

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS
Sunday, January 29th, 2023
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



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

Announcements

Call to Worship

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

Hymn #324 Great Is thy faithfulness

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Exodus 34:4-9

Responsive Reading Matthew 18:21-22

Hymn # 358 There is a redeemer

N.T. Epistle Lesson Romans 3:20-28

N. T. Gospel Lesson Matthew 22:34-39

Special Music All Good Gifts *by Joseph M. Martin*

Message "The Greatest Commandments"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Hymn # 400 Spirit of The living God

Offering & Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

WE GO OUT IN SERVICE

Hymn # 382 Spirit of God

Closing Prayer and Choral Amen

Announcements

We welcome everyone to this service of praise this Sunday. Leading the service this morning is Rev. Allan MacLellan. Reading are David Sneddon and Todd Gouthro.

Reading next week are Larry Victory and Gwen Shepard.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Myrna and Linda on the passing of their father Garfield Ross on Thursday. Funeral services will be held Monday at 11am at Sydney Memorial Chapel.

To Current Fund

In loving memory of Thos & Ollie MacAulay from Jean Martin

Tuesday, January 31st Session will meet by Zoom at 7pm.

Winter Communion Services will be held on Sunday, February 19th.

Groups submitting reports for the Annual Reports/Meeting should have them sent to the church office by March 10th bethelpresbyteriansydney@gmail.com.

Winter storms may make it necessary to cancel Sunday Services for safety reasons. If the Sunday morning weather is inclement, and you wonder if the Service is cancelled please call the Church Office phone number, 902 562-3740 and check the voicemail. If the service is cancelled, there will be a notice of the cancellation on the voicemail by 9:00 AM. You may also check the Church website at bethelpresbyterianchurch.ca in the Messages section.

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

One day, a neighbour asked the Rev. Tim Choi, Executive Director of Edmonton Urban Native Ministry (EUNM) in Alberta: "What difference has the ministry made after all these years?" This prompted the Rev. Tim to think about the impact the ministry has had on Indigenous people in Edmonton's Eastwood community. He reflected that the journey towards healing and reconciliation must be like a long and flowing river. The harm caused by generations past requires many future generations to heal. In this sense, EUNM is like a little brook that runs alongside this river. God has shaped this ministry into a place of hope for all who gather here. **Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing are helping us on the path to healing and reconciliation through Indigenous ministries like EUNM.**

Prayer Calendar

Sunday, January 29 We give thanks and pray for Edmonton Urban Native Ministry in Alberta, a place where warm food is served, accompaniment is offered, and community is formed through prayer and a caring presence.

Monday, January 30 We pray for the members and work of the National Indigenous Ministry Council.

Tuesday, January 31 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Cape Breton in Nova Scotia.

Wednesday, February 1 This **Black History Month**, we give thanks to God for the many accomplishments and contributions of Black Canadians that have made Canada a multicultural, caring and thriving nation.

Thursday, February 2 We pray for theological students who graduate this spring and begin the process of seeking a call to a congregation.

Friday, February 3 We pray for the members and work of the Committee on History.

Saturday, February 4 (Black History Month) We pray that all Canadians learn about the struggles and hardship of Black Canadians, who have been largely neglected throughout the history of Canada.

Responsive Reading Matthew 18:21-22

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus answered, “**I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.**”

Responsive Reading from 1 Corinthians 13

L- Leader

P-People

L-- If I speak in the tongue of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

P-- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

All-- Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. When completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became mature, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully. Now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.