



ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

216 School Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2Y4

Website: www.standrewspcc.ca

Interim Moderator: Rev. Calvin Burt, 1-902-715-4006; calvinburt@bellaliant.net

Minister Emeritus: Rev. R.A.B. MacLean

Session Clerk: Cheryl E. Weeks, 902-435-4112; ceweeks@ns.sympatico.ca

Advent 4, December 22, 2024

Service colour: Blue

ORDER OF DIVINE WORSHIP 10:30 a.m. (also on YouTube)

Prelude (a time for prayer and reflection)

Placing of the Bible (*stand if able*)

Lighting of the Christ Candle; Doxology (Book of Praise 830)

Call to Worship: (*standing if able*)

God who spoke to Mary and Elizabeth,

speak your Word to us now.

God who blessed them with new life,

bless us with great expectation.

God who gave them songs of praise to sing,

receive our joyful praise.

God who loves beyond all measure,

we are here to worship you with hearts full of love.

Opening Prayer

Hymn: 141 "Good Christians, all rejoice"

Call to confession

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

God our Saviour, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

Song: 561 "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy upon us."

Declaration of forgiveness; The Lord's Prayer (debts, debtors)

A sharing of the Peace of Christ followed by *Hallelujah* (Hymn 294)

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the fourth Advent Candle Love (see insert) Livia Barkhouse

Hymn: 138(vs.1,2,4,&6) "While shepherds watched" all seated

Learning for all ages: {children gather at Chancel stairs}

Prayer for Illumination

Lessons: Micah 5:2-5a (p.818); Luke 1:46b-55 – Song of Mary (p.49);

Hebrews 10:5-10 (p.197); Luke 1:39-45 (p.49)

Reader: The Word of the Lord. Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Sermon: based on Micah 5: 2-5a

Hymn: 131 (tune: 218) "Tomorrow Christ is coming"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Announcing the Offering of our gifts; gifts will be brought forward

following The Offertory

Prayer of Dedication (*stand if able*)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and for others (Response: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

Hymn: 139 "Hark! the herald angels sing"

Benediction & Choral Amen

Song: "Go now in peace" (*all seated*) (hymn book – inside back cover)

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Postlude

Welcoming Worshippers: Jim & Kathy Kennedy

Elevator: Heather Barkhouse; **Organist:** Dr. Ken Cameron

Conducting the Service: Rev. Bert Vanderbeek;

Placing the Bible: Cheryl Weeks **Reader:** Gerry Archibald

Audio: Ross Barkhouse, Luke Campbell, Erin Sloan

Tuesday: Christmas Eve 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion, Carols by Candlelight. Service conducted by the Rev. Whitney Canning

Sunday, December 29 – 10:30 a.m. First Sunday after Christmas – conducted by lay persons from the congregation

Presbyterians Sharing - \$2,100 is needed to reach our 2024 allocation.

The Youth Group is selling the 2025 Presbyterian Church Calendar for \$7 in the lobby.

A Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we are in the Mik'kma'ki-the unceded territory and the ancestral homeland of the Mi'kmaq Nation.

Hymn 141

1. Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today; Christ is born today.
2. Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now you hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this.
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.
3. Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save,
calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save.

Hymn 138

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
2. 'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you, all humankind.
4. 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'
6. 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace,
good will henceforth from heaven to earth
begin, and never cease!'

Hymn 131

1. Tomorrow Christ is coming, as yesterday he came;
A child is born this moment; we do not know its name.
The world is full of darkness; again there is no room;
The symbols of existence are stable, cross and tomb.
 2. Tomorrow will be Christmas, the feast of love divine,
but, for the nameless millions, the star will never shine.
Still the census taken, with people on the move;
new infants born in stables are crying out for love.
 3. There will be no tomorrows for many a baby born;
Good Friday falls on Christmas when life is sown as corn,
but Jesus Christ is risen and comes again in bread
to still our deepest hunger and raise us from the dead.
 4. Our Lord becomes incarnate in every human birth.
Created in God's image, we must make peace on earth.
God will fulfil love's purpose, and this shall be the sign;
we shall find Christ among us as woman, child or man.
Text: Fred Kaan © 1968, Hope Publishing Company; used by permission One License #A-740820; all rights reserved
- ### Hymn 139
1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"
 2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail the incarnate deity!
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. **(R)**
 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of
Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. **(R)**