



Thursday December 24 2020

The Christmas Eve Service will be available on Thursday, and can be found on our YouTube channel by typing “St. David's Presbyterian Message for December 24, 2020” into Google. The scripture readings for Christmas Eve are:

Church Office Hours: Rev. Sturtevant is in the office Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:30 am to 2 pm daily, should you wish to drop by. In case of an emergency, he can be reached on his cell phone at 699-3661. Alternately, you may contact your elder. The elder’s list is on the back of this bulletin.

From the Board, Session and Treasurer

Coming to Church: Self Assessment Guide and Sign-in / Sign out Sheet: The Streamlined Process

St. David's has a process for completing our Self Assessment Guide (SAG) and the sign-in procedure for the Christmas Eve service. The manager on duty will ask you the questions on our SAG and will complete it for you. They will also complete the sign-in sheet allowing you to proceed directly into the sanctuary if all is well. The manager will also complete the sign-out sheets allowing you to leave in an orderly manner.

The sign-in and sign-out form is to allow contact tracing, should we ever need to do so. If you are a member of the congregation, we only need your name and phone number. If you are not a member, you will also be asked for your address.

Christmas Eve Service – December 24th

This Christmas Eve we will continue to follow the process described above for the completion of the SAG and the sign-in sheets. We will again have people enter through the breezeway and come in through the side narthex door or the front door. The person or the "bubble" will be seated. The exit plan is to leave via the door to the lobby and out through the tower door. There will be managers and elders to greet you and if you are new to the process, they will help you through it.

We are including singing as part of the service and are adhering to all provincial public health guidelines. Please remain seated and wear your mask while singing.

Meanwhile, people have been asking whether we still provide **“Wheels to Worship”**? And the answer is **“Yes!”**. If you need a ride to church, please call Newfound Cabs (744-4444).

Getting the Service and Bulletin using our website

This bulletin and the Christmas Eve service are placed on our website as soon as the Rollmann family get Monica’s email on Thursday. The website is **stdavids.nf.ca** and if you type this in as your search, our website will be right there. At the top of the main page is a “Sunday Service” which will take you to the Christmas Eve service link and bulletin. Since our Christmas Eve Service is live-streamed, the link is already posted so people can experience this service at home live beginning at 6:30 pm on Christmas Eve. If you click on Video Service for Dec 24th now, you will see the screen and the note: live in “a number” of hours. After the fact, you can see the You-tube video of the service. If you would like to catch up on previous services all are available, simply scroll through the services and choose the service or bulletin that you would like to see or read.

Public Health Guidelines

This statement comes directly from the Public Health guidelines: “While not a requirement, Public Health maintains their warning to people 60 and above, or with additional risk factors, to avoid any non-essential gathering.” We feel duty bound to openly communicate this statement. We will certainly welcome and include anyone wishing to join us in person for worship. Meanwhile, we will continue to offer on-line services for those who may prefer that option. Everyone should feel comfortable participating in or engaging in any activity in which they take part. Do not feel compelled to participate, nor be barred from participating, by virtue of age or underlying medical condition. Every precaution to meet and exceed the Public Health

guidelines will be taken. However, that is not a guarantee that we can make our gathering a risk-free activity. We all look forward to a day when this Public Service warning is no longer required. We would like to thank you for your co-operation in helping us ensure we are all protected.

Treasurer's Report

Thank you all who are continuing to donate to your church through envelopes on Sunday mornings, by e-transfers, or by your monthly PAD contributions. My thanks go out to elders and friends who happily and gladly pick up envelopes from those not able to get out to church and drop them off at the church office.

By the way, **the sole email address we are using to accept donations** is stdavidsnfld@gmail.com and this one is linked to our bank account and it will **automatically accept** all donations.

Year-End Donations: The year 2020 is quickly winding down and if you would like to ensure your 2020 donations are included with this year's income tax, please make sure your:

- donation arrives at the church by **noon January 4th 2021**;
- cheque is dated **December 31st 2020 or earlier**;
- E-transfer is made **on or before December 31st 2020** to be included in 2020.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

Note from Rev. David Sturtevant

This Christmas is a hard one for many of us. For our family, there will be lots of video chats with grandparents, aunts and uncles on Christmas Day, but nonetheless I know there is nothing quite like sharing the magic of Christmas morning with beloved family members in person. Christmas feasts will be dialled back this year, with smaller family meals for four (or fewer) replacing big dinners for the whole crew. It has been a long year.

A few days ago we passed a yearly milestone: the shortest day of the year on December 21st. Slowly, the days will lengthen from now on, steadily until summertime. It's almost impossible to notice, day to day, but it is a dependable fact that tomorrow will be brighter than today, and the day after that will be brighter still.

