

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS
Transfiguration Sunday
Sunday, February 14th, 2021



The Transfiguration

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

2 Kings 2:1-12 NIV

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "so be quiet." ⁴Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho. ⁵The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," he replied, "so be quiet." ⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on. ⁷Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. ⁸Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed

over on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied. ¹⁰“You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.” ¹¹As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹²Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

Responsive Psalm Psalm 50:1-6 NIV

¹The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to where it sets. ²From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth. ³Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages. ⁴He summons the heavens above, and the earth, that he may judge his people: ⁵“Gather to me this consecrated people, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.” ⁶And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for he is a God of justice.

N.T. Epistle Lesson 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 NIV

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,”^[a] made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

² After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) ⁷ Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” ⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Moment of Reflection

Sermon

Up on a mountaintop

Musical Interlude Richard MacAulay

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 David Sneddon and Chris McCall.

The Session has been providing the ushers and register people for the time we have been gathering for services since September and are wondering if there are other people in the congregation who would like to help with these responsibilities. If you would be willing to serve in these responsibilities, we would ask you to speak to Charles Greaves, David Sneddon or the minister,

An email will be sent out at the end of this week with the Annual Report in it. We are going to print enough copies for those who are present at the Annual Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, February 24th at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. All who plan to attend this meeting need to register by phone (902-562-3740) or email (bethelpresbyteriansydney@gmail.com) In this mailing there will also be a list the events that will be happening during Lent to Easter time.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Joan Jessome who passed away last Sunday in Ontario.

To the Benevolent Fund

- In memory of Joan Jessome from Mary & Wayne Penny

To the Choir Fund

- In memory of mother Georgie Mudge from Janice Mudge

Strawberry Winterlude Takeout

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Glace Bay

Friday, February 18th, 2021

11-1, 4-6 \$8.00

Call 902-849-2479 or 902-737-2529 to make a reservation ASAP

Mission Moment – A Meaningful Message

St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Creston, B.C., is a small, remote church tucked away in the Kootenay Valley. With a grant from Presbyterians Sharing to support ministry in remote communities, they called the Rev. Stephen Vangroonen to their congregation in the hope that he would help strengthen and grow their ministry. But shortly after he and his family arrived, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and the congregation found itself adapting quickly to move their services online. Then, when churches were permitted to reopen, they had to adapt to the new health and safety protocols. Throughout it all, the Rev. Vangroonen has blessed St. Stephen's with a positive outlook, continually encouraging the new community he serves to trust God and share the love of Christ with others—a meaningful message during this turbulent time.

Daily Prayer List

(Transfiguration Sunday) We pray for the gift of love in our lives—love that is patient, kind, faithful and unconditional.

Monday, February 15 (Family Day) We pray for families of all shapes, sizes and configurations, that they may be filled with love and joy.

Tuesday, February 16 (Shrove Tuesday) We give thanks to God for seasons of feasting and fasting, and we pray for all who have chosen a discipline to follow in the season of Lent.

Wednesday, February 17 (Ash Wednesday) Loving God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive our sins. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until it rests in you. Help us to return to you and to your way and create in us new hearts so that we might love you more dearly and follow you more nearly.

Thursday, February 18 We give thanks and pray for schools and teachers who are working to provide the best educational tools to engage and teach children both at home virtually and in the classroom.

Friday, February 19 We pray for those leading worship and study groups in this Lenten season.

Saturday, February 20 (World Day for Social Justice) We pray for the peacemakers and justice seekers who are working to reflect God's vision of justice in the world, where the dignity and well-being of all are protected.