

LITANY

Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For any bitterness that scratches our soul:

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For relationships left in decay and neglect:

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:

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 four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope for those in times of waiting. The **second candle** is the light of hope for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life. The **third candle** is the light of hope for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory. The **fourth candle** is the light of hope for those who carry the wounds of life. Today we acknowledge our pain and the pain we have caused others. As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.

Prayer

Merciful God, Advent reminds us that you left heaven's majesty to walk among wounded people in a broken world. We thank you that your love knows no boundaries or

limitations. No wound of this earth is greater than the wounds you came to heal. For all who suffer this day, light the way, O Lord, towards the promise of healing and wholeness made known in you. Amen.

Choir: Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

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 Romans 1: 1-7 (p. 795)

N. T. Gospel Lesson Matthew 1: 18-25 (p. 681)

Sermon **Having the joy**

Our Response to God

Hymn # 141 Good Christians, all rejoice

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

Offering

Offertory

Choir Anthem God whispers love

Doxology (#830)

Prayer of Dedication

We go out in service to the Lord

Hymn # 120 Lo! Christ comes with clouds

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 Dennis & Jean MacIntyre and daughter Kelly lighting the Advent Candle this morning. Everyone is invited to a time of fellowship in the hall following the service. On duty today are Linda Henderson, Lucy MacKinnon, Alixe MacAskill and Marilyn Strickland.

Sympathy is extended to Glen and Gail MacDonald and family in the passing of Gail's mother, Anne MacLeod, whose funeral was yesterday in Grand River and to Flossie MacLean and the MacLean family in the passing of husband, Frank MacLean, whose funeral was in Bethel yesterday.

Nursery

Today: Susan Jessen and Lucy MacKinnon

Sunday School Shepherd

- Bill Sneddon

There will be no Sunday School on Christmas Day (December 25th) and New Year's Day (January 1st). Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 8th.

Greeter at the North Door

- Joan Richardson

Greeter at the Choir Room Door

- Duncan K. MacLeod

Visiting the Hospital this week

Kathy Hardy 562-8578 Tom MacRae 562-3893

Readings for next week

Isaiah 62: 6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3: 4-7; Luke 2: 1-20

MEMORIALS

A donation has been made to the Benevolent Fund from The Bethel Senior Choir

To the Benevolent Fund

- In memory of Hector, Blanche & Donnie MacPherson, Shirley Bonaparte, Darlene Kyla, Mabel & Kyle MacKillop, Lexena & Lloyd MacKillop by Thelma MacKillop
- In memory of Danny & Elizabeth Hanson and family from Hazel Kokocki
- In memory of Earl Taker and Marguerite Gillespie from Edna Taker
- In memory of Earl Taker from Diane & Fred Lynk
- In memory of deceased family members and friends from Sandy & Ginny MacLennan

To the Current Fund

- In memory of Frank MacLean from Roy & Nancy MacDonald
- In memory of Sandy MacCalder from Joan & Kevin Richardson

To Camp MacLeod

- In memory of Vera MacKay from daughters Carol MacKay and Norma Lysecki

To the Property Maintenance Fund

- In memory of our Parents from Roddie & Judy Munroe

This Week

Monday

The Board of Managers will meet at 7:30 pm in the Shaw Room.

Saturday

Annual Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm

Once again our Sunday School will present to us the Christmas message at the beginning of the Service followed by readings and carols. All are invited to attend.

Next Sunday (Christmas Day)

Morning Service at 10:30 am

Service of Baptism and Celebration of Christmas. There will be no Fellowship hour after the service.

Advance Notice

New Year's Eve Gathering

The Minister would like to invite individuals who have no plans for New Year's Eve to gather in the hall for a time of fellowship and fun and games at 5:00pm in the Hall. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Preparatory Service will be held in the Shaw Room on Thursday, January 5th at 7:30 pm

Winter Communion Services will be held on Sunday, January 8th at 10:30am and 7:00 pm

Gifts of Change

Once again this year, it is suggested that rather than place a poinsettia in the church as a memorial, you give a memorial gift to "Gifts Of Change" where a \$25.00 donation could purchase seeds that would provide for a family garden in a developing country or provide supplies for youth programs in Canada. You can make this a memorial donation if you wish.

Gifts of Change

- In honour of Bethel Exercise Group from Roy & Nancy MacDonald

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.

Return of Keys

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 –Accompanying people on their healing journey

The Rev. John Wyminga and Rev. Shannon Bell-Wyminga are ministers with the Nazko & Area Dakelh Outreach in the Cariboo region of British Columbia. Shannon shares, "This ministry is about walking the long road with the people of Nazko and the surrounding area. More and more we realize that God is calling us to accompany people on the journey. We walk with them through the tragedies, the grief and the trauma that continues due to poverty, racism and the legacy of the past. We celebrate with them new births, milestones and treatment centre graduations. The power in Jesus' ministry was all about incarnation – God being present in real flesh. As we live that incarnation of Jesus' love, we trust that God's power will also be manifest as we walk the long walk to healing in our communities. Thank you for sharing this love and vision through all your support.

Presbyterians Sharing walks with native peoples