

**Bethel Presbyterian Church**  
**Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS**  
**Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**



**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**

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

**Hymn #452 Jesus, stand among us**

Jesus, stand among us in your risen power;  
let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.

Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;  
bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.

Thus with quickened footsteps we pursue our way,  
watching for the dawning of eternal day.

### **Lent Liturgy # 4**

One: During Lent, we remember that even when we disobey and turn away, we are still loved by God.

**All: God does not give up on us.**

One: God breaks our stubbornness and calls us back from our wandering, so we can experience the joy and peace that comes from following Christ.

**All: May we have the courage to hear, to change and to align ourselves with Christ.**

One: Let us pray.

**All: Persistent God, help us to listen for your voice. Let us hear what you are saying to us and make us**

**willing to change our ways. Break our resistance, forgive our sins and call us back to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, our prophet, priest and king, we pray. Amen.**

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**Old Testament**

**1 Chronicles 4:10**

<sup>9</sup>Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." <sup>10</sup>Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.

**Responsive Lesson**

**Psalm 32**

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**<sup>2</sup>Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

<sup>3</sup>When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**<sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my

transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**<sup>6</sup>Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

**<sup>8</sup>I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

**<sup>10</sup>Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.**

**<sup>11</sup>Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!**

## **N.T. Epistle Lesson      2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

<sup>16</sup>So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world

to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.<sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.<sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### **N. T. Gospel Lesson      Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.<sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup>"...There was a man who had two sons.<sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.<sup>13</sup> Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.<sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.<sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.<sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him

anything. <sup>17</sup>“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded

with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

**Hymn # 638            Take time to be holy**

Take time to be holy; speak oft with thy Lord.  
Abide in him always, and feed on his word.  
Make friends of God's children; help those who are  
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.        (weak

Take time to be holy; the world rushes on;  
spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.  
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;  
thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy; let him be thy guide,  
and run not before him, whatever betide.  
In joy or in sorrow, still follow thy Lord,  
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.

Take time to be holy; be calm in thy soul,

each thought and each motive beneath his control.  
Thus led by his Spirit to fountains of love,  
thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

**Sermon                      God's loving son**

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

**Special Music      Thy will be done Joyce Eilers**  
**Richard MacAulay**

**Offering & Doxology**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession**

**Hymn # 640      Softly and tenderly**

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me:  
patiently Jesus is waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me

**"Come home, come home,"**  
**ye who are weary, come home";**  
**earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,**  
**calling, O sinner, "Come home!"**

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me?

Oh for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me;

though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me.

## **WE GO OUT IN SERVICE**

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

### **Announcements**

We welcome everyone to this service of praise this morning. Service next Sunday will be in the hall. Reading this morning are David Sneddon and Todd Gouthro.

### **To the Choir Fund**

In memory of Ellen MacDonald from Eileen MacLean

### **To the Current Fund**

In memory of father Duncan MacQueen and father-in-law Glendon Hardy from Kathy Hardy

### **Strawberry Shortcake Takeout**

St. Paul 's Presbyterian Church,  
Brookside St., Glace Bay,

### **Friday, April 8, 11-1 and 4-6**

Reserve tickets (\$8) **by April 4**. Call 902 849 2479 or  
902 737 2529.

### **Sunday School Easter Memorial**

On Easter Sunday the Sunday School will be placing brightly colored Easter eggs in a basket in memory

of loved ones at the front of the Church. Money raised will be going to the Church. The names of those being remembered will also be read in Church and printed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. To purchase a memorial egg please put the names of those being remembered, and by whom, along with \$5.00 per name and your envelope number or address for a receipt. Please mark on envelope "Sunday School Easter Memorial". Place on the collection plate or give to one of the Sunday School Teachers. Thank You.

### **Mission Moment**

In Nepal, Pallu Oli knew something wasn't right when he felt a burning sensation on his leg. After seeing the doctor, Pallu was prescribed medicine but did not feel better after taking it. As his health worsened, Pallu wondered why he hadn't healed yet. **His son suggested that he visit the Shining Hospital. At the hospital, Pallu was diagnosed with leprosy and entered a treatment program** (which he has since completed). Sharing his experience, Pallu expressed, "I am very happy that my disease is diagnosed and is treated accordingly." The Shining Hospital is supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development.

## **Prayer Partnership**

**Sunday, March 27 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)** God of Hope, renew us and energize us for service in your church and the world.

**Monday, March 28** We pray for staff at the Shining Hospital in Nepal as they treat illnesses and provide vocational training with support from the church through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

**Tuesday, March 29** We pray for the Canadian Armed Forces and all military chaplains who bring guidance and support to our troops and their families at home and abroad.

**Wednesday, March 30** We pray for the people who gather and serve at Winnipeg Inner City Missions in Manitoba, and we give thanks for their mission and ministry.

**Thursday, March 31 (Transgender Day of Visibility)** We pray for transgender people, who often live with the fear of violence and intolerance. Help us to listen well so that we may work in solidarity for the dignity and well-being of all transgender people.

**Friday, April 1** We pray for the Rev. Dr. Bob Faris, nominee for Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, as he prepares for the upcoming Assembly.

**Saturday, April 2 (World Autism Awareness Day)**

We pray for children with autism and related conditions, and we thank God for church programming that supports them and their families.