

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS
First Sunday after Christmas
Sunday, December 27th, 2020



Luke 2:22-40...Simeon sees Jesus

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

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 61:10–62:3

¹⁰I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. **62** For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. ³You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalm 148

¹Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created,

⁶ and he established them for ever and ever — he issued a decree that will never pass away.

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

⁸ lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,

⁹ you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,

¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,

¹² young men and women, old men and children.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

¹⁴ And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the LORD.

New Testament Epistle Lesson Galatians 4:4–7

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

New Testament Gospel Lesson Luke 2:22–40

²²When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.” ³³The child’s father and mother

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

WE GO OUT IN SERVICE

Benediction & Postlude

Announcements

- We welcome everyone to the Service of worship on this the 3rd day of Christmas
- The readers today are Beth Matheson and Wendy Ferguson
- There are calendars for anyone still on the front pews
- Today booklets
- Presbyterian Connection

Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School the today and next week.

Next Sunday

Preparatory Service

Sunday January 10th

Communion Sunday

Mission Moment – Sunday, December 27

Sharing the Gift of Language

The PCC's partnership with the Protestant Theological Institute (PTI) in Cluj-Napoca, an ancient city in Romania, began with the overseas appointment of Brian Johnston in 1997. Supported by Presbyterians Sharing, Brian taught English at the Seminary of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania until 2016. After retirement, Brian continued to organize musical concerts with students and others at the Institute. The PCC's partnership with this Reformed seminary in Eastern Europe continues with an annual grant for the English teacher. Theological students must pass an English exam as a requirement for ordination. In thanking the PCC, Dr. Vilmos József Kolumbán, Rector of PTI, added, "Your financial contribution to the limited resources that we have is an extremely valuable input towards fulfilling our goals."

Prayer Partnership

Sunday, December 27 We give thanks for language teachers and translators who connect cultures and people around the world through education.

Monday, December 28 We pray for all those who have been victims of violence and who experience the effects of trauma.

Tuesday, December 29 We pray for those who struggle with illness, grief or depression. May they know God's peace and strength.

Wednesday, December 30 We pray for a spirit of co-operation and understanding among leaders in our communities, nations and the world as they seek ways to recover in the face of the global pandemic.

Thursday, December 31 (New Year's Eve) Though 2020 was a difficult year for every country in the world, we pray for the ability to see the blessings of the past year, mourn the sorrows we experienced, and look to 2021 with hope and open hearts.

Friday, January 1 (New Year's Day) We end the past year in gratitude to God for the moments and the milestones in which we experienced God's presence. We begin the new year in prayer for a more just and loving world where we depend on the abundance of God's grace, the generosity of God's mercy and the unwavering promise of God's compassion.

Saturday, January 2 We give thanks for congregations celebrating special anniversaries this year and pray for their ongoing witness into the future.