



Sunday December 6 2020

This Sunday's Service will be available on Sunday, and can be found on our YouTube channel by typing "St. David's Presbyterian Message for December 6, 2020" into Google. The scripture readings for this Sunday are:

Mark 1:1–8

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.

Prayer Partnership: The Presbyterian Church in Canada offers a prayer partnership that may form part of a daily devotional, please consider these prayer partnerships:

Sunday, December 6 We pray for Hamilton Banda and volunteers at the Ndirande Handicapped Centre in Malawi who provide support to people with physical and mental disabilities, especially to children and their families.

Monday, December 7 We pray for all in the church as we seek to be in communion with people holding differing theological views. We pray for compassion and understanding to keep us as one in Christ.

Tuesday, December 8 We pray for the health and safety of people serving and worshipping in ministries with Indigenous Peoples.

Wednesday, December 9 We pray for chaplains who serve in correctional facilities, and for the Rev. Glenn McCullough, our denominational representative to the Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy for Corrections Canada.

Thursday, December 10 (Human Rights Day) We pray for individuals and organizations defending human rights in Canada and around the world. We pray for their safety and the safety of those they support and protect.

Friday, December 11 We pray for the people of Palestine-Israel who work for peace.

Saturday, December 12 We give thanks for all those who are restless for peace throughout the world, those who inspire others to resist injustice and defend inequality.

From the Board, Session and Treasurer

Christmas Hampers: This year we had to come up with a plan to get and deliver Christmas hampers and together we are working towards it. This is a very different hamper project this year and **we do need volunteers as outlined below:**

On Friday:

In the morning: setting up the tables – two people for 1 hour with a layout for the tables being provided.

In the afternoon: putting together the boxes - two people for 2 hours with tape guns and plenty of tape on hand

In the evening: placing food on the tables – four people for 2 hours, the tables will have the placement of food identified

In the evening: taking apart the boxes the food comes in to be later recycled – one person for 1 hour (and Anne Calver may do a dump run very early on Saturday)

On Saturday:

In the morning: packing the hampers - four people for 2 hours (filled)

In the morning and early afternoon: dispatch hampers – two people for 3 hours (these are the people who will take the hampers out to the waiting drivers and sanitize the trolleys after each trip)

In the late morning: drivers for safe hamper delivery – a full crew of at least twelve drivers and their helpers (they will be met at the top of the ramp with a hamper). We have some volunteers and we need more.

In the afternoon: cleaning crew – two people for 2 hours (they will clean the tables and any other areas we used and basically clean their way out of the hall)

Having said all that we have looked at what we can safely do to create and deliver or have people pick-up hampers. This year the plan is different as we will have to limit the number of people in the hall and be careful of the hand-off from the hall to the delivery drivers and of course from the drivers to the recipients. If you would be interested in helping us, please get in touch. please contact:

Lillian Crawford 754-2362/691-3057

Anne Calver 682-4329

Church Office 722-2382

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

St. David's has improved the process for completing our Self Assessment Guide (SAG) and the sign-in procedure for Sunday's church 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. As has been happening for some time, 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.

Sunday Service – December 1st the Second Sunday in Advent

This coming Sunday 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 wear your mask while singing and remain seated.

We would like to thank the members of the congregation who do normal things in this time when nothing is normal. **Pam Bruce** came in last Friday to create the Advent Wreath with its five candles. Last week’s candle was “Hope” and this week’s candle is “Peace”. The wreath over the church’s front door and the swag over the door into the lobby are from the **McKenzie family**. The Christmas tree was put up this week by **Tanya Shalaby and Monica McNeill, David Sturtevant, Anne Calver, Brian Gamberg and Janet Calver**. Thanks to all of you, St. David’s is again well dressed for Christmas!

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.

Getting the Service and Bulletin using our website

This bulletin and the Sunday service are placed on our website as soon as the Rollmann family get Monica’s email on Friday. 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 this week’s service link and bulletin. Since our Sunday Service is live-streamed, the link is already posted so people can experience the Sunday

service at home live beginning at 11 am on Sunday. If you click on Video Service for Dec 6th 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 Sunday 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 etransfers, 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.

Announcements

Bridges to Hope

Non-perishable food items are being accepted at BRIDGES TO HOPE once again! Your help is needed, so as you return to weekly worship at St. David's, remember to bring in your food items for the trolley. Below is a list of the items most needed:

Canned Beans

Mac and Cheese

Canned meats (Meatballs, Beef Ravioli, etc.)

Canned Milk

Tins of Fruit and Vegetables

Tins of Soup

1 l Juice

Pasta Sauce

Cereal

Cash donations are always acceptable, and very much appreciate

AMS

Come join us after Worship next Sunday, December 13th for Advent with the AMS.

Food for Thought

Food for Thought, a Bible Study group for university-age / young adults, is meeting once a week during the pandemic via Zoom. New people are always welcome. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday Dec 05 at 8pm.

Chongee Matyas will continue with the video series and discussion about how we can be confident in the claims of the gospel. Anyone interested in participating should contact Ernst Rollmann (ernstrollmann12 at [gmail.com](mailto:ernstrollmann12@gmail.com)) for updates and the Zoom link. Ernst can also add you to the email list for instant updates.

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Geoff Hudson who has a birthday coming up on December 6th. Geoff will be celebrating with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Sylvia and Dave Hudson. Best wishes from everyone here at St. David's Geoff! Enjoy!

Happy Birthday to Andrew Ellis who will be celebrating his big day on December 9th. Andrew is the son of Neil Ellis and grandson of Barbara Ellis. Congratulations Andrew from your St. David's family and our best wishes!

Happy Birthday to Noah Venth who will be celebrating his birthday on December 9th with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Kirsty Gillies and Robert Venth and proud grandparents, Penny and Stewart Gillies. Best wishes Noah from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day!

And a very Happy Birthday to Harry Cumming, who will be celebrating his 102nd birthday on Saturday, December 5th! Harry currently resides at the Caribou Memorial Veterans Pavilion (DVA) and enjoys good health according to his wife, Eleanor. Best wishes Harry from everyone here at St. David's and we know that Eleanor and your family will make this a very special celebration!

If you know of someone who is going to have a birthday or an anniversary in the coming days or weeks, please call or email the church.

News from the Pews

Brian Way

We were so sorry to learn that Brian had a serious bike accident last Sunday evening. He was thrown from his bike after being brushed by a passing car. He suffered a broken left wrist, nose, some broken teeth and multiple bumps and bruises. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family as he recovers from this accident.

Note from Jenny Griffioen

Here is some exciting news from Jenny regarding a couple of concerts she will be performing in. Check out her note below.

I have been putting together some chamber music with a few friends this semester - Nancy Case-Oates (violin), Kate Read (viola), and Amy Collyer-Holmes (cello). We're looking forward to performing it all in a concert this Sunday Dec. 6 at 3:00 at Wesley United Church. It will be open to a live audience, as well as streamed online. The program includes pieces by Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert and Brahms.

You can find more information here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2876841975935596/>

Admission is by donation through EventBrite:

For in-person tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/jan-in-december-attend-in-person-tickets-127871010635?fbclid=IwAR2DUIkMhreiDS5RscIKndLA6FB0mQ8JhIFYc50TAj8RCZ1xnj-vOxVsWzw>

For live-stream tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/jan-in-december-livestream-tickets->

[126689586965?fbclid=IwAR0krXjKp52bYmPyIm4oFF_w7tRgQmeTkZxR-OVNXqn3Oup9NS0N4jmCSVl](https://www.facebook.com/126689586965/?fbclid=IwAR0krXjKp52bYmPyIm4oFF_w7tRgQmeTkZxR-OVNXqn3Oup9NS0N4jmCSVl)

I will also be playing harpsichord with the NSO in this year's performance of Handel's Messiah. The concert is going to be pre-recorded at the Basilica and released online Friday Dec 11.

More information and tickets can be found on the NSO website here:

<https://nsomusic.ca/nso-handels-messiah-december-11-2020/>

Prayer Shawl

This week the Prayer Shawl knitters got together in the Armour Room and under Bouwina's watchful eye, gathered together all the knitted goods from the past year. As you can see from the pictures, there will be many people who will benefit from having a handmade knitted cap, scarf or pair of mitts. We hope the love that goes into each article, gives them much comfort.

If you would like to join our little group, talk with Bouwina – she would be delighted to hear from you – and she has lots of spare wool!



Bouwina and David with all the Knitted Goods Kay starting a new scarf

Decorating the Church for Christmas

An enthusiastic bunch of “elves” got together Wednesday morning and magically decked the sanctuary! The saying “many hands make light work” is so true. Many thanks to the McKenzie family who once again supplied a beautiful wreath for over the main entrance to our Church and for the swag over the entrance to the lobby.

Monica with the Banners



David Checks out the Wall Hanging



Brian has ladder duty





Check Those Lights



Tanya and David String the Lights

The Christmas Tree





Tanya and Sheena Check out the Nativity Scene



Sheena Helps with the Decorating!



A beautiful
welcome

Advent Wreath

Pam Bruce, as always, created a beautiful Advent Wreath this year!



Advent Wreath

What is the significance of the Advent Wreath? According to some, the Advent Wreath is a symbol that depicts the passage of the four weeks of Advent and the birth of Jesus. In most western churches, it is usually a circular wreath made out of fresh evergreen boughs and greenery. There are usually four coloured candles that represent hope (purple - week one), peace (purple – week two), joy (pink – week three) and love (purple - week four) and a white candle, called the Christ Candle, that is usually lit on Christmas Eve at midnight.

I came across the book, “Twelve Tales of Christmas” by J. S. S. Armour (1999) this week. One of the tales was titled the “Advent Candles”. Here is the story – hope you enjoy!

Advent Candles

The story is told of a new hymn book, carefully proof-read from cover to cover. Yet somehow, between the editor's desk and the printer's press, a little error crept in – not to be discovered until the book was used for the very first time on Christmas Sunday. It was in the carol "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen".

