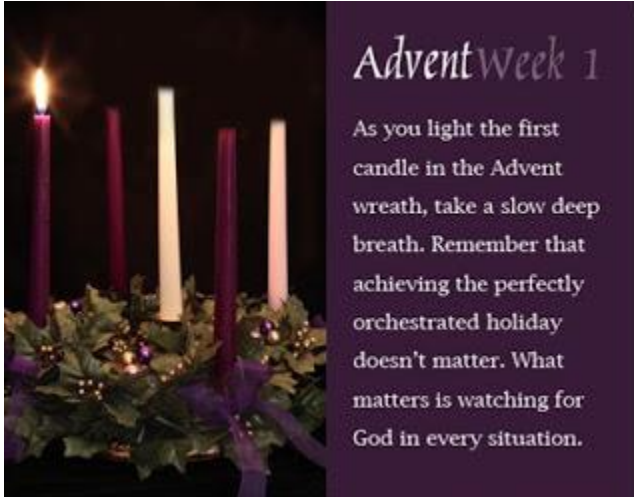


Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS
First Sunday in Lent
Sunday, November 29th, 2020



Mission Statement

To share the gospel of Jesus Christ with our community in our worship and our living.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a local community of believers where:
Jesus Christ is the 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 word 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude

Announcements

Call to Worship

Prayer of Adoration and Approach & Confession (The Lord's Prayer)

Moment of Reflection

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9 (NIV)

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ²As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! ³For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. ⁴Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? ⁶All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. ⁷No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. ⁸Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

Responsive Psalm # 80:1-7, 17-19 (NIV)

¹Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth

²**before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us.**

³Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

⁴**How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

⁶**You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.**

⁷Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself.**

¹⁸Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, LORD God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.**

First Sunday in Advent: HOPE

Reader: The season of Advent begins, and we celebrate the hope we find in the good news of the Gospel.

All: Through the birth of a tiny and helpless child, God comes to save the world.

Reader: While we watch and wait for Jesus, we join God's

mission by bringing grace and mercy to those who need it most.

All: We engage the poor and the poor in spirit, letting Christ's light shine through us.

Reader: We speak words of comfort and love to a world in need of hope and healing, as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

All: Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world.

The candle is lit

Reader: Let us pray:

All: God of surprising grace, when we least expect it you bring fresh new life; and where we feel that all is lost, you bring redemption. Give us courage as we share all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will accomplish through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Written by the Rev. Kristine O'Brien (Director of Crieff Hills)

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New Testament Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 (NIV)

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our

Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

New Testament Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:24–37 (NIV)

²⁴“But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ ²⁶“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. ²⁸“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ³⁵“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

Moment of Reflection

Sermon

Having hope

Solo

Ben Furey

The 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, dead, and buried: he descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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.

Reception of New Members

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Sacrament of Communion

WE GO OUT IN SERVICE

Benediction & Postlude

Announcements

- We welcome everyone to the Season of Advent. We are celebrating Communion today and this coming Saturday December 5th 11:00 am
- Joining our congregation today by decision of Session are Judy & Melanie Bonnell, Betty Morris, and Dennis MacIntyre.
- The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Edwin and Gwen Shepard in the passing of Edwin's brother Percy on Monday.

- If you visit the blog pages or the Bethel Facebook page during December, you will find Advent/Christmas music each week till the end of the year from tapes of services that have been made during Advent in recent years. We pray that this may be a way to sing the carols in our homes and listen to anthems and special music.
- Included in your bulletin this week is the Litany for the First Sunday of Advent and the candle of hope will be lit. Our readers Richard MacAulay and Donna Lyle will lead us in the Litany.
- The Session will meet in the church on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:30

To the Benevolent Fund

- In memory of Margaret Reid from Dorothy MacDonald & family

Mission Moment – November 29, 2020

Responding to COVID-19 Globally

As COVID-19 continues to affect people and communities around the world, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is responding to some of those most impacted. After initially supporting lifesaving and urgent care projects, PWS&D is now helping provide long-term COVID-19 relief through Canadian Foodgrains Bank and ACT Alliance. Given the enormous risk of food insecurity, food aid is being provided. PWS&D is also helping ensure families have access to clean water and sanitation, and that COVID-19 prevention messages are being shared. Additionally, psychosocial support is being offered to help cope with the effects of the pandemic.

Prayer Partnership

Sunday, November 29 We pray for the COVID-19 projects that Presbyterian World Service and Development supports through the ACT Alliance. We pray that these projects offer relief and hope.

Monday, November 30 We pray for congregational treasurers as they work diligently in the responsibilities entrusted to them.

Tuesday, December 1 (World AIDS Day) We pray for individuals and families around the world affected by HIV and AIDS, and we give thanks for community programs supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development in Malawi working to achieve a world without HIV and AIDS.

Wednesday, December 2 We pray for congregations that face financial constraints due to the pandemic, that they may have the resources needed to continue their ministries.

Thursday, December 3 (International Day for Persons with Disabilities) We pray for a better world that is equitable, sustainable and inclusive, where people with disabilities are respected and their rights are fully realized.

Friday, December 4 We pray for the members of Leading with Care committees in congregations and presbyteries that help to foster climates of safety for all people in the church.

Saturday, December 5 We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca.