

**Bethel Presbyterian Church**  
**Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS**  
**Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023**



**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 #434                      For the beauty of the earth

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

O. T. Lesson:                      Jeremiah 29:11-14

Responsive Psalm:    51

A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

**<sup>2</sup>Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

**<sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.**

<sup>5</sup>Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

**<sup>6</sup>Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

<sup>7</sup>Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

**<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

**<sup>10</sup>Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

**<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

**<sup>14</sup>Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**<sup>16</sup>You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

<sup>17</sup>My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

**18 May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.**

<sup>19</sup> Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Hymn #655                      Give me oil in my lamp

Children's Story

N.T. Epistle Lesson:    Romans 3:21-28

N.T. Gospel Lesson:    Mark 12:28-34

Anthem                      Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

*by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
arr. by David Angerman and Stuart Harris*

Message:                      What are we chasing?

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

Hymn #358                      There is a redeemer

Offering & Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

**WE GO OUT IN SERVICE**

Hymn #461                      Be thou my vision

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 scriptures are Brad Gillespie and Chris McCall.

**Reading next week** are George Jessen and Dennis MacIntyre.

Session will meet on **Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm by Zoom.

**Annual Cove Auxiliary yard sale** will be held **Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 8am-11am at Bethel Church Hall. Any household articles, books and plants will be gratefully received. Items may be dropped off at the church hall Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> between 9am and 1pm or contact Joan Richardson at 902 564-5140.

**The Worship and Nurture and Program Committees** are considering having a fellowship hour during the summer starting on July 9th and continuing every second week. Volunteers are needed for this to happen. Only cookies will be served (these can be purchased by the church unless the volunteer would like to bake). Instead of tea and coffee a cold drink would be served. This would make things easier during the summer months, and we can possibly go back to tea and coffee in the fall. The volunteer would be responsible to prepare and serve the cold drink, put the cookies on the table and clean up after. If you would like to volunteer to do a Sunday this summer you can call Linda Ross at 902-562-2962.

**Worship in Hall:** The walls on the Brookland St side of the church and the ceiling damaged by Fiona will be repainted resulting in us meeting for church in the hall on May 28 and June 4. Also note that the Sacrament of Communion will be observed during the service on June 4 in the hall.

**The Rev. Corrie Stewart** has been appointed by the Presbytery to look after the search for a minister and to meet with the Search Committee and the Session as needed. The Rev. Ritchie Robinson will continue to look after pulpit supply, regular Session meetings and other administrative matters as they arise.

## **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.

## **Mission Moment**

**With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Two Rivers Church in Guelph, Ontario, is exploring new and creative ways of being the church.** This ministry is made up of “living rooms,” where people gather together in homes for meals and conversations that draw them deeper into friendship and spiritual formation in Christ. Recently celebrating 10 years of ministry, Two Rivers Church has grown to include six living rooms where the congregation meets together. At the same time, community engagement has expanded to include community gardening projects, neighbourhood cycling events, prayer walks, church retreats and an interactive “Stations of the Cross” walk through downtown Guelph during Holy Week.