

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS
Easter Sunday, April 4th



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 & Confession (The Lord's Prayer)

Moment of Reflection

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 25: 6-9 NIV

6 On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine— the best of meats and the finest of wines. 7 On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; 8 he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. 9 In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Responsive Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 NIV

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

2 Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."

14 The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.

15 Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"

16 The Lord's right hand is lifted high; the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"

17 I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

18 The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

19 Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.

21 I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

22 The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

23 the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

N.T. Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 NIV

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living,

though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

N.T. Gospel Lesson John 20: 1-18 NIV

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” 3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. 11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13 They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They

have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). 17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Solo **Ben Furey**

Sermon **Celebrate the victory; the victory over sin**

Solo **Ben Furey**

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 Brad Gillespie and Dennis MacIntyre

To the Current Fund

- In loving memory of husband Walter Hardy, parents Duncan & Florence MacQueen and mother & father-in-law Glendon & Jessie Hardy
- In loving memory of brother and sister-in-law David & Louise MacLean from Marion Hopkins

To the Benevolent Fund

- In memory of parents Murray & Carrie Morrison and brother David Morrison from Marie Hill and family

Mission Moment – Nourishing Body, Mind and Spirit

Food is central to fellowship, providing both physical and emotional nourishment. Not surprisingly, some of the ministries supported by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing share God's love through food. The Raw Carrot Soup Enterprise in Hamilton, Ont., provides nourishment with their homemade soup, while giving meaningful employment to people with disabilities and mental health illnesses. Cooking and nutrition workshops at Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre in Montreal, Que., help parents of young children open up as they discuss the challenges of parenting. Besides providing lunches at their drop-in centre, Kenora Fellowship Centre in Kenora, Ont., hosts a monthly Elder's Breakfast to show respect and care for elderly patrons, many of whom are survivors of Indian Residential Schools. These ministries are sharing the love of Christ through hospitality.

Prayer Partnership

Easter Sunday God's love has given us new life and hope. By love, for love, Christ is risen! In love we proclaim: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Monday, April 5 (Easter Monday) We pray that we will be filled with the joy of Easter and live our lives in response to God's abundant grace.

Tuesday, April 6 We pray for people who are questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation. May they be supported by their families and communities through their discernment and self-discovery.

Wednesday, April 7 We pray for Presbyterian World Service & Development partners walking hand-in-hand with those suffering from tuberculosis, HIV, leprosy and malaria as they journey to health and well-being.

Thursday, April 8 We give thanks for those who have been nominated to serve on the committees of the General Assembly and for the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees as they prepare a slate of nominees for the 2021 General Assembly.

Friday, April 9 We pray for colleague covenant groups and clergy support groups as they support one another and develop healthy perspectives for themselves and their ministries.

Saturday, April 10 We pray for Lay Training Centres of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana (Nsaba, Tamale, Ramseyer) as they train and equip ordained and lay leaders.