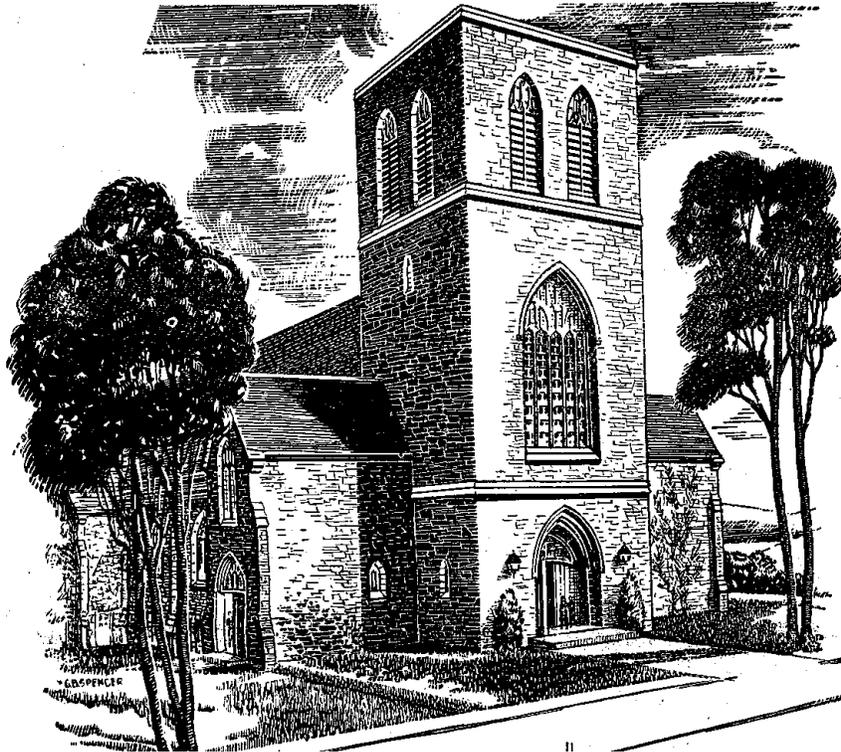


Christmas 1
First Baptist Church Halifax
December 31, 2017



The Community Gathers for Worship

Prelude:

Ogo-Oluwa Sobukola, Flute

Concertino for flute and piano -Chaminade

Please use this time to settle for worship

***Please stand as you are able**

***Call to Worship:**

Pastor John Dalton

When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

God is there.

When Jesus is presented at the temple,

God is there.

When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

God is there.

When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

God is there.

This very morning,

God is here.

In the future we cannot see,

God is there.

LET US WORSHIP GOD!

***Carol**

Congregation

#41 "O Come All Ye Faithful" (ADESTE FIDELES)

***Prayer of Approach**

Grant, O Lord, that as the years change we may find rest in your eternal changelessness. May we go forward into the coming year with courage, sure in the faith that while life changes around us, you are always the same, guiding us with your wisdom and protecting us with your love. So may the peace which passes understanding keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, in whose name we worship you. Amen.

Anthem

Emmanuel Solomon, tenor

Gesu bambino -Yon

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor John Dalton

***Children's Carol:**

Congregation

#53 "What Child Is This" (Greensleeves)

Children are welcome to come to the chancel steps during the last verse.

First Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (pg. 616)

Julian Summers

***Psalm Lesson:** Psalm 148
(the Inclusive Bible)

Pastor John Dalton & Congregation



Let the peo-ple praise you, O God; — Let all the peo-ple praise you
Allelujah! Praise God from the heavens; Praise God in the heights!
Praise God, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts!

**Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!
Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! R**

Let them praise the name of God, by whose command they were created.
God established them forever and ever and gave a decree which won't pass away.

**Praise God from the earth, you sea creatures and oceans depths,
Lightning and hail, snow and mist, and storm winds that fulfill God's word,**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle,
Small animals and flying birds, rulers of the earth,
leaders of all nations, all the judges in the world,
young men and young women, old people and children—

**let them all praise the name of God
whose name alone is exalted,**

whose majesty transcends heaven and earth, and who has raised up a strength for God's
people to the praise of the faithful,
the children of Israel, the people dear to God.
Alleluia! R

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7 (pg. 189)

Pauline Allsop

***Gradual Hymn**

Congregation

#265 "Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand" (WAREHAM)

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 (pg. 58)

Rev. Nelson Metcalfe

Sermon: *A Time To...*

Rev. Nelson Metcalfe

Panis Angelicus -Franck

***Presentation of Offering:** Offertory Response (DIX)

As they offered gifts most rare, At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor John Dalton

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.

***Closing Hymn:**

Congregation

#210 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" (St. Anne)

Benediction

Rev. Nelson Metcalfe

Postlude:

Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ

Toccata -Widor

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, Marion Kennedy, and Dr. Daniel Macintosh.

Acknowledgement

Thank you to Rev. Nelson Metcalfe and Pastor John Dalton for leading today's service for us. As has become tradition over the past many years, Rev. Nelson and Pastor John have coordinated the last service of the year so that our Senior and Associate Ministers can enjoy a much needed rest from the many added Christmas services.

Today is particularly noteworthy as it also marks Rev. Nelson's last service with us as our Minister of Visitation. After twelve years in this capacity, Nelson is retiring after today. Many of you were at the reception that we held for Nelson in November, however, you may want to take a moment after service today to wish Rev. Nelson well. He will surely be missed at First Baptist Church Halifax.

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) 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.

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 or contact Deacon Sandy Yip-Ashton.

2017 Donations & Expenses

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

Annual Report

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

This Week in Our Church: Jan 1 - 6

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

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

Today

10:30am Creche, Worship
Saturday – Breakfast at Epiphany

Next Sunday: January 7, 2018;

10:30am Creche, Worship
Celebration of the Baptism of the Lord
11:45am, Coffee & Conversation, Parlour

Help us keep our online calendar up to date!

In the coming weeks, many of our boards and committees will resume their meeting schedules. We ask that you take a few moments to visit our online calendar and ensure that we have you booked in correctly for your winter and spring activities. Many of these dates were booked in September and some things may have changed. Thanks to all for your help with this!



First Baptist Church Halifax - Where Faith Comes To Life!

Founded in 1827

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Of Service To You Today

Deacon Duty: Kathy Schwartzentruber

Sexton on Duty: Caitlin Smithers

Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards, Senior Minister

(rustyedwards@fbchalifax.ca)

Rev. Jenny Drewitz, Minister of Faith Development

(jennydrewitz@fbchalifax.ca)

Rev. Nelson A. Metcalfe, Minister of Visitation

(na.metcalfe@ns.sympatico.ca)

Ms. Lynette Wahlstrom, Director of Music

(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.