



## LITANY

Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

**We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Grant us vision to behold your glory.

**We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

**We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

**We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

### *Candle Lighting*

This morning we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second candle** is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

### **Prayer**

**God of eternity, you called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory. We acknowledge you call us to the same awareness today. We confess at times our spiritual senses are stifled. Rekindle a new awareness of your**

**everlasting glory. We stand in awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.**

**Choir:** Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

**All:** Christ be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Children's Story

N.T. Epistle Lesson James 5: 7-10 (p. 856)

N. T. Gospel Lesson Matthew 11: 2-11 (p. 688)

Sermon **The truth of it all**

**Our Response to God**

Hymn # 118 Hark the glad sound

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

Offering

Offertory

Choir Anthem O Holy Christ in Love Come Down

Parker/Raney

Doxology (#830)

Prayer of Dedication

**We go out in service to the Lord**

Hymn # 168 See amid the winter's snow

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. We are pleased to have Todd & Stephanie Gouthro, son Quinn (12) and daughter Jenna (10) lighting the Advent Candle this morning. Everyone is invited to a time of fellowship in the hall following the service. On duty today are Eileen MacLean and Sharon McKay.

*Offering Envelopes 2017*

These are available today for everyone in the lobby

### **Nursery**

**Today:** Lisa MacKenzie and Angela Gillespie

**Next Sunday:** Susan Jessen and Lucy MacKinnon

### **Sunday School Shepherd**

- Donnie Brown

### **Greeter at the South Door**

- Wilrod Morrison

### **Greeter at the Choir Room Door**

- Wendy MacDonald

### **Visiting the Hospital this week**

Wayne & Wendy MacDonald 562-5686

### **Readings for next week**

Isaiah 7: 10-16; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19; Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-25

## **MEMORIALS**

### **To the Benevolent Fund**

- In memory of Allister MacLeod from Alice MacLeod
- In memory of Iris Gillespie from Byron & Iylah MacLeod

- In memory of Iris Gillespie from sisters Geraldine MacLeod and Joan Jessome

### **Knitting Project**

John Geddie AMS will continue with their knitting project of pneumonia vests and baby caps again this year. Knitted and crocheted patterns available from Joan Richardson . Thank You for your continued support.

### **Volunteers needed**

We would like to organize at least 4 volunteer groups that would be willing to shop for, and work at funeral receptions at our church. We will provide tea and coffee and serve only oatcakes with cheese for up to 120 people. Families may still have sweets and sandwiches but it would be their responsibility to supply their own food. If you are interested in volunteering please give your name or call Sandra MacLeod at [902 539 2467](tel:9025392467) or Carol Ferguson at [902 564 8422](tel:9025648422). We hope to have an "organizing" meeting early in January.

### **This Evening**

**7:00 pm** Christmas Hymn Sing and Memorial Light-Up Ceremony

### **This Week**

#### **Monday**

**7:00 pm** Christmas Bible Study will be held in the hall.

#### **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @7 pm**

St. Matthew Wesley United Church Choir, 2 Peppett St., North Sydney is pleased to host a Musical Evening featuring North Sydney's own, Dr. Kevin Orrell & Shauna Doolan. Light refreshments to follow! Price \$10.00. Tickets available at the church office or any choir member.

**Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00-8:30 pm.**

Carols and Cookies Night at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Sydney Mines (643 Main Street) will be held. A program featuring community carol singing with musical entertainment by Chalkdust, Don & Jean Crouse and John Lovell, followed by a time of fellowship over Christmas cookies and a hot beverage! While having a cookie and a hot beverage you can purchase goodies from our Pantry Table and take home a sweet or two. A seasonal event for people of all ages...all welcome! Admission by freewill offering will be in support of Community Cares.

Munro Academy, Ball's Creek, will be having a Christmas Concert on Friday, December 16th at the Broadmore Theatre, CBU at 6:30 pm. There will be a silent art auction as well, raising money for our Syrian Family. There will be a small cover charge at the door.

Coro Cantabile and Guests will be presenting a Christmas program at St. Columba Church, Marion Bridge on **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.** Tickets are \$20 at the door or you can call 727-2182 to reserve a ticket.

The Board of Managers is requesting anyone who has a key to the hall or church they are **not using**, to please return it to our custodian Alan Townsend or any member of the board. These keys cost \$25 each to replace, so if there are any spares among the congregation we would appreciate having them back. Thank you!

## **Mission Moments –Sharing the Gospel in people’s heart languages**

In order to preserve their cultures and promote the use of their ancestral languages, indigenous churches are working to enable indigenous peoples to read and study Scripture using the language of their hearts. The Rev. Dr. Paul McLean advises indigenous pastors and elders on translating the Bible into the languages of the Amis, Bunun, Drekey, Paiwan, Tayal and Pinuyumayan peoples. Paul shares, “I thank the Presbyterian Church in Canada for supporting multicultural multilingual Bible translation work in Taiwan. Thanks to everyone who faithfully prays and supports me and our partners in mission through *Presbyterians Sharing*. May our good and gracious God bless you for your part in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the ongoing Bible translation work with Taiwan's indigenous peoples.”

*Presbyterians Sharing supports Bible translation*