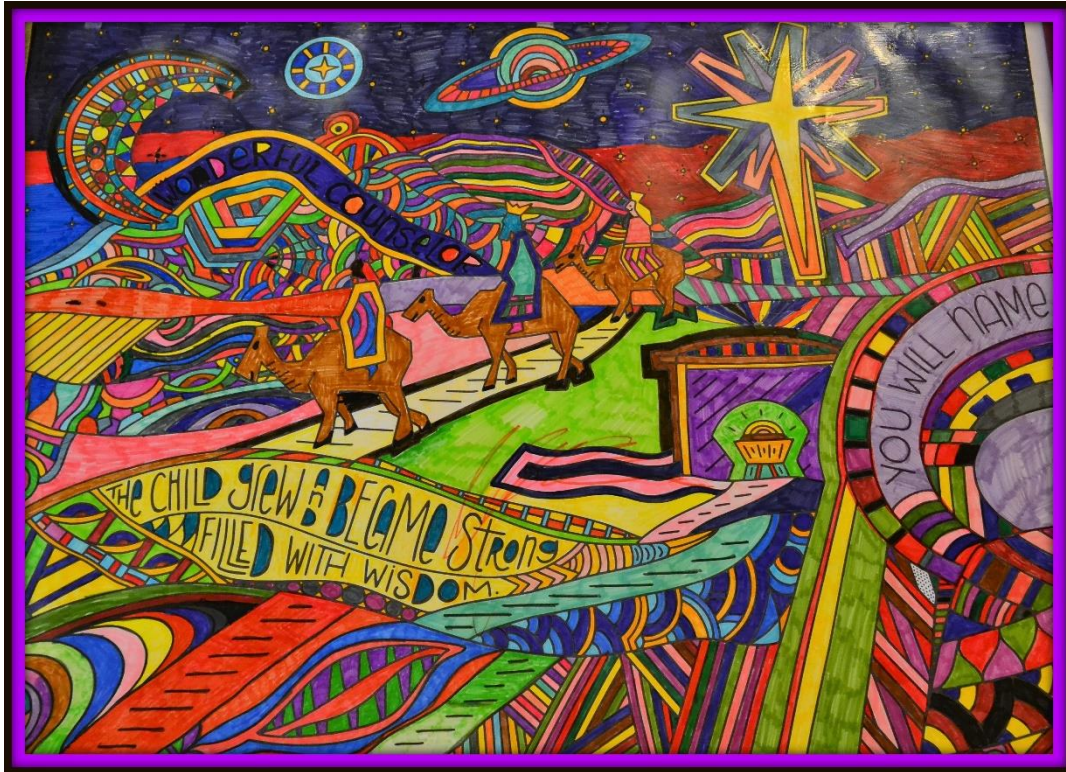


*Fourth Sunday of Advent  
First Baptist Church Halifax  
December 24, 2017*



Advent is the season of preparation for the comings of Christ. We prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ during the Christmas season, but we also prepare ourselves for the ways Christ is coming into our world today and we lean into the hope that one day Christ will come in fullness to bring the Realm of God's peace, love, and joy into all the world.

Our Advent bulletin covers were an art project of the congregation during last year's Advent season. Each of the images was coloured by the many hands of First Baptist Church Halifax!

## The Community Gathers for Worship

Prelude:

Organist, Lynette Wahlstrom

*Puer nobis nascitur* - Praetorius/ Wyton

*Please use this time to settle for worship*

**\*Please stand as you are able**

**\*Processional Carol:**

Congregation

#58 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" (WINCHESTER OLD)

**\*Candle of Love:**

The Cheverie Family & Congregation

The prophet Simeon sang, "My eyes have seen God's salvation, which God has prepared in the presence of all peoples."

**We sing a song of love, for a light of revelation shines for all peoples.**

Light the candle of God's love, light the light of Simeon's song, light the light we all must hold.

Light the light, the fire of life, let the candle reveal God's glory, Jesus Christ has come to earth and for us shall come again.

**\*Silent Approach**

**\*Choral Response**

(GREENWOOD RIDGE)

*The candle is lit.*

Love is a light, Love is a light.

Love is a light to show the way,

Love is a light to show the way.

Light the candle of Love,

Light the candle of Love.

**Anthem**

Choir

*Love Came Down at Christmas* - Sirett

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Jenny Drewitz

*Children are welcome to come to the chancel steps during the chiming of the bell.*

Children's Story

Rev. Jenny Drewitz & Congregation

\*Children's Carol:

Congregation

#24 "Away in a Manger" (CRADLE SONG)

*The children in Primary to Grade 12 are dismissed for Sunday School on the final verse of this hymn.*

**First Testament:** Isaiah 62:6-12 (pg.693)

Stevie Stevenson

**\*Psalm Lesson:** Psalm 97  
(the Inclusive Bible)

Deacon Bryan Darrell & Congregation



The Lord reigns! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

**Clouds and thick darkness surround you, Lord; righteousness and justice are the foundations of your judgment seat.**

Your lightning bolts light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax at your sight, at the sight of the God of all the earth. **R**

The heavens proclaim your justice, and all the peoples see your glory.

**Zion hears and is glad, and the women of Judah rejoice because of your judgments, Lord. For you, Lord, are Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.**

Light dawns for the just, and joy for the upright in heart.

**Rejoice in the Lord, you just, and give praise to God's holy name! R**

**Epistle:** Titus 3:4-7 (pg. 215)

Janet Margeson

\*Gradual Carol

Congregation

#603 "O Gladsome Light" (NUNC DIMITTUS)

**Gospel:** Luke 2:29-32 (pg.59)

Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards

**Sermon:** *A Song We Sing Together: Nunc Dimittis*

Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards

## Offertory Anthem

Soloist: Emmanuel Solomon & Choir

*Song of Simeon*- Martin

**\*Presentation of Offering:** Doxology (VENI EMMANUEL)  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ, all people here below,  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.  
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel,  
Shall come to thee O Israel.

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Deacon Bryan Darrell

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## \*Recessional Carol:

Congregation

#22 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (REGENT SQUARE)

## \*Benediction & Choral Amen

Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards

## Postlude:

Organist, Lynette Wahlstrom

*Gloria* -French carol. arr. Wyton

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## News Notes

### Our Prayer List

We pray for all members of our congregation, especially those who are in frail health and unable to join with us for worship and activities. Particular prayers are requested for: Lynne Alary, Roy Yetman, Judy Morton, Pearl Stevens, Marjorie Morrisson, Bruce Sterns, Betty Deal, and Marion Kennedy.

## Music Notes

Thank you to Music Director Lynette Wahlstrom, the Senior Choir and Soloists, Men Without Jackets, Ogo-Oluwa Sobukola, and the brilliant Organ and Handbell music provided by Shawn Whynot for the Carols by Candlelight Service. We are blessed to have such incredible talent at First Baptist Church Halifax. The Bethany Handbell Choir has sent a note expressing their thanks for the wonderful experience of being a part of this service.

## Faith Development Notes

### Breakfast at Epiphany

Saturday, January 6, 9:00am

First Baptist Church Halifax, Assembly Room

This is an all ages faith formation event to celebrate epiphany, the story of the magi going to see the Christ child. This is the perfect way to end the Christmas season as a family. Come, smell the frankincense and myrrh, touch the gold and live into the story. Breakfast (by free will donation) will include pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, orange slices and drinks. Please RSVP to Rev. Jenny Drewitz ([jennydrewitz@fbchalifax.ca](mailto:jennydrewitz@fbchalifax.ca)) by January 3. Also, if you have an electric hot plate that you are willing to lend to the Thomson family, our chefs for the event, please let us know.

