

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS
The Second Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, January 17th, 2021



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)

Prayer of Adoration & Confession

Moment of Reflection

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

O.T. Lesson 1 Samuel 3:1-20 NIV

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. ²One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. ⁶Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is

listening.” ¹¹ And the LORD said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. ¹² At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. ¹³ For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God,^[a] and he failed to restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, ‘The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’” ¹⁵ Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, ¹⁶ but Eli called him and said, “Samuel, my son.” Samuel answered, “Here I am.” ¹⁷ “What was it he said to you?” Eli asked. “Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you.” ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes.” ¹⁹ The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD.

Responsive Psalm Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 NIV

¹ You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

² **You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ **Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.**

⁵ You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me too lofty for me to attain.**

¹³For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand - when I awake, I am still with you.

N. T. Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 NIV

¹²"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are

not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

N.T. Gospel Lesson John 1:43-51

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." ⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." ⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

Moment of Reflection

Sermon The Son of God

Solo My Jesus I Love

David Butler

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

WE GO OUT IN SERVICE

Benediction & Postlude

Announcements

- We welcome everyone to the Service of worship.
- The readers today are Beth Matheson and Todd Gouthro
- Groups preparing reports for the Annual Report should have them submitted to the church office for inclusion by bethelpresbyteriansydney@gmail.com February 11th.

Board of Managers will meet on January 25th at 7:30 pm (note change in date - one week later than usual).

To the Current Fund

- In loving memory of Percy Shepard from John & Beth Matheson
- In loving memory of Jean Townsend from John & Beth Matheson

Mission Moment – January 17, 2021

Mission Moment – Paving the Way for a Brighter Future

Anxious and unsure about his future, Abdul was 14 years old when he joined the electronics and computer program offered by the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service (JCC) in Lebanon. Now 19 years old and equipped with a diploma and five years of experience, he has a good job and an income to support his family. JCC's vocational training programs teach marketable skills and offer hope for many young Palestinian refugees who are out of school and living without a dream or ambition. Through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, the PCC has been supporting this lifegiving program since 2018. Sylvia Haddad, JCC Director, shared that "equipping youth, and especially refugees who have nothing, with a skill or vocation is very important. The challenge is great, but we cannot give up and are grateful for your support."

Daily Prayer List

Prayer We give thanks for the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon, and pray that they receive the resources and support needed to provide life changing vocational training to youth and refugees.

Monday, January 18 We pray that God give those gathering in ecumenical services during the World Week of Prayer for Christian Unity a strong sense of God's presence and the unity of Christ.

Tuesday, January 19 We pray for the congregation and community of Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church in Mistawasis Nehiyawak First Nation, Sask.

Wednesday, January 20 We pray for the Rev. James Douglas who serves as the convener of the Ministry Committee for the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry in Ont.

Thursday, January 21 We pray for all camp leaders and boards as they plan for 2021.

Saturday, January 23 We pray for Cariboo Presbyterian Church in Nazko, B.C., and their new leader, the Rev. Mark Carter. May their outreach ministries flourish as they connect with new families.

