

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS
The Second Sunday after Christmas
Sunday, January 3rd, 2021



Matthew 2:1-12
Wisemen visit 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

Piano & Flute

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 60:1-6

60 "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ²See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴"Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. ⁵Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. ⁶Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Responsive Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

² May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.

³ May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.

⁴ May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor.

⁵ May he endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

⁶ May he be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.

⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts.

¹¹ May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.

¹² For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.

¹³ He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.

¹⁴ He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

N. T. Epistle Lesson Ephesians 3:1-12

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will

be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ,⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

N.T. Gospel Lesson Matthew 2:1-12

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea,"

they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” ⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” ⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Moment of Reflection

Sermon *The Visit of the Wisemen*

Solo *The Three Kings* *Peter Cornelius*

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
- The readers today are Larry Victory & Donna Lyle
- We thank Richard MacAulay for his flute playing during the Prelude and Postlude and his solo.

Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School today. Sunday School will resume next week.

Next Sunday January 10th

Communion Sunday

To the Current Fund

- In memory of Albert & Irene Nickless, Beverly Johnson & Lillian Nickless from Stewart & Rachel Nickless

To Benevolent Fund

- In memory of Jean Townsend from Catherine & David Sneddon
- In memory of Duncan & Florence MacQueen, Annie & Dave Robertson from Linda & Donnie Robertson
- In memory of parents Rod & Florence Munroe from Rod & Judy Munroe

Mission Moment – Sunday, January 3rd

Frank and Joyce's Fields

In Gwebe village in Malawi, Frank and his wife, Joyce, proudly look over their lush fields. For the past three years, Frank has been using conservation agriculture techniques that were taught to him by Presbyterian World Service & Development partners to help him harvest more. Conservation agriculture teaches farmers to protect and improve soil fertility, conserve water and make locally available resources into fertilizers. Over the years, Frank became a lead farmer in his village. His thriving fields are a reminder of how efficient conservation agriculture can be, setting an example as he teaches and empowers other farmers to use the same methods to increase their harvest.

Prayer Partnership

Sunday, January 3 We celebrate in prayer that farmers in Malawi are growing and harvesting more produce using conservation agriculture techniques taught by Presbyterian World Service & Development partners.

Monday, January 4 We pray for God's blessing and guidance as students begin their studies in January at PCC theological colleges.

Tuesday, January 5 We pray that congregations plan with creativity and faith as they prepare for their annual meetings.

Wednesday, January 6 We pray for the wisdom to see clearly the reality of racism and bigotry in the institutions of our country so that we may work to challenge and uproot these institutionalized concepts in ourselves, our churches and our society.

Thursday, January 7 We pray for the many Women's Missionary Society groups as they begin a new year.

Friday, January 8 We pray for people discerning how they may use their gifts to engage in God's mission in Canada or globally in uncertain times.

Saturday, January 9 Spirit of life and liberty, we pray that you save us from all that inhibits the abundant life you give us.