### New Parent and Tot Drop-In Program

Weekly Tuesdays from 9:45-11:15 am, beginning Jan. 9

First Baptist Church Halifax, Creche (second floor)

Parents/guardians and children up to age 5 are welcome to come for a morning drop in play time in the First Baptist Creche. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other parents in the neighbourhood and meet new children. This is a free program; coffee and light peanut-free snacks will be provided. The drop in will be free play with a closing circle time of story and song at 11:00 am. Please feel free to contact Rev. Jenny Drewitz with any questions, [jennydrewitz@fbchalifax.ca](mailto:jennydrewitz@fbchalifax.ca)

## Community Notes

### GO Project Retreat

February 9 – 11

St. John's United Church (6199 Chebucto Rd)

St. John's United invites youth to join them for outreach, learning, discernment, and fun! Activities may include connections with the Islamic Development Centre, The Magic Project, Kairos, participating in spiritual practices, and outreach work. RSVP or for more information to Martha Martin, [marthamartin2687@gmail.com](mailto:marthamartin2687@gmail.com) or contact Deacon Sandy Yip-Ashton.

### The Finance Committee is counting on you!

To meet our 2017 current envelope budget we need to raise an additional \$65,000 in December. As this amount is more than was received last year, we recognize that meeting this goal will be a

significant challenge. We need your increased support through December. Your extra and generous donations are necessary to meet our goal and are very much appreciated.

### Office Closure over the holidays:

The Church office will be closed from Monday Dec. 25 until Wed. Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> inclusive. In the event of an emergency, clergy can be reached by email or cell phone

### 2017 Donations & Expenses

Donations for the 2017 calendar year must be received, or post marked, by Dec. 31st. All expenses for reimbursement from Boards or Committees, must be received by Jan. 2, 2018 – or earlier wherever possible.

### Annual Report

All Board / Committee reports for the 2017 Annual Report are due no later than Jan. 15, 2018.

**2018 Offering Envelopes** are now available in the Narthex.

### This Week in Our Church: Dec 25 - 31

Please refer to the calendar on our website for a complete list of activities.

Church Office hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm.

#### Today

10:30am Creche, Worship  
3pm, Grace Notes, Sanctuary  
4pm, Family Christmas Eve Service  
11:00pm, Christmas Eve Communion Service  
Monday – Office Closed  
Tuesday – Office Closed  
Wednesday – Office Closed

#### Next Sunday: December 31, 2017; Christmas 1

10:30am Creche, Worship  
*A Time To.....*, Rev. Nelson Metcalfe  
11:45am, Coffee & Conversation, Parlour

Join for Worship on Christmas Eve  
Sunday December 24

**4:00PM** Family Christmas Eve Service  
Featuring a Los Pasadas Journey with Mary & Joseph  
Lighting of the Christ Candle

**11:00PM** Christmas Eve, Communion Service





First Baptist Church Halifax - Where Faith Comes To Life!

Founded in 1827

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[facebook.com/FirstBaptistHalifax](https://facebook.com/FirstBaptistHalifax)

### Of Service To You Today

Deacons on Duty: Bryan Darrell

Sexton on Duty: Sandrico Provo

**Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards**, Senior Minister

([rustyedwards@fbchalifax.ca](mailto:rustyedwards@fbchalifax.ca))

**Rev. Jenny Drewitz**, Minister of Faith Development

([jennydrewitz@fbchalifax.ca](mailto:jennydrewitz@fbchalifax.ca))

**Rev. Nelson A. Metcalfe**, Minister of Visitation

([na.metcalfe@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:na.metcalfe@ns.sympatico.ca))

**Ms. Lynette Wahlstrom**, Director of Music

([lynettewahlstrom@fbchalifax.ca](mailto:lynettewahlstrom@fbchalifax.ca))

**Dr. Pauline Allsop**, Deacon Emerita

### Our Mission

To be an inclusive and ecumenical community of believers in Jesus Christ, committed to proclaim God's mission of love by word and deed.

### Our Vision

To be a Christ-centered community of diverse people experiencing God's unconditional love and acceptance, finding opportunities to grow and nurture our faith, and sharing that love, acceptance and faith with the world.

***"Using gifts God has given us to do the work God is calling us to do!"***

*Welcome to First Baptist Church Halifax! If you are visiting with us today, please know how glad we are to have you with us as we worship God together. We invite you to complete a visitor's card, located in the hymnal rack in front of you, and place it in the offering plate later in the service. You are also invited to stay for coffee & conversation immediately following the service. We gather in the parlour, right behind the sanctuary.*