

**Bethel Presbyterian Church**  
**Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS**  
**Second Sunday in Advent**  
**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**



**FOURTH SUNDAY**  
**OF**  
*Advent*

**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

**Musical Prelude**

**Belkolora**

**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: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16**

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you." <sup>4</sup>But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?' <sup>6</sup>I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' <sup>8</sup>"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of

their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. “The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

### **Responsive Psalm 89:1–4, 19-25**

<sup>1</sup> I will sing of the LORD’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

<sup>2</sup> **I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

<sup>3</sup> You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant,

<sup>4</sup> **‘I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.’”**

<sup>19</sup> Once you spoke in a vision, to your faithful people you said: “I have bestowed strength on a warrior; I have raised up a young man from among the people.

<sup>20</sup> **I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him.**

<sup>21</sup> My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him.

<sup>22</sup> **The enemy will not get the better of him; the wicked will not oppress him.**

<sup>23</sup> I will crush his foes before him and strike down his adversaries.

**<sup>24</sup> My faithful love will be with him, and through my name his horn will be exalted.**

**<sup>25</sup> I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers.**

### **Fourth Sunday in Advent: LOVE**

Leader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's love.

**Cong.: Soon we will welcome the beautiful and radical love of God as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.**

Leader: We embrace our identity as God's beloved children and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

**Cong.: In our homes and in our church, we offer hospitality, welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need, and those who are different from us.**

Leader: We demonstrate our care for creation in real and tangible ways through the products we buy, the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

**Cong.: Together, we are a sign of God's love for the world.**

*Light the candle of love.*

**All: God of extravagant generosity, in Jesus we discover the depth of your care and the lengths you will go to save us. Forgive us when we ignore those in need, trample your creation and refuse to share all that we receive from you. Teach us to love our neighbours, caring for each other in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **New Testament Epistle Lesson Romans 16:25–27**

**<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past <sup>26</sup> but now**

revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith – <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

### **New Testament Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” <sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.” <sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

**Solo** **Joy has dawned**

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend © 2004 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI 505652 Streaming License 20478338

**Sermon** **Love**

**OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession**

**WE GO OUT IN SERVICE**

**Benediction & Postlude**

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**Announcements**

We welcome everyone to the Service of worship

There are calendars for anyone who would like them on the front  
pew(provided by Sydney Memorial Chapel)

**Belkolora**

We thank the members of Belkolora for coming again today and  
providing special music.

**Sunday School**

There will be no Sunday School the next two weeks.

**Christmas Eve**

A paper copy of bulletin for the service online on Christmas Eve (it  
will be on Thursday morning) is in the mail. There will also be one  
sent out online with a mailing the night before. The words for the  
carols will also be printed on the slides in the Facebook  
presentation.

**Next Sunday**

A regular service will be held at 10:30.

**Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Preparatory Service

**Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup>**

Communion Sunday

**Thanks** - Bob and Donna would once again like to thank all for their graciousness and love and wish you all a Merry Christmas.

### **To the Benevolent Fund**

- In memory of Margaret Reid from Dorothy MacDonald and Family
- In memory of Grandfather Leslie Moulard from Lucie and Madelyn March
- In memory of Jean Townsend from Glayne and Ann MacQueen
- In memory of Percy Shepard from Catherine and David Sneddon
- In memory of May Sneddon from Catherine and David Sneddon
- In memory of Jean Townsend from Johanna Richardson
- In memory of nephew John Wedsworth and friend Jo Anne Simon from Margaret MacLeod
- In memory of Parents John & Alice MacLeod from Margaret MacLeod
- In memory of John & Alice MacLeod from Philip & Donna Lee MacLeod
- In memory of Earl Taker from Diane & Fred Lynk
- In memory of Iris Gillespie from Stephen, Wendy and Jack Gillespie
- In memory of Jean Townsend from Gordon Gillespie

### **Mission Moment**

#### **Preparing a Place of Welcome**

Being forced to flee from one's home and ending up in a foreign land is terrifying. There are often language, social and cultural barriers in the new place that make settling very difficult. Rani Ibrahim, the leader of the Newcomer Mission at St. Paul's

Presbyterian Church in Peterborough, Ont., sees it as his calling from God to make this transition easier for those in his community. He does this through social programming, accompaniment services and prayer gatherings. With support from Presbyterians Sharing, this mission has helped hundreds of people experience the love of God and provided people with a sense of belonging in Canada. Sunday,

### **Prayer Calendar**

**Sunday, December 20** Jesus said: “Those who welcome the stranger, welcome me.” We give thanks for the Kalunba refugee ministry in Budapest, Hungary, and for Director Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy.

**Monday, December 21** We pray for the Rev. John Wilson who serves as the convener of the Ministry and Church Vocations Committee for the Presbytery of Algoma and North Bay.

**Tuesday, December 22** Gift-giving God, we pray that you move us to greater generosity with all the gifts entrusted to us so that we might bear witness to your love.

**Wednesday, December 23** We thank God for people who pray, opening their hearts to God’s direction, trusting in God’s faithfulness, and holding others up in care.

**Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)** Christ was born as one of us and in him God shows how much the world is loved. We pray that the light of God’s love bless and fill the world with peace.

**Friday, December 25 (Christmas Day)** For Christ there was no room in the inn: we pray for shelter for those who are homeless. Christ had to flee his birthplace: we pray for the safety of all refugees. Christ read scripture in the synagogue: we pray for God’s wisdom to guide us.

**Saturday, December 26** God of love in whom we hope, we pray that you send your peace to people who are vulnerable, unemployed, anxious, hurting and to those who experience violence.