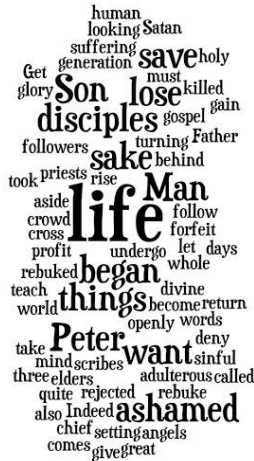


Bethel Presbyterian Church  
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS  
Second Sunday in Lent  
Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021



### 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

#### **Old Testament Lesson    Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 NIV**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. 2 Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." 3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, 4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. 6 I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. 7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. 15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. 16 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

#### **Responsive Psalm    Psalm 22: 23-31 NIV**

23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

**24 For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.**

25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

**26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him — may your hearts live forever!**

27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

**28 for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.**

29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him — those who cannot keep themselves alive.

**30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.**

**31 They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!**

**N. T. Epistle Lesson          Romans 4: 13-25 NIV**

13 It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14 For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, 15 because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

17 As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. 18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” [b] 19 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. 20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. 22 This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” 23 The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, 24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

### **N.T. Gospel Lesson Mark 8: 31-38 NIV**

31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” 34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for

someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

### **Litany for the Second Sunday in Lent**

**L:** We are not the first to make the journey to Jerusalem; many have gone before us and many will come after us. From near and far, God's people gathered to celebrate God's goodness on the holy mountain.

**P:** We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.

**L:** Jesus often went to Jerusalem as a child to celebrate Passover. Now he has set his face toward Jerusalem again, knowing this time will be different.

**P:** We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.

**L:** Jesus' last journey to Jerusalem is somber. He has no illusions about what is to come. Still, he goes ahead, doing God's will.

**P:** We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.

**L:** Let us pray:

**All:** God of light, we want to follow in Jesus' footsteps, but we have our fears and doubts. We would rather avoid the pain and darkness on our journey. Give us courage and perseverance when the journey is difficult and the grace to help others on the road. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

### **Moment of Reflection**

**Sermon**

**I will take up my cross**

**Solo**

**I know who holds tomorrow Ira Stanphill**

**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 David Sneddon and Dennis MacIntyre

**To the Benevolent Fund**

- In memory of Melbourne McKay from Wayne & Mary Penny
- In memory of Melbourne McKay from Roy & Nancy MacDonald
- In memory of Joan Jessome from Merle Davis

## **Mission Moment – Hygiene Kits Protect Families in Nicaragua**

“As a family, we try to take all the necessary measures, like covering our nose when sneezing, avoiding shaking hands or going places where there might be large crowds. For many of the families in our community, it’s not possible to acquire protection materials like face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer or cleaning materials due to rising prices in the market. We are so thankful for all of you and the help you bring to our community.” Like many in Nicaragua, María struggles to access proper protection materials and cleaning products due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Presbyterian World Service & Development, through local partners, is helping people like María and her whole community, receive hygiene and sanitation items, ensuring they are prepared to safely face the pandemic.

### **Daily Prayer List**

#### **Sunday, February 28 – Second Sunday in Lent**

God of Lent, we pray your grace moves us beyond our desires so that we may offer ourselves to you and put our faith into action.

**Monday, March 1** We pray for presbyteries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that they have a spirit of cooperation and collegiality as they oversee the work of ministers and congregations.

**Tuesday, March 2** We pray for stewardship and mission committees as they work to inspire their congregations and generate enthusiasm for the ministry God is doing through them.

**Wednesday, March 3** We pray for food banks as they find ways to meet the increased demand for their services.

**Thursday, March 4** We pray for Atlantic Mission Society groups and members as they find new ways to meet together for worship, fellowship and to support the mission work of the church.

**Friday, March 5 (World Day of Prayer)** We pray for wisdom and guidance to be better neighbours, to better care for the homeless, the elderly and those who are different from us, and to live in harmony with all of your creation.

**Saturday, March 6** We pray for members of the Benevolence Committee and those who receive support thanks to generous gifts that people have made over the years.