

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS
Sunday, November 27th, 2022
First Sunday in Advent



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 # 110 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Responsive Lesson Psalm 51

Hymn # 119 Hope is a star

Lighting of the First Candle of Advent: The Candle of Hope
(Lighting Litany led by Heather Furey)

N.T. Epistle Lesson Hebrews 11:32-12:3

N. T. Gospel Lesson Luke 7:36-50

Sermon "Your Choice: Basement or Balcony?"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Hymn # 114 Emmanuel

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

Offering & Doxology

Special Music O Holy Christ, in Love Come Down
by Joel Raney and John Parker

WE GO OUT IN SERVICE

Benediction

Postlude

Announcements

We welcome everyone to this service of praise this Sunday.
Leading the service this morning is Rev. Allan MacLellan.
Reading are Donald Brown and Chris McCall.

Reading next week are Carol Ferguson and Dennis MacIntyre.

To Current Fund

In memory of Joan Stephenson from Gordon Gillespie

Tuesday, November 29th at 7pm Session will meet.

During the month of November, our congregation is invited to join the members of the John Geddie AMS as they prayerfully and financially support the work of our local Every Woman's Center in their Christmas Adopt-a-Family Program. Donations may be given to any AMS member or left on the church offering plate on Sunday. Please make cheques out to "**John Geddie AMS**" and a receipt will be issued. Thank you in advance for your kind assistance.

The Worship and Nurture and Program Committees have decided to have a **Christmas Memorial Hymn Sing** on Sunday, December 4th at 7pm. If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please have it in on or before Sunday, November 27 so the names can be printed in the bulletin for that evening.

Christmas Market at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Glace Bay on **Saturday, Dec. 10th** from 10 until noon. Home baking, preserves, books, clothing, and lots of "new to you treasures."

Reminder: Please return the "Coins for Camp MacLeod" jars if you haven't already done so.

From the Interim Moderator:

The Search Committee approved by the session continues to meet on a regular basis. We covet your prayers as we seek out the individual who will be the next minister of Bethel. We are grateful for the members of the committee who give their time as faithful servants in this cause.

R. Ritchie Robinson

MINISTERIAL ASSISTANCE:

Should you require the assistance of a minister, please contact the Church Office and leave a message or contact Charles Greaves, Clerk of Session, and arrangements will be made for you.

COVID 19 Protocol:

Just a reminder that because of the continued concern regarding COVID, the Session has agreed that masks be worn when entering and leaving the place of Worship. Worshipers may remove masks once seated if they wish but are encouraged to continue to wear masks while seated because of the reduced spacing offered in the hall seating arrangement.

Mission Moment

Raamia fled to Pakistan with her daughter after divorcing her abusive husband in Afghanistan. As a single mother, Raamia made and sold handicrafts to support herself and her daughter, Zainab. On their way to the city of Lahore, she and her daughter got into an accident. Her daughter was unharmed, but Raamia was severely injured, resulting in her

arm having to be amputated. After the accident, she could not continue working on her handicrafts. Raamia and her daughter were selected to receive cash support from a project by Community World Service Asia, a Presbyterian World Service & Development partner. "I was able to buy some food supplies with the money I received," she said. **This project is helping refugee families who have fled Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover.**

Prayer Calendar

Sunday, November 27 (First Sunday of Advent) Nourish our hope during this season of waiting, O God, as we prepare to receive Christ among us again.

Monday, November 28 We pray for the safety of all those whose lives have been uprooted by the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, and we give thanks for the emergency support that Presbyterians in Canada are helping to provide through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Tuesday, November 29 We pray for congregations participating in the PCC's New Beginnings Renewal Program as they work to discern God's call for their future and plan a way forward.

Wednesday, November 30 We pray for theological students who are graduating this winter and beginning to seek a call to a congregation.

Thursday, December 1 (World AIDS Day) We pray for the millions of people affected by HIV and AIDS. We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development partners who provide vital support to those living with HIV/AIDS and also

pray for improved access to health care and life-saving treatments.

Friday, December 2 We pray for the people who gather and serve at the Anamiewigummig Fellowship Centre in Kenora, Ontario, and we give thanks for their ministry.

Saturday, December 3 On the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**, we pray for the empowerment of differences in gifts and abilities, along with the removal of barriers that keep people from participating fully in community and church life.

Responsive Reading: *Psalm 51* by David.

When Nathan came to him after David committed adultery with Bathsheba.

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

P Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

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

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

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

(P and L) Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. *Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, you, God, will not despise*