

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS
The Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, January 31st, 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)

Moment of Reflection

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

O.T. Lesson Deuteronomy 18:15-20 NIV

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. ¹⁶For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die." ¹⁷The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. ²⁰But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."

Responsive Psalm Psalm 111 NIV

1 Praise the Lord. I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

2 Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

3 Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

4 He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

5 He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

8 They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever - holy and awesome is his name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

N. T. Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 NIV

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. ²Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. ³But whoever loves God is known by God. ⁴So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." ⁵For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), ⁶yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. ⁷But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so

accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. ⁸But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. ⁹Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹²When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

N.T. Gospel Lesson Mark 1:21-28 NIV

²¹They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²²The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴"What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" ²⁵"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. ²⁷The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." ²⁸News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Moment of Reflection

Sermon **“Speaking out”**

Solo **Walter Letcher**

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 Gary Grant and Gwen Shepard
- Groups preparing reports for the Annual Report should have them submitted to the church office bethelpresbyteriansydney@gmail.com for inclusion by February 11th.

Note: The church office will be open on Tuesday and Friday morning from 9-1pm this week. The change is for this week only.

Mission Moment – Providing Food for the Displaced

In Syria, conflict continues to plague the population, causing over six million people to become internally displaced. As a result, many people are faced with a lack of access to food, loss of employment, high prices and inflation, making them very vulnerable. COVID-19 has only exacerbated the situation. Working with partners at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Presbyterian World Service & Development is providing food baskets to 7,400 families to help meet daily food requirements. During these times of uncertainty, the food baskets will provide a source of sustenance for the families.

Daily Prayer List

Prayer We pray that, with the support of food baskets provided by PWS&D partners, the many Syrians facing food insecurity due to ongoing conflict will find the sustenance they need.

Monday, January 25 We pray for children, and that their parents and guardians demonstrate the kind of love we have been shown by God.

Tuesday, January 26 We give thanks for the beauty of God's creation, and pray that we cherish the earth and treat it wisely.

Wednesday, January 27 We pray for vacant congregations; may they find ministers who will help them faithfully live out Christ's calling.

Thursday, January 28 We pray and give thanks for Phulu Rai, manager at the New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center in Nepal, and the staff, for their dedication as they care for residents.

Friday, January 29 We pray for healthcare workers who put their own health and life at risk every day to bring healing and comfort to those who suffer.

Saturday, January 30 We pray for the staff and volunteers serving in the Presbyterian Church Archives as they preserve the church's historical records.