEAKERS SCHEDULE

March 9th - Wanda Earhart, Every Woman's Centre

March 16th - Madonna Doucette, LGBTQ Community Activist

Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 17

Preparatory Service for Spring Communion in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday Sunday, March 20th

We will have Communion Services at 10:30 am and 7:00 pm services

Good Friday, Friday, March 25th

Men's Breakfast and Service at 8:30 a.m. Speaker will be Rev. Corrie Stewart. Free will offering will be taken.

Service at Bethel will be at 1:00 p.m. Free will offering will be taken to support the Cancer Patient Care Fund. All are invited to attend.

Easter. Sunday, March 27th

10:30 Easter Service

LIVE AUCTION!!! Save the date for a live auction hosted by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Sydney Mines, to be held on April 1st, 2016 at 7pm at the John J Nugent Firemen's Centre (1 Elliot St., Sydney Mines).

Auctioneer: Mr. Alfie MacLeod. Admission Charge: \$2.00. Everyone is invited to share in this fun and entertaining evening, with items to suit everyone's taste!

The Cove Ladies Auxiliary Yard sale June 4, 2016

If you have any items to donate please call Gwen Shepard 562-4055 or Mabel Thompson 562-2046. Please do not bring things to the hall as there is no space to store them at this time.