

**Bethel Presbyterian Church**  
**Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS**  
**April 25<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** Peter MacDonald & Richard MacAulay

#### Call to Worship

Leader: I took you from the ends of the earth,  
From its farthest corners I called you.

**People: I said, You are my servant,  
I have chosen you and have not rejected you.**

Leader: So do not fear, for I am with you;  
Do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

**People: I will strengthen you and help you; I will  
uphold you with my righteous right hand.**

Leader: All who rage against you will surely be  
ashamed and disgraced; Those who oppose  
you will be as nothing and perish.

**People: Though you search for your enemies, you  
will not find them. Those who wage war  
against you will be as nothing at all.**

Leader: For I am the Lord your God who takes hold  
of your right hand and says to you, Do not  
fear; I will help you.

**Prayer of Adoration & Confession (The Lord's Prayer)**

#### Moment of Reflection

### WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

**Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 10:12-22 NIV**

<sup>12</sup>And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,<sup>13</sup> and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? <sup>14</sup>To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even

the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. <sup>15</sup>Yet the LORD set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today. <sup>16</sup>Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. <sup>17</sup>For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. <sup>18</sup>He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. <sup>19</sup>And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. <sup>20</sup>Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. <sup>21</sup>He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes. <sup>22</sup>Your ancestors who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

### **Responsive Psalm # 96 NIV**

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

**6 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.**

<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

**10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.**

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

**12 Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.**

**13 Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.**

#### **New Testament Epistle Lesson    Philipians 2:1-18 NIV**

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider

equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. <sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky <sup>16</sup> as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup> But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup> So you too should be glad and rejoice

### **New Testament Gospel Lesson    Matthew 20:1-16 NIV**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup> So they went. “He went out again

about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' <sup>7</sup> "Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' <sup>8</sup> "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' <sup>9</sup> "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' <sup>13</sup> "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup> "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

### **Moment of Reflection**

**Sermon:**

**Rejoicing in Service**

**(Prepared by the Rev. Bonnie Langille)**

### **Moment of Reflection**

## **OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

## WE GO OUT IN SERVICE

### Benediction & Postlude

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#### Announcements

We welcome everyone to this special service this morning  
Leading in the service today are:

Judy Munroe – leading the service and preaching the sermon  
Linda Greaves – reading the Old Testament Lessons  
Nancy MacDonald – reading the New Testament Lessons

Thanks to Richard MacAulay for providing special music today.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Margaret Hulford, whose funeral was held on Wednesday.

The Session is called to meet in the sanctuary on Tuesday night at 7:30pm

#### Mission Moment – Arising

ARISE Ministry offers compassionate outreach and spiritual care to survivors of sexual exploitation living in the Greater Toronto Area. Inspired by Jesus' healing of the woman who was afflicted for 18 years with a condition that kept her bent over (Luke 13:10–17), ARISE aims to help those who have been living "bent over" by exploitation, trauma, abuse and addiction. Staff and volunteers work with vulnerable women, youth and children by providing one-on-one, goal-oriented support. As relationships strengthen, hope and empowerment are fostered, making it possible for futures to

be reclaimed. Like the woman in the gospel of Luke, several women that ARISE has helped are now standing straight and tall, and God continues to do amazing things in their lives. This is a reason to rejoice!

### **Sunday, April 25 – Mission Awareness Sunday**

We remember in prayer and give thanks for all former and current mission staff who, in faith, accepted God's call to participate in God's mission in Canada and globally.

**Monday, April 26** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Montreal in Quebec.

**Tuesday, April 27** We pray for congregations that are concerned about finances, and that God will provide the resources they need to continue the ministry they are called to do.

**Wednesday, April 28** We pray that congregations that are searching for a new minister will be filled with hope, wisdom and patience.

**Thursday, April 29** We pray for the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning as it works to build a society and churches that fully honour diversity and God's unequivocal welcome.

**Friday, April 30** We pray for university students completing the academic year, that God brings them peace as they complete this part of their journey and move on to the next.

**Saturday, May 1** We pray for those who are grieving the deaths of loved ones who they were not able to comfort and say goodbye to because of COVID-19 restrictions.