

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 21st, 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 Jeremiah 31: 31-34 NIV

31 "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. 33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Responsive Psalm 51: 1-12

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

N. T. Epistle Lesson Hebrews 5: 5-10

5 In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." 6 And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." 7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and,

once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him 10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

N.T. Gospel Lesson John 12: 20-33

20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. 23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. 27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. 30 Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. 31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up[a] from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Litany for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

L: We are closer to the events in Jerusalem every day.

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

L: When your people were slaves, you led the faithful through waters and set them free. But we struggle with the freedom you give us.

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

L: Always you reach out to us. Yet so often we have ignored your open arms and fled from your grace and freedom—and our responsibility.

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

L: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, you have loved us beyond all measure, but we continue to look for life outside of your embrace. On this journey, remind us that true freedom comes in obedience to you and following where you lead. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Moment of Reflection

Sermon *“When I am lifted up. . .”*

Solo **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 Wendy Ferguson

Sunday School classes will resume next Sunday.

To the Current Fund

- In memory of Joan Jessome from Jean E. Grant

To the Benevolent Fund

- In memory of Melbourne McKay from Wayne & Mary Penny

Upcoming Services

Saturday, March 27th 11:00am Communion Service in the Hall.

Sunday, March 28th 10:30am Communion Service in the Sanctuary

Friday, April 2nd 1:00pm Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 4th 10:30am Easter Service in the sanctuary.

Mission Moment – Summer Student’s Virtual Ministry

Presbyterians Sharing provides financial assistance for seminary students to gain ministry experience by serving in rural and remote congregations across the country. Last summer, Samuel Andri, a student from the Vancouver School of Theology, served in the Synod of Saskatchewan. Due to COVID-19, Samuel led online worship and helped deliver a Vacation Bible School program virtually. Though his responsibilities were fulfilled online instead of in person, it did not make his experience any less meaningful. When asked about his summer experience, Samuel said, “I am forever grateful for the opportunity to reflect on what it means to serve God in more rural areas of Canada and to reflect on the

beauty of serving God in a more close-knit community even through online platforms.”

Daily Prayer List

(International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) Holy God, Creator of all, we pray for courage to live lives of truth, reconciliation and healing, to face our complicity in perpetuating racism, and to work towards eliminating racial prejudice and injustice so that all your world can live in harmony.

Monday, March 22 (World Water Day) We give thanks to God for the gift of safe, clean water.

Tuesday, March 23 We give thanks for people and projects that help provide access to safe water and sanitation for vulnerable communities in Canada and abroad.

Wednesday, March 24 We pray for the treasurers of congregations who work hard all year to keep the financial books in order.

Thursday, March 25 We pray for members of the Assembly Council Design Team and Assembly Office staff as they prepare in new ways for the 2021 General Assembly.

Friday, March 26 We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Cape Breton in N.S.

Saturday, March 27 We pray for Jewish families and communities celebrating Passover.