

**Bethel Presbyterian Church**  
**Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS**  
**Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**  
**Second Sunday after Christmas**



**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)

Hymn # 169

He is born

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

Old Testament

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Responsive Psalm

147:12-20

N.T. Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-14

N. T. Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-18

Sermon

Before the world began

Hymns

In Christ alone

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

Hymn # 341

Before the world began

**WE GO OUT IN SERVICE**

Benediction & Choral Amen

Postlude

**Announcements**

We welcome everyone to this service of praise this morning.

**Next Sunday**

**We will celebrate Communion online. Please have something to represent bread and grape juice ready for this part of the service, (It does not have to be bread and grape juice)**

**To Camp MacLeod**

In memory of parents Walter & Georgia Mudge from Janice Mudge

**To the Current Fund**

In memory of Mary MacKenna by Eileen MacNeil

## **Social Action Spotlight - January 2022**

### **Housing as a Human Right**

Currently, around 235,000 people experience homelessness in Canada. Experiencing homelessness can be temporary or long term, and there are many causes, including poverty, domestic violence, and discrimination. Injustices such as racism, xenophobia or transphobia often contribute to housing insecurity, as well as issues like insecure employment, mental illness or accessibility barriers. Need often surpasses available shelter beds and subsidized housing is wait-listed, sometimes for years. Inadequate housing leaves people more vulnerable to violence and other forms of harm. No one should have to face this. Adequate shelter is a human right—every person deserves the dignity of safe, affordable housing.

### **What can you do?**

Many congregations participate in the Coldest Night of the Year walk (Feb. 26, 2022). This community-based initiative helps to raise money to assist those who are facing homelessness and hunger. You can learn more or sign up at [cnoy.org](http://cnoy.org).

We can change the conversation about housing by addressing prejudice and systemic injustices. Talking about housing as a human right helps push back against some of the systemic injustices mentioned above.

We can learn about the factors that build up homelessness prevention, such as access to health care and education, wage equity, social inclusion and community participation, and policies that contribute to affordable housing. These factors work together to reduce the likelihood that someone will experience housing insecurity or homelessness in the first place. Preventing homelessness and housing insecurity requires that many sectors and levels of government work together, but ensuring safe and adequate housing is a key pillar to community and human flourishing.

You can learn more about the PCC's advocacy on housing at [presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/social-and-economic-issues](http://presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/social-and-economic-issues) or visit [dignityforall.ca](http://dignityforall.ca).

## **Mission Moment – Sunday January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

In Somalia, Shiindha was worried when her three-year-old son, Abdihakim, became sick and hadn't improved after two months. The treatment he received at a nearby clinic helped to provide short-term relief for his pain but did not help to improve his overall health. One day, a visiting community worker screened Abdihakim for malnutrition and identified that he was moderately malnourished. Abdihakim was admitted to a nutrition program right away and underwent bi-weekly treatment. After a month and a half, Abdihakim made a full recovery and was able to return home to his family. This therapeutic nutrition project is supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development in collaboration with Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

### **Prayer Partnership**

**Saturday, January 1 (New Year's Day)** We begin the year in gratitude to God and for God's presence with us, and we pray for a more just and loving world where we witness God's righteousness, mercy and grace.

**Sunday, January 2** We give thanks for the programs that respond to hunger around the world that are supported by the church through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

**Monday, January 3** We pray for God's guidance for students studying at the church's theological colleges.

**Tuesday, January 4** We give thanks for the work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives staff.

**Wednesday, January 5** We pray for Hummingbird Ministries in Vancouver, British Columbia, and give thanks for the Director, the Rev. Mary Fontaine, who is called by her community to pray, advocate and intervene in times of deep sorrow, isolation and loss.

**Thursday, January 6 (Epiphany)** Source of Wisdom and Creator of the heavens who led the Magi to worship the Christ child, guide us so that we may find our calling and journey's end in Jesus Christ.

**Friday, January 7** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Kootenay in British Columbia.

**Saturday, January 8** We pray for the committees of the General Assembly as they discern what God is calling the church to say, learn and do.