Where it should have read "To save us all from Satan's power", the line came out, "To save us all from Santa's power".

We smile, yet there is more than a little truth in that misprint. For we are all very fond of the jolly old saint, with his magic sleigh and reindeer, who filled our stockings and brought all the wonderful toys and dolls and games we so desperately wanted; and have now long since forgotten.

Oh no, we would not part with Santa Claus, but as we grow older we realize how strong is his power on our celebration of Christmas – the materialism, the consumerism, the acquisitive spirit which forces us to spend and spend and still miss the true meaning of Christmas.

For a little while, let's think about gifts not found in Santa's well-stuffed pack, gifts which the birth of the Christ Child promises.

One of the traditions of Christmas in this church (as in so many churches across the world) is the Advent Wreath; a circle of evergreen boughs with four candles, which are lit on the four Sundays of Advent. In the centre is a

large candle – the Christ candle – which we light at the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve.

The four candles of the Advent Wreath also have names – signifying the four gifts that Christmas brings:

The Candle of Hope

The Candle of Peace

The Candle of Love

The Candle of Joy.

First the gift of Hope. The birth of any baby is a sign of hope – that the race will continue – that life goes on. It is the most wonderful moment in the life of any parent – when they hold their baby for the first time – this small and seemingly perfect creation – miraculously here – the living fulfillment of all their hopes and dreams.

We believe that the Child born that first Christmas was far more than the fulfillment of the hopes and dreams of Mary and Joseph. He was the Promised One of God, the expectation of all ages, the Hope of the world.

Second, the gift of Peace. “Glory to God in the highest”, sang the angels, “and on earth, peace ...”

How delightful, amidst all the frantic preparations for Christmas to sit quietly and let the beauty and peace of this moment flood our minds. A silent, holy night! I am bold enough to believe that perhaps the best part of any

Christmas is to sit in church and let the softness of candlelight, the beauty of familiar carols, the Christmas tree with its twinkling lights, and encircling garlands, enfold us.

But the peace promised at Christmas is more than a brief respite from all the problems of life. It is -

a peace we can take with us,

a peace we can keep,

a peace we can share,

a peace "which the world cannot give or take away".

For like the circle of the Advent Wreath, it is a peace without beginning or ending, eternal peace.

The third candle is called the candle of Love.

That is what gives Christmas its special meaning. The love of family and friends – and that feeling of good will that seems to fill the world at Christmas, when there is, as it were, a truce in the war which is life; when strangers smile and enemies reach out the hand of friendship.

Love came down at Christmas,

Love all lovely, love divine.

And finally, the candle of Joy.

For many, Christmas is not a happy time. They dread its coming for it is a reminder of “other years around them” – when they were young – when they had their health – when life was happy – when those who mattered most in their lives were beside them.

And yet Christmas can be a time of joy – a joy that has nothing to do with our circumstances, our heartaches and disappointments – and inner joy far removed from Santa’s ho ho ho.

For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy.

“To free us all from Satan’s power”.

Imagine a bus, a hot stuffy bus, crammed with Christmas shoppers, staggering under heavy bags filled with gifts. Everyone is crushed together, exhausted, eyeing each other in sullen silence. At the front of the bus a small child sits with his mother, swinging his legs, lost in his own thoughts. Then suddenly, quite unconsciously as a child will, he begins to sing “Silent Night, Holy Night”. The clear, pure tones penetrate to the furthest corner of the bus and there occurs a small miracle. The tensions on the bus melt and by the time he reaches the final “Sleep in heavenly peace” everyone is smiling at one another, many with tears in their eyes.

As the bells peal out this Christmas – as the Christ Candle is lit – may the Child born at Bethlehem 2000 years ago be born anew in your heart and may you experience all the hope, peace, love and joy which is Christmas.

An Archival Moment

As we were decorating the Church for the Christmas season, we had a good look at the nativity scene. It's so beautiful and it has stood the test of time as they say. The wooden structure, made from slabs, was lovingly built in the late 1950's by Harold Hammond and Lew Pike.



Wooden Nativity Structure

Church Trivia Questions

Way back when:

Last week the question was: What was the name of the location of the church's mission's cemetery on Random Island?

The answer is: The answer is Middle Lance Cove on the north side of the island between Britannia and Petley. There have been inquiries about family burials there!

This week the question is: Where was the very first meeting house, or where was it thought to be? P.S. not the one on Victoria Street!

Recent History:

Last week the question was: During last week's Communion how did David pass out the bread?

The answer is: David used a set of tongs to pick up and pass out the bread.

This week the question is: With the Christmas tree up, how were those little white angels made?

Do you have any ideas for some church trivia? Email or call the church!

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

Board of Managers: the members of the Board are:

Kyle Sampson

Ken Templeton

Ed Vanderkloet

Tanya Shalaby

Steve Bruneau

Allison Crawford

Andrea Crosbie

Sandra Perry

Treasurer:

Anne Calver

Envelope Secretary:

Ian Bruneau