In our Advent candle lightings during our services, we've said time and time again that "a new light is coming" as we await the coming of Jesus Christ. On Christmas day, we remember that Jesus Christ was born in a stable to an unwed mother because of the census being demanded by an oppressive regime. Times were hard for Mary and Joseph. Yet Christmas is a story of light coming into darkness, of goodness blooming from the middle of a terrible situation.

This Christmas, many people are lonely, many are struggling financially. Times are hard. So my prayer for you is that God would come to your celebrations this year and bring light and life to you and yours. It may be dark today, but the days are getting longer. Vaccines are starting to be distributed, and we in Newfoundland have done an amazing job so far at keeping our caseload low, saving vulnerable lives in our community by enduring hardship ourselves. It may seem dismal and dark to be celebrating alone, but I promise you that a new light is coming. Little by little, the darkness is lifting. So may you treasure those at your side this Christmas, no matter how few they may be. The first Christmas was strange and lonely too. God's grace can flow through the strange and the lonely to surprise us even today, and my friends, that is good news.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas!



Rev. David with his son Orson (age 22 months)

Announcements

TSO

The TSO and Nathan Cook have put together a musical thank you for all of you at St. David's that have worked to make it possible for our little orchestra to resume its rejuvenating musical activities this fall. Our intent, too, is that this modest musical offering might be shared with your entire congregation as a way to continue our tradition of participation in your Advent Season since we could obviously not do so live and in person this year.

The following is an unlisted YouTube link to the video.

<https://youtu.be/q0LnFD3VCEA>

In Memoriam

Flowers and/or donations have been given in loving memory of:

Charles & June Skanes by Mildred Skanes

Fiona and Melvin Mercer by Michelle, Joe and Julia.

Dr. Joseph Craig from the Craig Family.

Offerings While COVID-19 keeps us from church each Sunday, please consider other ways to keep up your weekly donations. For those of you who are not on PAD, please consider signing up. Simply email the church and we will put you in touch with Ian Bruneau, our Envelope Secretary. He will answer any questions you may have. Alternately, you can donate via e-transfer to stdavidsnfld@gmail.com. Using your bank's comment section, you can specify information like your envelope number and how you would like your money distributed; to Current, Presbyterian Sharing, or any of our outreach programs. You may also donate through Canada Helps. You may also mail your donation, drop it off at the church, or call the church and someone would be pleased to pick it up for you.

How can we help you at this time? Do you need any help getting groceries, having something picked up, or having something dropped off (like this bulletin or the minister's weekly sermons)? Would you just like to have a chat with the minister or your elder? Please call the church at 722-2382 or email us at stdavids@nfld.com and we'll see what we can do to help.

Ideas to keep in touch Do you have any ideas how we can keep in touch with one another or what you'd like to see us do over the next period of time while we're all under orders to stay safely distant from one another? Call and let us know! Please keep in touch!

Web Site We'd like you to visit our web site, which is the place to find past services and any number of interesting things. The Sunday services are found on the web site and the text of the sermon is also available in the comment section. Our web site is **stdavids.nf.ca**

Once there, choose ministries and look for the service you'd like to see or hear. There are 592 services on-line too listen to or see.

How to reach us:

Minister: Rev. David Sturtevant

Cell phone: 699-3661

Church Office: (709) 722-2382

Church email: stdavids@nfld.com

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/stdavidsstjohns>

Groups:

Women's Auxiliary – Lillian Crawford

Good Companions (Seniors) – Kay Scott

Bible Study Group – Sheena Findlay

Atlantic Mission Society – Kathy McKay

Session – Lillian Crawford

Board of Managers – Kyle Sampson

Prayer Shawl (Knitters) – Bouwina Fogwill

Willing Hands (Quilter Group) – Patsy Carmichael

Food For Thought (University and Early Career) – The Rollmanns

Session: the elders are:

Lillian Crawford	Jim Steele	Ken Templeton
Sue Templeton	Janet Calver	Kathy McKay
Penny Gillies	Steve Bruneau	Ian Bruneau
Aubrey Bonnell	Eleanor Bonnell	Jenny Griffioen
Jennifer Waterman	Ed Vanderkloet	Tanya Shalaby

Board of Managers: the members of the Board are:

Kyle Sampson	Ken Templeton	Ed Vanderkloet
Tanya Shalaby	Steve Bruneau	Allison Crawford
Andrea Crosbie	Andem Effeiong	Don McKay

Treasurer: Anne Calver

Envelope Secretary: Ian Bruneau