

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS
Sunday, December 17th, 2023
3rd 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

Organ Prelude

Announcements

Call to Worship

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

Hymn #84 I joyed when to the house of God

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

O.T. Lesson: Isaiah 35

Responsive Psalm: 98

Hymn #143 Infant holy, infant lowly

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent: The Candle of Joy

Hymn# 119 Joy is a song (vs. 3)

Children's Story Joy

N.T. Epistle Lesson: 2 John: 3, 12; John 3:2-5

N.T. Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Choir Anthem: A Cradle for a Lamb *by Penny Rodriguez*

Message: The Joy of Christ

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Hymn # 153 Joy to the world

(Please remain standing for the offering)

Offering & Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

GO OUT IN SERVICE

Hymn #159 Oh come, all ye faithful

Benediction and Choral Amen

Announcements

We welcome everyone to this service of praise this Sunday.
Leading the service is Gary Grant. Reading today are Carol

Ferguson and Kevin Joel Arun Daniel. There will be no fellowship this Sunday a.m. after Church as we are having a fellowship after the induction service in the afternoon.

Greeting today are Gordon Ferguson at the Main Door and Carol Ferguson at the Choir Room Door.

Next Week: Leading the service will be Rev. David Coull. Readings will be done by Ben Furey and Lydia Barikdar.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Richard Dulvy and family on the passing of his father Dr Edwin Dulvy. The funeral will be at Sydney Memorial Chapel on December 28th at 11:00am. The obituary will be available on the Sydney Memorial Chapel website.

To Current Fund

- In loving memory of my family: Wayne McClure, George & Mamie MacLeod, George F. MacLeod, John & Evelyn MacLeod and Margaret Ferguson from Frances (MacLeod) McClure.
- In loving memory of Flossie MacLean's brother Donnie Campbell from Lorna Holmes

To Loaves & Fishes

In memory of Madeline Matheson from Ada MacIntosh

This afternoon at 3:00pm The Presbytery of Cape Breton have set this date for David's induction into the position of minister at Bethel at which time the Rev David Coull will commence his service at Bethel and will be leading his first services on December 24th.

The Sunday School Christmas presentation will be held on **December 24th** at the morning service. The children are asked

to come directly into the Hall at 10:30 a.m. to practice before heading into the Church.

Musique Royale announces its second winter tour of Handel's Messiah performed by emerging artists **Thursday, December 21** at 7pm at Knox Presbyterian Church, 39 Grant St, Baddeck in Baddeck. Admission: \$30 at the door • \$25 advance • \$10 students. Ticketing: musiqueroyale.com

The Worship and Nurture and Program Committee is looking for volunteers to look after the fellowship hour after church. The set up would be the same as during the summer except the volunteers would be responsible for making tea. If you are interested, please phone Linda Ross 902 562 2962.

Mission Moments

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, The Well Church (Mississauga) provides a welcoming space for those who identify as a third culture community; that is, one that is neither the culture of mostly immigrant parents nor the dominant culture of Canadian society. In a post-pandemic world, the ministry has decided to re-set their focus around spiritual formation, in everything from small groups to children's ministry, retreats and conferences. They are also training leaders to be elders with spiritual formation at the centre. By focusing on spiritual formation and becoming more Christ-like, the congregation has not only grown closer as a community, but they also feel better equipped to share their personal stories of hope and transformation with friends.